

# RISK BACKGROUND

## Fresh papaya for human consumption

### Overview



(Image: Tamayo. L, (2009) *Papayas*, <https://flic.kr/p/7rHntP> (CC BY-SA 2.0))

Fresh papaya (*Carica papaya*) for human consumption does not require an import permit but must be:

- sourced from New Zealand, Fiji or Hawaii
- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- subject to an appropriate pre-export fruit fly disinfestation treatment where required
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- packaged in insect-proof packaging
- inspected on-arrival.

The department has not developed import conditions for fresh papaya sourced from countries other than New Zealand, Fiji or Hawaii.

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

### Key risks

The main pests that may be found on papaya imports are outlined below. These risks are managed by mandatory pre-export treatment (as prescribed), phytosanitary certification, use of secure packaging and inspection.

#### Fruit fly

Fresh papaya are a host of fruit flies, such as Melon fruit fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*), Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), Fijian fruit fly (*Bactrocera passiflorae*) and the Pacific fruit fly (*Bactrocera xanthodes*). Fruit flies are considered to be [national plant priority pests](#) for Australia as they are highly invasive due to their wide host range and potential to enter, establish and spread through the movement of infected fruit. 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.

Fruit fly disinfestation treatment is a mandatory requirement for consignments from Fiji and commercial consignments from Hawaii. As the key fruit flies associated with papaya are not recorded in New Zealand, fruit fly treatments are not required for this pathway.

#### Bacterial crown rot

Bacterial crown rot (*Erwinia papayae*) is a high priority pest for Australia's papaya industry which is associated with the seed of infected papaya. This bacteria causes leaves to yellow and stems to discolour and water soak. The countries which are permitted to export papayas to Australia are currently free from *E. papayae* and as such, specific measures to manage this pathogen is not required.

#### Other pathway risks

Imports of fresh papaya for human consumption may contain biosecurity risk material such as live insects, diseased symptoms, and contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These risks are managed through a range of import conditions as outlined above.