



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

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BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2007/22

PRESERVED DUCK EGGS FROM TAIWAN: FINALISED POLICY REVIEW

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) notifies stakeholders of the finalisation of the policy review for the importation of preserved duck eggs from Taiwan.

The review has concluded that salt and heat-treated ducks eggs from Taiwan could be imported into Australia, as processing addresses disease agents of quarantine concern. Additional risk management measures are required for alkalisised duck eggs. These measures are necessary to reduce the quarantine risks to a *very low* level in order to achieve the Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP) determined by Australian Government policy and in line with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine.

The outcome of Biosecurity Australia's policy review will now be taken into account by decision makers when considering applications for import permits for salt and heat-treated duck eggs and alkalisised duck eggs from Taiwan, in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* and Quarantine Proclamation 1998 as amended.

A policy review of preserved duck eggs from Taiwan commenced in June 2006 (see Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) 2006/16). A draft policy review was issued for 60 days' stakeholder comment in May 2007 (BAPM 2007/11), and the consultation period closed on 9 July 2007.

Four submissions were received on the draft review and these have been carefully considered. The submissions did not support any significant changes to the draft assessment and conclusions.

Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has considered Biosecurity Australia's recommendations and has determined that:

- **for salted and heat-treated eggs:** the processing addresses disease agents of quarantine concern and no additional risk management measures are required. An import permit and an accompanying official health certificate are required that verifies the eggs have been manufactured according to the approved process and that the handling practices prevent post-processing contamination; and
- **for alkalisised eggs:** risk management measures are required to address four diseases of quarantine concern (notifiable avian influenza viruses, Newcastle disease virus, and *Salmonella* Enteritidis and multi-drug resistant *S. Typhimurium*). As the risks exceed Australia's ALOP, measures are required to reduce the risks to a very low level and include treatment to ensure destruction of the disease agent (such as heating) or measures to decrease the likelihood of entry of the disease, such as country or zone freedom, or flock accreditation. Equivalent risk management measures will be considered and these will be subject to a case-by-case assessment.

Next Steps

The final policy review and a summary of stakeholder comments and responses are available electronically on the Biosecurity Australia website: www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will now take the outcome of the policy review into account when considering applications for import permits for salt and heat-treated duck eggs and alkalised duck eggs from Taiwan.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer listed below. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on import risk analyses and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to BAAs will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports on the subject matter of the Advice.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless the submission is marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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