

Quarantine Alert

The information here covers AQIS quarantine requirements only and is current on the date of transmission but may change without notice. AQIS makes no warranties or representations with respect to the accuracy or completeness of that information and will bear no liability with respect to that information. Importers must satisfy quarantine concerns and comply with quarantine conditions applicable at the time of entry. The Commonwealth through AQIS is not liable for any costs arising from or associated with decisions of importers to import based on conditions presented here which are not current at the time of importation. It is the importer's responsibility to verify the accuracy and completeness of the information at the time of importation.

It is the importer's responsibility to identify and to ensure it has complied with, all requirements of any other regulatory and advisory bodies prior to and after importation including the Australian Customs Service, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of Health and Ageing, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority and any State agencies such as Departments of Agriculture and Health and Environmental Protection authorities.

Importers should note that this list is not exhaustive. Importers should also note that all foods imported into Australia must comply with the provisions of the Imported Food Control Act 1992, an Act which is administered by AQIS.

Notification of the import must be provided to AQIS for all imported goods other than goods imported as accompanied baggage or goods imported via the mail and not prescribed under the Customs Act 1901. Notification must be consistent with Quarantine Regulations 2000 (examples include a Quarantine Entry or a Quarantine declaration).

Public Quarantine Alert PQA0791

Revised Emergency Measures for Tomato (*Lycopersicon* spp.) seed from all countries

DAFF Biosecurity has amended the import conditions for tomato seed from all countries. The changes are to address the emerging risks of *Potato spindle tuber viroid* (PSTVd) and *Pepino mosaic virus* (PepMV).

The decision to amend the current import conditions follows several recent incursions of PSTVd in Australia. DAFF Biosecurity undertook to review the conditions (see ICON alert PQA0731 and PQA 0740) after PSTVd was detected in a greenhouse tomato crop in Queensland in April 2011.

All importers and prospective tomato seed importers should note that import permit applications received by Plant Quarantine Operations for tomato seed will now be granted with the revised conditions.

Affected import permits:

- DAFF is amending all current tomato seed import permits with the revised conditions.
- Tomato seed shipped on or before the date of permit variation will be cleared using the old permit conditions. Tomato shipped after the date of permit variation must meet the new permit conditions.

Summary of changes:

- DAFF has removed the option to import tomato seed under an additional declaration based on freedom of visual symptoms. Reason: It is now known that the declaration is not effective as PSTVd infected plants may go unnoticed during seed production and testing shows seed from infected plants sometimes contaminates shipments.
- DAFF has introduced the option for pre-export or on arrival seed testing for PSTVd. Testing requires a 20,000 seed sample.
- In addition, a requirement for Pepino Mosaic Virus is being introduced, with options for a 3,000 seed test, area of freedom or testing of parent plants.
- Phytosanitary Certificates for imported seed lots tested overseas must now be accompanied by the relevant test reports that identify the testing laboratory, species tested and numbers of plants or seed tested.

Detailed description of amended emergency measures:

Phytosanitary Certification or On-Arrival Testing for PSTVd and PepMV

Seed must be accompanied by an official government Phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin where the seed was grown and be endorsed with the following additional declarations concerning Pepino mosaic virus and Potato spindle tuber viroid, and must be accompanied by the test or survey reports that support the declarations. Test reports must include the name and address of the testing laboratory, the species tested and the number of seeds or plants tested.

Consignments not accompanied by an acceptable Phytosanitary Certificate may be tested on-arrival in Australia at the importer's risk and expense. Consignments shown by testing to carry a pathogen will be re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expense, as will consignments not accompanied by an acceptable Phytosanitary Certificate that are not tested.

One of the following additional declarations concerning *Pepino mosaic virus*:

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of variety (insert variety name) in the consignment grown in (insert name of country) was tested by (insert name of testing laboratory) for Pepino mosaic virus and found to be free of the virus by using the ELISA test method of the Manual of Seed Health Testing Methods of the International Seed Federation (version 4, March 2011) on a sample of 3000 seeds drawn from the consignment and divided and tested as sub-samples of no more than 250 seeds.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment grown in (insert name of country) was tested for Pepino mosaic virus and found to be free of the virus by using a reverse-transcription PCR test for the virus on a sample of 3000 seeds drawn from the lot and divided and tested as sub-samples of no more than 400 seeds.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was grown in (insert name of country) in an area that is free of Pepino mosaic virus based on an official survey for the virus using an ELISA or reverse transcription PCR test for the virus.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was grown in (insert name of country) in an area that is free of Pepino mosaic virus, based on an official survey for the virus using an ELISA or reverse transcription PCR test for the virus.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was grown in (insert name of country) in a place of production that is free of Pepino mosaic virus, based on an official survey for the virus using an ELISA or reverse transcription PCR test for the virus.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was derived from maternal parent plants grown in (insert name of country) all of which were tested by (insert name of testing laboratory) for Pepino mosaic virus at the end of the growing period of the parent plants and found free of the virus using an ELISA or reverse transcription PCR test for the virus.'

AND

One of the following additional declarations concerning *Potato spindle tuber viroid*:

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was grown in (insert name of country) was tested for Potato spindle tuber viroid and was found to be free of the viroid by using a reverse-transcription PCR test for the viroid on a sample of 20,000 seeds drawn from the lot and divided and tested as sub-samples of no more than 400 seeds'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was grown in (insert name of country) in an area that is free of Potato spindle tuber viroid, based on an official survey for the viroid using a reverse transcription PCR test for the viroid.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was grown in (insert name of country) in a place of production that is free of Potato spindle tuber viroid, based on an official survey for the viroid using a reverse transcription PCR test for the viroid.'

OR

'The tomato seed in lot(s) (insert lot numbers) of name (insert name) in the consignment was derived from maternal and paternal parent plants grown in (insert name of country) all of which were tested for Potato spindle tuber viroid at the end of the growing period of the parent plants and found free of the viroid using a reverse transcription PCR test for the viroid.'

For more information regarding these changes please visit the *Lycopersicon* spp. as listed – Seeds for Sowing ICON case.

For enquiries please contact:

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