

Import Health Standard
Commodity Sub-class: Fresh Fruit/Vegetables
Okra, *Abelmoschus esculentus*
from Fiji

ISSUED

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
Date Issued: 9 November 1999

1 NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANISATION

The New Zealand national plant protection organisation is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and as such, all communication should be addressed to:

Director, Plants Biosecurity
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 2526
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Fax: 64-4-474 4240
E-mail: plantih@maf.govt.nz
<http://www.maf.govt.nz>

2 GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ALL PLANT PRODUCTS

All plants and plant products are **PROHIBITED** entry into New Zealand, unless an import health standard has been issued in accordance with Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. Should prohibited plants or plant products be intercepted by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the importer will be offered the option of reshipment or destruction of the consignment.

The national plant protection organisation of the exporting country is requested to inform the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of any change in its address.

The national plant protection organisation of the exporting country is required to inform the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of any newly recorded organisms which may infest/infect any commodity approved for export to New Zealand.

Pursuant to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, proposals for the deliberate introduction of new organisms (including genetically modified organisms) as defined by the Act

should be referred to:

Manager, Operations
Environment Risk Management Authority
PO Box 131
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Also note:

In order to meet the Environmental Risk Management Authority's requirements the scientific name (i.e. genus and species) of the commodity must be included in the phytosanitary certificate.

3 EXPLANATION OF PEST CATEGORIES

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has categorised organisms associated with plants and plant products into regulated and non-regulated organisms as described below.

Organisms (including weeds) associated with each commodity will appear on a separate pest list which will be attached to each import health standard as an Appendix.

3.1 REGULATED ORGANISMS

Regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. These will include new organisms as defined by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. Regulated organisms are sub-divided into the following groups:

3.1.1 Quarantine: Risk group 1 pests

Risk group 1 pests are those regulated pests (FAO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, 1996) which on introduction into New Zealand could cause unacceptable economic impacts on the production of a commodity/commodities and/or the environment.

3.1.2 Quarantine: Risk group 2 pests

Risk group 2 pests are those regulated pests which on introduction into New Zealand could cause a major disruption to market access (some importing countries require specific pre-export phytosanitary treatments) and/or significant economic impacts on the production of a particular commodity/commodities and/or the environment.

3.1.3 Quarantine: Risk group 3 pests

Risk group 3 pests (eg. economically significant species of fruit flies) are those regulated pests which on entry into New Zealand would cause a major disruption to market access for a wide range of New Zealand commodities and/or have significant economic impacts on their production and/or the environment (some importing countries prohibit the entry of the host commodity). An official surveillance system is required for such pests in New Zealand.

3.1.4 Regulated non-quarantine pests

A regulated non-quarantine pest (denoted by "reg." on the pest list) is a pest whose presence in a consignment of plants for planting, affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting

party (Revised IPPC definition, Rome 1997). These pests would be under official control by the use of a Government operated or audited certification scheme.

3.1.5 Regulated non plant pests

Regulated non plant pests are those organisms which, although not pests of plants or plant products, may be associated with plants or plant products in international trade, and may have an affect on human or animal health (eg. black widow spider) and thus fall under the jurisdiction of other New Zealand government departments. The categorisation of these organisms and their associated import restrictions will be applied in accordance with the requirements of the relevant departments.

3.1.6 Vectors of associated quarantine pests

In the context of this import health standard, vectors are those organisms which are able to transmit regulated pests into New Zealand. To prevent the transmission of vectored quarantine organisms to susceptible commodities in New Zealand, it is necessary to prevent the entry of their vectors. Vectors (denoted by "vect." on the pest list) will be categorised as risk group 1 even if they are present in New Zealand, unless they are risk group 2 pests in their own right. If the vectored organism is not present in the exporting country then the associated vector(s), if present in New Zealand, will be categorised as a non-regulated non-quarantine pest(s).

3.1.7 Vectored organisms

Vectored organisms (denoted by "VO" on the pest list) are those regulated pests that are able to enter New Zealand via a vector associated with the imported commodity.

3.1.8 Strains of pests

Where there is documented evidence that a pest associated with the imported commodity has a different host range, different pesticide resistance, vectors a different range of organisms, or is more virulent than that of the same species present in New Zealand, then the different strain (denoted by "strain" on the pest list) of that pest will be categorised accordingly as a risk group 1 or 2 regulated pest.

3.1.9 Unidentifiable organisms

Should identification of an organism not be possible within the required time frame, the organism will be categorised as a regulated pest (either risk groups 1, 2, or 3) until such time as shown otherwise.

3.1.10 Unlisted organisms

Should an organism be intercepted that is not included on the pest list for that commodity, it will be categorised into the appropriate risk group and action taken accordingly.

