



# Importing pomegranate arils from India

## Fact sheet

July 2022



There are several steps Australia undertakes before imported goods are cleared for the Australian market. When goods arrive at the Australian border, we will:

- Assess and verify that all documentation associated with the consignment is complete and valid.
- Inspect a proportion of the fresh product for pests and diseases that are of biosecurity concern for Australia.
- Diagnose any pests or diseases that are found on the fruit during inspection to determine if they are of biosecurity concern for Australia.
- Apply management action to the consignment, if the pests and diseases found are of biosecurity concern for Australia.

### Assess and verify documents

When we assess and verify documentation we will look at:

- The phytosanitary certificate that was issued by India's National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO). We will verify that the document is complete (has all the information required under the import conditions) and is valid (not a fraudulent copy).
- Other documentation that may be required under the import conditions. We will verify that the additional documents provided are valid and satisfy the requirements set out under the import conditions.

Should the phytosanitary certificate or any other document be incomplete, the fruit will be held under biosecurity control until we can verify the information with India's NPPO.

Once we have assessed and verified that all documentation is complete and valid, the fruit will be directed for inspection.

## Biosecurity inspection

The consignment will undergo a verification of packaging inspection, by the department or by an accredited person operating under a 2.41 Approved Arrangement.

The consignment will then be inspected at a class 2.4 Approved Arrangement facility.

It is the responsibility of the importer (or their broker) to deconsolidate the consignment for inspection. Do not open or remove fruit from the packaging.

A representative sample will be selected from the consignment for inspection. We will:

- randomly select 6 cartons per consignment.
- fully inspect 2 punnets per carton.

All sampled fruit will be removed from its packaging for inspection.

All sampled fruit will be visually inspected and examined using magnification to detect evidence of internal feeders and contaminants.

Should any pests or disease symptoms be found, they will be sent to our laboratories for identification (diagnostics).

It is the responsibility of the importer (or their broker) to repack the sampled fruit.

## Imported Food inspection

Ready-to-eat pomegranate arils are classified as risk food.

From 9 November 2022, consignments of ready-to-eat pomegranate arils that are either fresh, chilled or frozen, and are not retorted, must be covered by a food safety management certificate.

Pomegranate arils referred to the Imported Food Inspection Scheme are tested for E. coli and pesticide residues. A label and

visual assessment will also be conducted during inspection.

If referred for analytical testing, the importer must nominate a [laboratory](#) from the list of appointed laboratories and pay for the associated testing costs.

The sample size depends on the number of lots or packages per batch of food.

Sampling of ready-to-eat pomegranate arils requires 5 x 100-gram samples from each lot to be taken at random.

See the **Useful Resources** section for booking information and appointed laboratories.

## Pest diagnostics

We employ scientific expertise (entomologists, botanists and plant pathologists) to undertake diagnostics of pests and diseases found on imported plants and plant products.

Once the pest or disease symptom has been identified, our scientists will inform our biosecurity officers of the result and what action must be taken, if any, to manage the biosecurity risk.

If the pest or disease symptom has been identified as **not a biosecurity risk** for Australia, the fruit will be directed for release into the Australia market.

If the pest or disease symptom has been identified as **a biosecurity risk** for Australia, the fruit will be directed for action.

Actions generally undertaken are:

- Treatment (if available)
- Reconditioning or partial destruction to remove contaminants or diseased fruit
- Export out of Australia



- Disposal

Importers can choose which action they would like to accept.

If fruit are treated or re-conditioned, they may require another inspection to verify the treatment or reconditioning has been effective.

The costs associated with applying the action options are at the importer's expense.

## Importer responsibility

Importers (or their brokers) are required to:

### Pre-export

- Apply for an Australian import permit.
- Confirm the fruit have been produced in accordance with Australian requirements.
- Confirm the fruit have been processed at a registered facility.
- Confirm the fruit is accompanied by a valid phytosanitary certificate, and any required declarations.
- Confirm the fruit will be securely packaged and labelled in accordance with Australia's import requirements.

### On-arrival

To ensure efficient processing when goods arrive at the Australian border, importers (or their brokers) should, before the goods arrive:

- Have a valid import permit.
- Confirm access to a class 2.4 (or 2.41) approved arrangement in Australia for verification of packaging, holding, inspecting and treating the fruit (if required).

- Submit all relevant documentation through our online systems.

The importer (or their broker) must follow all biosecurity directions provided in the online systems.

Importers (or their brokers) must deconsolidate the consignment for inspection. It is important not to open or remove fruit from the packaging, until instructed by a biosecurity officer.

Importers (or their brokers) must also repack the fruit following inspection.

## Useful resources

- Importing fresh produce for commercial purposes —  
[www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/plant-products/fresh-produce-commercial-imports](http://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/plant-products/fresh-produce-commercial-imports)
- Imported Food Inspection Scheme:  
<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food/inspection-testing/ifis>
- To book an appointed laboratory for food testing:  
<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food/inspection-testing/book-lab#appointed-laboratories>
- Clearance and inspection of goods —  
[www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/clearance-inspection/documentary-requirements/minimum-document-requirements-policy](http://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/clearance-inspection/documentary-requirements/minimum-document-requirements-policy)

## Contacts

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