



12 September 2019

(19-5866)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, received on 12 September 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Australia.

Final review of import conditions for brassicaceous vegetable seeds for sowing

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture (the department) is undertaking a series of seed reviews of the import conditions for four key vegetable families: *Apiaceae*, *Cucurbitaceae*, *Brassicaceae* and *Solanaceae* as a result of changes in risks associated with the international movement of these seeds.

This review of brassicaceous vegetable seeds for sowing is the first of the series finalized.

This review of brassicaceous vegetable seeds for sowing identified two quarantine pests associated with the seeds of several brassicaceous vegetable seeds. The identified quarantine pests are:

- *Colletotrichum higginsianum* (seed-borne in *Brassica rapa* and *Raphanus sativus*); and
- *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani* (seed-borne in *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus*).

The unrestricted risks of these quarantine pests exceed Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP). Consequently, additional pest risk management measures are required to manage the risks posed by the quarantine pests to a level that achieves Australia's ALOP.

In addition to the department's standard seeds for sowing import conditions, four pest risk management options are recommended for seeds for sowing for the species *Brassica rapa*, *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus*:

- Option 1. Broad-spectrum fungicidal treatment - to manage the risk of both *Colletotrichum higginsianum* and *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani*; OR
- Option 2. Heat treatment - to manage the risk of *Colletotrichum higginsianum* only; OR
- Option 3. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test - to manage the risk of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani* only; OR
- Option 4. Heat treatment and PCR test combined-to manage the risk of both *Colletotrichum higginsianum* and *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani*. If the required treatment or testing is undertaken off-shore, phytosanitary certification is required with the additional declaration that the testing or treatment has been conducted in accordance with Australia's requirements.

Brassica rapa, *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus* seeds for sprouting or micro-greens production for human consumption are exempt from these additional measures if imported directly into Australia for germination at a production facility operated under an Approved Arrangement. This is to mitigate risks from the diversion of seeds to other end-uses.

Seeds of most brassicaceous vegetable species reviewed were not found to be hosts of quarantine pests for Australia and they will continue to be subject only to the department's standard seeds for sowing import conditions.

The draft report was published on the Department of Agriculture website on 14 February 2018 for a 60 day stakeholder consultation period (G/SPS/N/AUS/445). Comments raised by stakeholders were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final report.

The key changes made in the final report are:

The inclusion of other pest risk management options (heat treatment and PCR testing) that are suitable for both organic and non-organic seeds sectors. The removal of measures previously proposed for *Brassica oleracea* due to insufficient evidence for *Colletotrichum higginsianum* to be considered seed-borne in this host.

The completed final report is available in English on the Australian Government Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/plant/brassicaceous-crop-seeds>.

This addendum concerns a:

- Modification of final date for comments
- Notification of adoption, publication or entry into force of regulation
- Modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation
- Withdrawal of proposed regulation
- Change in proposed date of adoption, publication or date of entry into force
- Other:

Comment period: (If the addendum extends the scope of the previously notified measure in terms of products and/or potentially affected Members, a new deadline for receipt of comments should be provided, normally of at least 60 calendar days. Under other circumstances, such as extension of originally announced final date for comments, the comment period provided in the addendum may vary.)

- Sixty days from the date of circulation of the addendum to the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: National Notification Authority, National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

The Australian SPS Notification Authority
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au

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Alerts

Alerts provide information about significant changes to import conditions. Keep informed of alerts by following individual import cases.

Timeframes for the introduction of revised import conditions for Brassicaceous seed for sowing

Effective from 30 October 2019

The purpose of this notification is to advise stakeholders of when new import conditions for *Brassica rapa*, *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus* seed for sowing will commence.

When will the new conditions commence?

As a result of a review of import conditions for Brassicaceous vegetable seeds for sowing, the Department of Agriculture (the department) will implement revised risk management measures for imported *Brassica rapa*, *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus* seed for sowing to manage the risk of fungal pathogens that are of biosecurity concern to Australia.

The revised risk management measures will be implemented using a phased approach:

- Phase 1 of the risk management measures commences 5 December 2019.
- Stakeholders will be kept updated in regards to the commencement date for Phase 2, once further details on seed testing for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani* via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is made available.

What will each Phase involve?

Phase 0: Transition phase

Consignments of *Brassica rapa*, *Raphanus sativus* and *Eruca vesicaria* seed for sowing that are shipped to Australia prior to 5 December 2019 will be permitted entry into Australian territory under existing conditions (i.e. mandatory treatment is not required).

- Commercial documentation must be provided to the department to verify that the date of export was prior to 5 December 2019.
- Consignments not meeting this requirement will be subject to Phase 1 conditions.

Phase 0 expires at midnight 4 December 2019 and will be replaced by Phase 1 conditions on 5 December 2019.

Phase 1: Mandatory treatment requirements

From 5 December 2019, the following conditions will take effect for *Brassica rapa*, *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus* seed for sowing:

- For *Brassica rapa*, seed must be treated with one of the following options:
 - Treatment with a broad spectrum fungicide, such as Thiram®.
 - Dry heat at 70°C for 90 minutes.
 - Hot water at 53°C for 10 minutes.
 - Hot water at 50°C for 20 minutes.
- For *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus*, seed must be treated with a broad spectrum fungicide, such as Thiram®.

