

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh olives for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Katherine Martinelli, (2011), *Fresh Olives* <https://flic.kr/p/akh1Gh> (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0))

Fresh olives (*Olea europaea*) for human consumption do not require and import permit but must be:

- sourced from New Zealand (NZ) or the United States of America (USA) (excluding Hawaii)
- sourced from an area free from economically significant fruit flies (USA only)
- subject to pre-export inspection by the national plant protection organisation of 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 countries other than NZ or the USA (excluding Hawaii).

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

Key risks

Olive fruit fly (*Bactrocera oleae*)

Fresh olives are a hosts of olive fruit fly. Olive fruit flies have the potential to cause significant economic impact on Australia's horticultural industries and are a [national plant priority pest](#) for Australia. Olive fruit flies cause significant damage to the flesh of the fruit as well as causing fruit to drop prematurely consequently causing reduced crop yields, fruit quality as well as extracted oil quality.

The olive fruit fly is not found in NZ and therefore specific risk management measures are not required for this pathway. However, this pest is found in the USA and therefore area freedom is required to mitigate the risk. Produce from the USA must be sourced from a fruit fly free area or an area 15 km from the epicentre of exotic fruit fly areas.

Other pathway risks

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