

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh Solanaceous fruit for human consumption

Overview

Permitted types of fresh Solanaceous fruit includes:

Cape gooseberry, capsicum, chillies, eggplant, pear melon, peppers, tamarillo, tomatillo, Truss tomatoes and loose tomatoes.

Permitted fresh Solanaceous fruit imported for human consumption do not require an import permit, except for fresh chillies from Fiji.

Permitted fresh Solanaceous fruit must be:

- sourced from the Republic of Korea, New Zealand (NZ) or Fiji
- subject to pre-export inspection by the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country
- accompanied by an original phytosanitary certificate
- securely packaged (i.e. made insect proof) and labelled as per import requirements
- inspected on arrival unless subject to CBIS assessment.

In addition to these common requirements:

- imports from the Republic of Korea and tomatoes from NZ must meet greenhouse and packing house requirements
- imports of loose tomatoes from NZ must undergo pre-shipment or on-arrival treatment or may be grown in accordance with the New Zealand Code of Practice as specified in BICON
- imports of all other Solanaceous produce from NZ must undergo pre-shipment or on-arrival treatment as specified in BICON
- imports of chillies from Fiji must be of a specific maturity stage to meet the conditional non-host status requirement for fruit flies.
- chillies from Fiji must not be from the Island of Rotuma.

The department has not developed import conditions for countries other than the Republic of Korea, NZ or Fiji.

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



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Key risks

Fresh Solanaceous fruit for human consumption may harbour biosecurity risk material such as live insects, disease symptoms, and contaminants such as weed seeds, soil, hitchhiker pests, trash and other non-permitted plant parts. These risks are managed through the import conditions outlined above. The following are the key biosecurity risks associated with the Fresh Solanaceous fruit pathways.

Zebra chip disease (*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*)

Zebra chip is a bacterium that is associated with Solanaceous fruit sourced from New Zealand. It resides in the phloem of host plants, causing reduced yield and quality and in some cases the loss of entire crops. In Solanaceous hosts, the bacterium causes similar symptoms to psyllid yellows. This disease is spread by the tomato-potato psyllid, a common pest of Solanaceous fruit. The risks of this disease are mitigated by measures which limit the entry of its psyllid vector.

Tomato-potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*)

Tomato-potato psyllid is established in Western Australia however it is still regulated on imports of fresh Solanaceous fruit as it is a vector for Zebra chip disease. The psyllid itself can also cause psyllid yellow syndrome which can cause leaf cupping, chlorosis and purple discolouration of leaves along with significant reduction in tomato yield and quality. Mandatory fumigation or approved production practices are used to mitigate the risk of this pest on imports of fresh Solanaceous fruit.

Fruit flies (*Bactrocera kirki*, *B. passiflorae*, *B. xanthodes*)

Fruit flies, such as *Bactrocera kirki*, *B. passiflorae* and *B. xanthodes*, are potential pests that may be associated with the Fijian pathway. They are one of the top 40 national plant pests for Australia. They damage fruit by laying eggs just under the surface. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the fruit. The biosecurity risks associated with fruit flies are mitigated by either area freedom, treatment or conditional non-host status.

Thrips (*Thripidae*)

Thrips, such as Western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), *Frankliniella intonsa* and melon thrips (*Thrips palmi*), are potential pests that may be associated with NZ, Korean and Fijian pathways. These plant feeding insects can vector orthotospoviruses which may cause considerable economic consequences across a wide range of fruit, vegetable, legume and ornamental crops. For this reason, many thrips are considered to be actionable for Australia. The biosecurity risk posed by thrips is managed by phytosanitary certification and inspection on-arrival.

Mealybugs (*Planococcus minor*)

Planococcus minor is an insect that is associated with capsicums from Fiji. It is small and can easily hide around the calyxes of the fruit. The biosecurity risk posed by mealybugs is managed by phytosanitary certification and inspection on-arrival.

Document information

Version	Date	Details of amendment
1.0		First publication
2.0	April 2024	Incorporation of information about importing chillies from Fiji.