Treatments can occur either offshore prior to export to Australian territory, or on-arrival in Australian territory.

Phytosanitary certification will be required to attest to any offshore treatments applied to seed lots prior to export. Where phytosanitary certification is not presented or accepted, consignments are subject to onshore treatment at a Department-approved site that is able to perform the required treatment.

Importers are reminded that limited approved arrangement sites are available to perform hot water and fungicide treatments in Australian territory. The importer is responsible for:

- contacting relevant sites to confirm all arrangements prior to importation, including the site's availability to treat the quantity of seed within the consignment,
- all fees and charges associated with treatment application.

Seeds imported for sprouting or microgreen production do not require the additional management measures mentioned above. However, they must be germinated in an approved arrangement facility to ensure that the seeds are not directed for other uses.

Phase 2: Introduction of PCR testing for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani*

Under Phase 2, the department will implement an additional option for *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus* to permit seed to be subject to PCR testing for the presence of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani*.

In Phase 2, the risk management options will be as follows:

- For *Eruca vesicaria*, seed must meet one of the following options:
 - Treatment with a broad spectrum fungicide, such as Thiram®.
 - PCR testing.
- For *Raphanus sativus*, seed must meet one of the following options:
 - Treatment with a broad spectrum fungicide, such as Thiram®.
 - PCR testing and heat treatment (either dry heat at 70°C for 90 minutes, hot water at 53°C for 10 minutes, or hot water at 50°C for 20 minutes).

A specific implementation date for Phase 2 is currently unavailable, and will be advised by the department once the PCR protocol for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani* is validated.

Background:

The increased biosecurity risk associated with imported seed has prompted the Department of Agriculture to review the import conditions for vegetable seeds that are imported for sowing.

We initiated a review of four vegetable seed policies, which was funded under the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. The four vegetable families being reviewed are: Apiaceae (e.g. carrot, celery and parsnip), Brassicaceae (e.g. broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower), Cucurbitaceae (e.g. cucumber, melon, pumpkin) and Solanaceae (e.g. capsicum, eggplant and tomato).

The final of the Brassicaceous vegetable seeds review has recommended that additional biosecurity measures are applied to imported seed species; *Brassica rapa* (e.g. turnip and bok choy), *Raphanus sativus* (e.g. radish) and *Eruca vesicaria* (e.g. rocket) to manage the risk of fungal pathogens (*Colletotrichum higginsianum* and *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *raphani*) that are of biosecurity concern to Australia.

Further Information:

Please contact Plant Import Operations on 1800 900 090 or email imports@agriculture.gov.au (please title the subject line of the email with 'Tier 2 - Brassicaceous vegetable seeds import conditions').

This Alert applies to the following Cases:

- [Brassica spp. seed for sowing](#)

Alerts

Alerts provide information about significant changes to import conditions. Keep informed of alerts by following individual import cases.

Reminder: Commencement of revised import conditions for Brassicaceous seed for sowing

Effective from 26 November 2019

The purpose of this notification is to remind stakeholders that Phase 1 of revised import conditions for *Brassica rapa*, *Raphanus sativus* and *Eruca vesicaria* seed for sowing will commence on 5 December 2019.

What will the new conditions involve?

From 5 December 2019, the following conditions will take effect for *Brassica rapa*, *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus* seed for sowing:

- For *Brassica rapa*, seed must be treated with one of the following options:
 - Treatment with a broad spectrum fungicide, such as Thiram®,
 - Dry heat at 70°C for 90 minutes,
 - Hot water at 53°C for 10 minutes,
 - Hot water at 50°C for 20 minutes.
- For *Eruca vesicaria* and *Raphanus sativus*, seed must be treated with a broad spectrum fungicide, such as Thiram®.

Consignments that are shipped to Australia prior to 5 December 2019 will be permitted entry into Australian territory under existing conditions (i.e. mandatory treatment is not required).

- Commercial documentation must be provided to the department to verify that the date of export was prior to 5 December 2019.
- Consignments not meeting this requirement will be subject to the revised conditions.

Treatments can occur either offshore prior to export to Australian territory, or on-arrival in Australian territory.

Seeds imported for sprouting or microgreen production do not require the additional management measures mentioned above. However, they must be germinated in an approved arrangement facility to ensure that the seeds are not directed for other uses.

Further Information:

Further information on these changes are outlined in the [BICON Alert](#) issued on 30 October 2019.

The final review of import conditions, including the department's approach to implementing revised conditions in BICON, is provided at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/plant/brassicaceous-crop-seeds>.

Please contact Plant Import Operations on 1800 900 090 or email imports@agriculture.gov.au (please title the subject line of the email with 'Tier 2 - Brassicaceous vegetable seeds import conditions').

This Alert applies to the following Cases:

- [Brassica spp. seed for sowing](#)

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