NOTIFICATION

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** Australia  **If applicable, name of local government involved:** |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources |
| **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):** Cucurbitaceous crop seeds for sowing |
| **4.** | **Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:**  **[****X] All trading partners**  **[ ]** **Specific regions or countries:** |
| **5.** | **Title of the notified document:** Draft review of import conditions for cucurbitaceous crop seeds for sowing into Australia. **Language(s):** . **Number of pages:** |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources initiated this review in response to recent incursions of some seed-borne pathogens in Australia, such as *Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus* (CGMMV). The review has identified several seed-borne pathogens of cucurbitaceous crops which meet the International Plant Protection Convention criteria for a quarantine pest. The identified quarantine pests, in addition to CGMMV, include *Kyuri green mottle mosaic virus* (KGMMV), *Melon necrotic spot virus* (MNSV)*, Phomopsis cucurbitae* and *Zucchini green mottle mosaic virus* (ZGMMV)*.*  This review evaluates the effectiveness of existing risk management measures for identified biosecurity risks and proposes additional mandatory phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction of the identified quarantine pests. Standard requirements for the importation of seed for sowing apply to cucurbitaceous seeds from all sources. The department proposes additional phytosanitary measures for *Citrullus lanatus, Cucumis melo, Cucumis sativus, Cucurbita maxima, Cucurbita moschata, Cucurbita pepo, Lagenaria siceraria* and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* and any hybrid of these species.  The proposed additional phytosanitary measures include:   * Mandatory testing or treatment (off-shore or on-shore) for seeds of *Citrullus lanatus, Cucumis melo, Cucumis sativus, Cucurbita maxima, Cucurbita moschata, Cucurbita pepo, Lagenaria siceraria* and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* and any hybrid of these species as specified in this review; * Seed lots tested or treated off-shore be accompanied by an official government Phytosanitary Certificate endorsed with the additional declaration that the consignment has undergone mandatory treatment or testing in accordance with Australian import conditions. |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale: [ ]****food safety, [ ]****animal health, [****X] plant protection, [ ]****protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ]****protect territory from other damage from pests.** |
| **8.** | **Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:**  **[ ]** **Codex Alimentarius Commission *(e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)*:**  **[ ]** **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:**  **[****X] International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM number)*:** ISPM No. 2 and 11  **[ ]** **None**  **Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?**  **[****X] Yes [ ]** **No**  **If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:** |
| **9.** | **Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:** |
| **10.** | **Proposed date of adoption *(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined.  **Proposed date of publication *(dd/mm/yy)*:** 6 December 2017 |
| **11.** | **Proposed date of entry into force: [ ]****Six months from date of publication**, **and/or** ***(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined.  **[ ]** **Trade facilitating measure** |
| **12.** | **Final date for comments: [ ]****Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or *(dd/mm/yy)*:** 19 February 2018  **Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [****X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e‑mail address (if available) of other body:** |
| **13.** | **Text(s) available from: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [****X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e‑mail address (if available) of other body:**  The Australian SPS Notification Authority  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au  Texts are available at the following web address:  <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/plant/cucurbitaceous-crop-seeds> |