



23 October 2014

(14-6115)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>AUSTRALIA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Australian Government Department of Agriculture
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Benincasa hispida (wax gourd), Citrullus lanatus (watermelon), Cucumis anguria (west Indian burr gherkin), Cucumis sativus (cucumber), Cucumis melo (melon), Cucurbita moschata (pumpkin), Cucurbita pepo (pumpkin, squash, zucchini), Lagenaria siceraria (bottle gourd), Luffa acutangula, Luffa cylindrica (loofah gourd), Momordica charantia (bitter melon) and Trichosanthes cucurbitaria (serpent melon) seeds, tissue cultures and/or nursery stock imports.
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <b>[X] All trading partners</b> <b>[ ] Specific regions or countries:</b>
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Emergency measures for cucurbit seeds, nursery stock and tissue culture against Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus <b>Language(s):</b> English <b>Number of pages:</b> 2
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Emergency phytosanitary measures for imports of cucurbit seeds, nursery stock and tissue culture into Australia are being introduced due to the quarantine risk presented by Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV).
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <b>[ ] food safety, [ ] animal health, [X] plant protection, [ ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ] protect territory from other damage from pests.</b>
<b>8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action:</b> Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action:  Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus is an economically important virus of cucurbit crops and was recently detected for the first time in Australia in watermelon crops in the Northern Territory. The virus is currently under eradication and strict movement restrictions are in place. CGMMV has been reported in all plant tissues of infected plants; therefore, propagative material (seeds, tissue cultures and nursery stock) provide a pathway for this virus. Consequently, Australia is introducing emergency measures to prevent the further introduction of CGMMV through these pathways.  Prior to these emergency measures seeds, tissue cultures and nursery stock of these hosts were permitted entry into Australia from any country without any risk mitigation measures.  Heat treatment is not considered an option as recent research suggests that it is not efficient in eliminating the virus. Australia will review the emergency measures in the

near future. All emergency conditions will be published on the departments Import Conditions (ICON) database.

Tissue cultures and nursery stock:

The emergency measures require that imports of tissue cultures and nursery stock of *Benincasa hispida*, *Citrullus lanatus*, *Cucumis anguria*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cucumis melo*, *Cucurbita moschata*, *Cucurbita pepo*, *Lagenaria siceraria*, *Luffa acutangula*, *Luffa cylindrica*, *Momordica charantia* and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* are suspended until further notice.

Seeds for sowing:

The emergency measures for *Citrullus lanatus*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cucumis melo*, *Cucurbita pepo*, *Lagenaria siceraria* and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* seeds will be implemented in three phases to minimise trade disruption:

- Phase 1: Consignments currently in transit (exported prior to 22 October 2014) will be allowed entry into Australia if the consignment is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or equivalent supporting documentation that the seed has been tested offshore using the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) 7-026 Detection of squash mosaic virus, Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus and Melon necrotic spot virus in cucurbits with a minimum sample size of 2,000 seeds and found free of CGMMV. Consignments in transit that do not meet these requirements will be subject to Phase 2 conditions. Phase 1 conditions expire on 4 November 2014 and will be replaced by Phase 2 conditions.
- Phase 2: Consignments must be ELISA tested with a sample size of 9,400 seeds using the protocol of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) 7-026 Detection of squash mosaic virus, Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus and Melon necrotic spot virus in cucurbits. The testing of the seeds may be conducted offshore or onshore.
- Phase 3: Australia is currently developing a PCR testing protocol that will replace ELISA testing within three months (by 22 January 2015). The PCR testing protocol will be available on request.

Phytosanitary certification requirements for seeds for sowing:

Each consignment of *Citrullus lanatus*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cucumis melo*, *Cucurbita pepo*, *Lagenaria siceraria* and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* must be accompanied by an official government Phytosanitary Certificate endorsed with one of the following additional declarations:

The consignment of [botanical name (Genus species)] was tested by the ISTA 7-026 method of ELISA on a sample of 9,400 seeds and found free from Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus.

OR

The consignment of [botanical name (Genus species)] was tested by the approved method of PCR on a sample of 9,400 seeds and found free from Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus.

9.	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission</b> (<i>e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)</b> (<i>e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention</b> (<i>e.g. ISPM number</i>) IPPC Article 7 and IPSM 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Date of entry into force (dd/mm/yy)/period of application (as applicable):</b>  22 October 2014</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trade facilitating measure</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The Australian SPS Contact Point  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  Fax: +(61 2) 6272 3678  E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>
13.	<p><b>Text(s) available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The Australian SPS Contact Point  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  Fax: +(61 2) 6272 3678  E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>