



4 November 2019

(19-7393)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Notifying Member: AUSTRALIA If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Australian Government Department of Agriculture
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Seeds for sowing of tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>) and capsicum (<i>Capsicum annuum</i> species complex)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Emergency measures for tomato and capsicum seeds. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 3
6. Description of content: Emergency phytosanitary measures for the importation of tomato and capsicum seeds are being introduced to mitigate the biosecurity risk posed by <i>Tomato mottle mosaic virus</i> (ToMMV).
7. Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action: ToMMV (<i>Tobamovirus</i> genus) is an emerging biosecurity risk to Australian tomato and capsicum growers. This virus is known to naturally infect tomato and capsicum resulting in unmarketable fruit, and has plant disease resistance breaking capability. Recently, tomato and capsicum consignments of seeds for sowing intended to enter Australia have tested positive for ToMMV. Australia's existing import conditions for the importation of tomato and capsicum seeds do not require specific risk mitigation measures against ToMMV. Therefore, emergency measures will be introduced for tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>) and capsicum (<i>Capsicum annuum</i> species complex) seeds. A transition period will be provided before the commencement of emergency measures to minimise the potential for trade disruption: Transition period: Consignments that are shipped from an exporting country before midnight preceding 19 November 2019 will be permitted entry into Australia under existing arrangements (no additional measures). Commencement of mandatory testing: Consignments that are shipped after midnight 19 November 2019 must undergo Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for ToMMV either on-shore or off-shore.

Phytosanitary certification requirements:

Seed lots of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and capsicum (*Capsicum annuum* species complex) that are tested off-shore must be accompanied by an official government Phytosanitary Certificate endorsed with the following additional declaration:

'The consignment of [*botanical name (s) (Genus species)*] comprises [*insert number of tomato/capsicum seed lots*] seed lot(s); for each seed lot, seeds were tested by PCR [*insert laboratory name(s) and report number(s)*] using protocols approved by the Australian Department of Agriculture on a sample size of 20,000 seeds (or 20 per cent of small seed lots) and found free from *Tomato mottle mosaic virus (ToMMV)*.'

Optional: For consignments that do not have the specific additional phytosanitary declarations but have laboratory testing reports.

The consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate that links to, and is accompanied by, a laboratory report. The botanical name and lot number(s) must be presented on the Phytosanitary Certificate. The laboratory report must state:

The seed species tested; That a 20,000 seed sample (or 20 per cent of small seed lots) was tested and the test type used; The primers and protocol used are approved by the department; The test result confirming freedom from ToMMV; The lot number(s), which must match the phytosanitary certificate; The date of testing; The laboratory name and address.

Details of these emergency measures, including department-approved protocols are available on the department's website:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/plant-products/seeds-for-sowing/emergency-measures-tommv-qa>.

9. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:

Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):

International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):
IPPC Article 7 and IPSM 1

None

Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?

Yes No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:

10. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:

11. Date of entry into force (dd/mm/yy)/period of application (as applicable):

19 November 2019

Trade facilitating measure

12. 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 Contact Point
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au

13. Text(s) available from: National Notification Authority, National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

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