

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh custard apples and cherimoya for human consumption

Overview



(Image: BGK. S, (2016), *Custard Apple*, <https://flic.kr/p/Meocx1> (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0))

Fresh custard apple (*Annona reticulata*) and cherimoya (*Annona cherimola*) for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- sourced from California, United States of America (USA)
- 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 developed import conditions for fresh custard apples sourced from states or countries other than California, USA.

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 custard apples and cherimoya are hosts of fruit flies, such as Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*), Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*) and *Bactrocera* species. These species 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. Australia requires that fresh custard apple and cherimoya fruit are sourced and packed in an area in California that is free from fruit flies of economic significance.

Other pathway risks

Imports of fresh custard apples and cherimoya for human consumption may also harbour biosecurity risk material including 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.