



RISK BACKGROUND

Seed for sowing products

Overview

Seed for sowing products are goods that contain seed which is embedded in a non-transparent growing medium, such that the seed is not readily visible for inspection.

Examples include:

- Commodities intended to assist in the germination of seed by evenly embedding small seed into growing media inside a biodegradable mat or tape (non-transparent seed tape or seed mats)
- Novelty commodities, such as seed eggings or sprout pencils.

Imported seed for sowing products must:

- **contain seed species that have been assessed as being permitted entry under the BICON case**
- be accompanied with a Phytosanitary certificate stating the botanical name of the seed species
- be packaged in clean packaging and labelled with the botanical name
- only contain a single species of seed
- comply with Australia's seed purity requirements
- be inspected on arrival to verify compliance with import conditions.

If the product contains organic growing media, goods must also be accompanied with a valid import permit.

Importers and department staff must ensure that all BICON conditions are met and that goods are free from biosecurity risks, as well as the key risks described below.

Key risks

Imported seed poses a general risk of introducing a range of biosecurity risks which may have negative impacts on Australia's domestic agricultural industry, such as live insects, diseased material, and contaminants including soil, plant debris and weed seeds.

Seed products pose a particular risk of weed seeds and contaminants. These products often arrive pre-packaged with seed already embedded into the product, meaning that seed cannot be readily inspected to confirm freedom from contaminants. For this reason, destructive sampling is required to enable these goods to be inspected, wherein some products will be opened to gain access to the components for inspection.