

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh avocado for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Hartnup. R, (2017), *Avocado*
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Fresh avocados (*Persea americana*) for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- grown in New Zealand or in the Territory of Norfolk Island
- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- securely packaged (i.e. insect proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

The department has not approved the importation of countries or territories other than those listed above.

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

Fruit flies

Fresh avocado are a host of exotic fruit flies such *Bactrocera* spp., and *Ceratitis* spp. These insects are [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. As the key fruit flies associated with avocado are not known to be present in New Zealand or Norfolk Island, specific risk management measures are not required to manage this risk.

Pathogens

- Avocado is a host of *Pseudocercospora purpurea* which causes Cercospora leaf spot and can lead to reductions in yield fruit quality.
- Avocado scab (*Sphaceloma perseae*) is present in many avocado producing regions around the world. *S. perseae* causes corky brown to purple markings on fruit and can lead to premature fruit drop.

As these pathogens are not known to be present in New Zealand or Norfolk Island, specific risk management measures are not required to manage these risks.

Other pathway risks

Imported fresh avocado may also harbour biosecurity risk material including live insects, disease symptoms, and contaminants such as weed seeds, non-permitted plant parts, hitchhiker pests and trash. These risks are managed through the import conditions outlined above.