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Draft Biosecurity Regulation Released for Comment

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The Australian Department of Agriculture has released the draft Biosecurity (Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses) Regulation 2015 (BIRA regulation) for public consideration. This is the first draft regulation under the new Biosecurity Act 2015.

REF: GAIN Report - [New Biosecurity Legislation Enacted in Australia Canberra Australia 8-20-2015](#)

The Australian Department of Agriculture has released the draft Biosecurity (Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses) Regulation 2015 (BIRA regulation) for public consideration. This is the first draft regulation under the new [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) (see above report). A copy of the draft regulation is available at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/new-biosecurity-legislation/draft-regulations>.

The BIRA regulation sets out and regulates the key steps of the Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis process. The BIRA regulation also includes specific timeframes, publication and consultation requirements. It details the involvement of a scientific advisory group and the role of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity in the BIRA process.

Submissions must be received by November 30, 2015. The Department of Agriculture's [regulation submission page](#) contains further information on the process and how to make a submission.

Background

In July 2014, the Department began an examination of Australia's import risk analysis (IRA) process to identify issues with the process and look for opportunities for improvement. The examination of the import risk analysis process final report was released on July 31, 2015 and included ten recommended actions. Further information can be found on the [IRA examination page](#).

The draft BIRA regulation has been developed with consideration of Australia's international obligations as a signatory of the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and the International Plant Protection Convention and the World Organization for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties) codes and standards relating to import and pest risk analyses.

BIRA guidelines (which will replace the current [IRA handbook](#)) are under development and will be released shortly. The BIRA guidelines are an administrative document which will provide further information and details on how the regulated BIRA process will be conducted by the department. The BIRA guidelines

Stakeholder feedback

The Department has worked to incorporate stakeholder comments received during the consultation and the recommended actions from the examination report in drafting the BIRA regulation and BIRA guidelines. The Department has tracked where recommended actions from the examination have been incorporated into the BIRA regulation, BIRA guidelines and departmental process in the [Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses flowchart](#).

The Department is particularly interested in feedback on whether the consultation opportunities through the proposed BIRA process are appropriate and easily understood; and if there is any part of the proposed BIRA process which needs further explanation or was difficult to understand.

As mentioned above, submissions are due by close of business (Australian time) Monday, November 30, 2015.