



6 September 2021

(21-6629)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> AUSTRALIA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
<b>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):</b> Fish and fish products for use as pet food and stockfeed
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Animal Biosecurity Advice 2021-A04 - Draft assessment of a prescribed heat treatment as a risk management measure for fish and fish products for use as pet food and stockfeed. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 23 <a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos/ba2021-a04">https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos/ba2021-a04</a>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> As set out in the Biosecurity Advice 2021-A04 ( <a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos">https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos</a> ), the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment initiated an assessment in response to stakeholder requests for an alternative heat treatment for fish and fish products for use as pet food and stockfeed imported into Australia.  This draft assessment uses infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV), the most thermochemical treatment-resistant aquatic animal virus, as the minimum standard for aquatic pathogen inactivation. The department has undertaken this assessment to determine if IPNV is inactivated by the proposed heat treatment.  Based on the outcomes of the assessment, the department proposes that the following changes to import policy are made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The current heat treatment of 100 °C for no less than 30 minutes for fish products containing salmonid material, be reduced to a moist heat treatment of at least 85 °C for at least 25 minutes, or at an equivalent time and temperature agreed to by the department;</li><li>- The current heat treatment of 80 °C for no less than 20 minutes for fish products containing non-salmonid material be increased to a moist heat treatment of at least 85 °C for at least 25 minutes, or at an equivalent time and temperature agreed to by the department;</li><li>- The current restrictions on the percentage of salmonid material contained in the fish products (no more than 2%) will no longer apply.</li></ul> The department invites comments on technical aspects of the proposed measures. The department is interested in your comments regarding these measures providing equivalent risk management outcomes when compared to the current measures.  The department will carefully consider all submissions before finalising the assessment of existing policy. A further Animal Biosecurity Advice will be issued following the consultation

	<p>period.</p> <p>The department invites you to comment on the draft review by 1 November 2021.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</b> Aquatic Animal Health Code, Section 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b> The OIE has standards for pasteurised fish products for any purpose related to diseases listed by the OIE in the relevant chapters of Section 10 of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code. The department has undertaken this assessment based on IPNV, which is not currently a disease listed by the OIE. However, IPNV is exotic to Australia, and a disease of concern to Australia. Therefore, the proposed changes to import policy are based on the outcomes of this assessment.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b></p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> To be determined.</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> The draft assessment was published on 6 September 2021.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 1 November 2021</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. <b>Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Authority GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. <b>Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos/ba2021-a04">https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos/ba2021-a04</a></p>