

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh snow peas and sugar snap peas for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Henneman, A, (2012) *Snow Peas*, <https://flic.kr/p/caHjjs> (CC BY 2.0))

Fresh snow peas and sugar snap peas (*Pisum sativum*) for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- securely packaged (i.e. insect proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

Depending on the country of export, consignments may also be required to be free from mature pods or seeds, as well as stalk and sepal material.

Importers and department staff should ensure that BICON conditions are met and imported consignments are free from biosecurity risks.

Key risks

Arthropods

Fresh snow peas and sugar snap peas can carry a number of arthropod pests including those listed below.

- **Leaf miners**, including the vegetable leaf miner (*Liriomyza sativae*), Serpentine leaf miner (*L. huidobrensis*), the American serpentine leaf miner (*L. trifolii*) and Pea leaf miner (*Chromatomyia horticola*) are associated with imports of fresh peas. Exotic leaf miners are of biosecurity concern due to their ability to cause significant damage to ornamental and vegetable crops. Infestation is characterised by white, 'tunnel-like' markings on foliage or stems, or the presence of eggs.
- Thrips such as Western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), blossom thrips (*F. schultzei*), chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*) and onion thrips (*Thrips tabaci*) may be present in consignment of snow peas and sugar snap peas. 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 risks associated with arthropods pests are managed by phytosanitary inspection and certification, use of secure packaging and inspection on-arrival. The removal of stalk and sepal material can also help reduce pest loads in imported consignments.

Pathogens

Fresh snow peas and sugar snap peas may provide a pathway for seed-transmitted pathogens which are of biosecurity concern to Australia. The risk posed by these pathogens is reduced as current import conditions require consignments to be free from mature pods or seeds.

Other pathway risks

Imported fresh snow peas and sugar snap peas 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 import conditions outlined above.