

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh figs for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Rascals. R, (2010) *Figs glorious figs*, <https://flic.kr/p/8yBFEB> (CC BY-NC- 2.0))

Fresh figs (*Ficus carica*) for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- sourced from New Zealand
- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- packaged in secure packaging (i.e. insect-proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

The department has not developed import conditions for fresh figs sourced from countries other than New Zealand.

Importers and department staff should ensure that BICON conditions are met and that fruit is free from the biosecurity risks described below.

Key risks

Fruit fly

Fresh figs are hosts of fruit flies, such as Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*), which are highly invasive and have a large host range. They have the potential to cause significant economic impact on Australia's horticultural industries and are a [national plant priority pest](#) for Australia. Eggs are laid below the skin of host fruit where larvae feed and develop. Some necrosis may occur around the puncture site on affected fruit.

As the key fruit flies associated with fig fruit are not recorded in New Zealand, risk management measures are not required for these pests.

Other pathway risks

Imports of fresh figs for human consumption may also harbour biosecurity risk material such as live insects, disease symptoms, and contaminants such as weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These risks are managed through the range of import conditions outlined above.