



Submission No 31

Inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation

Supplementary submission

Organisation: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Export protocol negotiations resulting in market access wins January 2012

- **Indonesian in-transit cold disinfestation treatments for citrus and table grapes:** The Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Quarantine has accepted amendments to the cold treatment protocol for Queensland fruit fly and Mediterranean fruit fly to allow treatments at 3°C for citrus and table grapes. These schedules can be used in-transit. The changes are effective from 1 July 2011.
- **Indian alternative risk management for macadamia nuts:** India has published the new conditions (accepting heat treatment for macadamia nuts) as an alternative treatment to mandatory methyl bromide fumigation.
- **Meat to China:** The previous protocols for the export of Australian beef, sheep and goat meat to China stipulated a temperature for frozen meat but not chilled meat. The omission of temperature requirements for chilled meat led to some confusion by Chinese port officials, with chilled meat from Australia being refused entry at some ports. To address this issue, in October 2009, Australia proposed amendments to the existing protocols to clarify the eligibility of chilled meat. The revised protocols were formally agreed and signed by China during the bilateral Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) High Level Dialogue in Beijing in June 2011.
- **Meat to Korea:** Market access to Korea was improved after Korean approval was received for a meat establishment operating under the new Australian Export Meat Inspection System (AEMIS). Korea has indicated that approval of this establishment represents broader approval of the AEMIS model.
- **Export of honey to Egypt:** Market access for Australian honey to Egypt was achieved following successful export health certification negotiations.
- **Vietnam ban on red offal:** On 23 March 2011, Vietnam advised that it had 'partially' lifted its ban on offal imports to allow trade in edible red offal from swine and poultry to recommence. Following this, Vietnam advised in April 2011 that it had also lifted its ban on the import of red offal (heart, liver, and kidney) from all species. Australia is continuing to seek unrestricted access for all other offal.
- **Lentil exports to Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabian authorities advised in July 2011 that the longstanding ban on Australian lentil exports has been lifted. Exports of Australia's lentils may now occur, providing they are accompanied with agreed phytosanitary certification and Certificate as to Condition issued by DAFF Biosecurity.
- **New Zealand 3°C cold treatment for citrus from pest free areas in outbreak; in transit cold treatment for citrus, pears, table grapes and avocado:** New Zealand has published updated cold treatment schedules for Australia to include 3°C from pest free areas in outbreak. An in-transit cold treatment protocol has also been finalised and has been included in the Australia–New Zealand

Bilateral Quarantine Arrangement Systems Operation Manual. In-transit cold treatment is now available for citrus, pears, table grapes and avocado for export to New Zealand.

- **Revised plant quarantine requirements for table grapes and citrus to Thailand:** New import protocols for Australian table grapes and citrus have been agreed and Thailand completed a verification visit in late February 2011. Trade commenced under the new conditions on 20 April and 1 July 2011 respectively. Further improvements are under negotiation.
- **Cold disinfestation treatments for citrus and table grapes to the Philippines:** The Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) has agreed to update the cold treatment schedules for Australia to include 3°C for Australian table grapes and all citrus species to be treated for both Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly. BPI has also agreed to undertake a trial shipment to review the in-transit cold treatment protocol. The amendment to the regulations is subject to the successful trial shipment to verify in-transit cold disinfestation arrangements.
- **Market access for Table grapes to China:** The finalised protocol for the import of Australian table grapes to China was initialled in Beijing on 11 October 2010. Trade commenced in April 2011. The protocol was formally signed by AQSIQ Vice Minister Mr Wei Chuanzhong and DAFF secretary Dr Conall O'Connell, on at the SPS High level dialogue meeting in Qingdao.
- **Horticultural commodities to Vietnam:** Access for 23 currently traded horticultural commodities to Vietnam has been maintained under Vietnam's revised quarantine regulations through provision of technical market access submissions between November 2010 and June 2011. Vietnam advised in June 2011 that trade could continue under the current conditions pending any future outcomes from pest risk analysis.
- **Tablegrapes propagative material to Chile.** Chile has issued import permits for tablegrapes propagative material from Australia. Plant Biosecurity provided technical information in November 2009 to Chile in support of this market access.
- **Sorghum seed to Peru.** Peru has finalised the import conditions for Australia Sorghum seeds after several years of negotiations.