3.2 NON-REGULATED ORGANISMS

Non-regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would not be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. These would include new organisms which could not establish in New Zealand. Non-regulated organisms are sub-divided into the following groups:

3.2.1 Non-regulated non-quarantine pests

Non-regulated non-quarantine pests are either already present in New Zealand and are not under official control or, could not establish in New Zealand.

3.2.2 Non-regulated non plant pests/organisms

Non-regulated non plant pests/organisms are not pests of plants and are not of concern to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry or any other New Zealand government department.

3.3 CONTAMINANTS (INCLUDING SOIL)

Consignments contaminated with soil, or other potential carriers of regulated pests (eg. leaf litter) will not be permitted entry if the level of contamination is above the acceptable tolerance.

4 APPLICATION OF PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

A number of different phytosanitary measures may be applied to pests in each risk group, depending on the commodity and the type of pest. These measures include:

4.1 QUARANTINE: RISK GROUP 1 PESTS

Phytosanitary measures required for risk group 1 pests may include:

- inspection and phytosanitary certification of the consignment according to appropriate procedures by the national plant protection organisation of the exporting country,
- testing prior to export for regulated pests which cannot be readily detected by inspection (eg. viruses on propagating material from accredited facilities), and verified by an additional declaration, to that given on the phytosanitary certificate,
- inspection/testing of the consignment by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry prior to biosecurity clearance, to ensure the specified pest tolerance has not been exceeded.

4.2 QUARANTINE: RISK GROUP 2 PESTS

Phytosanitary measures required for risk group 2 pests may include all the requirements for risk group 1 pests and may also require pre-export pest control activities to be undertaken by the contracting party, and confirmed by additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate.

4.3 QUARANTINE: RISK GROUP 3 PESTS

Phytosanitary measures applied to risk group 3 pests may include all the requirements for risk group 1 pests plus:

- the application of a pre-export treatment which has been developed in accordance with an approved New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry standard,
- an official bilateral quarantine arrangement between the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Fiji national plant protection organisation which includes descriptions of each approved treatment system(s),
- specific additional declarations on the phytosanitary certificate.

4.4 REGULATED NON-QUARANTINE PESTS

Phytosanitary measures applied to regulated non-quarantine pests will generally be the same as for risk group 1 pests, or according to the contingencies implemented for that pest if detected in New Zealand.

4.5 NON-REGULATED NON-QUARANTINE PESTS

No phytosanitary measures are applied to non-regulated non-quarantine pests.

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR FRESH FRUIT/VEGETABLES

Commodity sub-class: fresh fruit/vegetables includes fresh fruit and vegetables for consumption.

Only inert/synthetic material may be used for the protection, packaging and shipping materials of fresh fruit/vegetables.

All host material (fruit/vegetables) of fruit fly species (Diptera: Tephritidae) of economic significance shall only be imported under the terms of a bilateral quarantine arrangement (e.g. agreement, workplan) between the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Director, Plants Biosecurity and the head of the supply country's national plant protection organisation.

6 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR OKRA FROM FIJI

This import health standard covers the requirements for the entry of okra, commodity sub-class: fresh fruit/vegetables from Fiji only.

6.1 PRE-EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

6.1.1 Inspection of the consignment

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry requires that the Fiji national plant protection organisation sample and inspect the consignment according to official procedures for all visually detectable regulated pests (as specified by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), with a 95% confidence level, that not more than 0.5% of the units in the consignment are infested (this equates to an acceptance level of zero units infested by quarantine pests in a sample size of 600 units).

6.1.2 Testing of the consignment

Testing of the consignment prior to export to New Zealand for quarantine pathogens which are not visually detectable is not generally required for fresh okra from Fiji.

6.1.3 Documentation

Bilateral quarantine arrangement: Not required.

Phytosanitary certificate: Required.

Import permit/Authorisation to import: Exempt under Gazette Notice: No. AG12, 13 July 1995.

6.1.4 Phytosanitary certification

A completed phytosanitary certificate issued by the Fiji national plant protection organisation must accompany all okra, commodity sub-class: fresh fruit/vegetables exported to New Zealand.

Before an export phytosanitary certificate is to be issued, the Fiji national plant protection organisation must be satisfied that the following activities required by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have been undertaken.

The okra have:

- been inspected in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of visually detectable regulated pests specified by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

6.1.5 Additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate

If satisfied that the pre-export activities have been undertaken, the Fiji national plant protection organisation must confirm this by providing the following additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate:

"The okra in this consignment has:

- been inspected in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of any visually detectable regulated pests specified by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry."

6.2 TRANSIT REQUIREMENTS

The okra must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests.

The package should not be opened in transit. However, where a consignment is either stored, split up or has its packaging changed while in another country (or countries) *en route* to New Zealand, a "Re-export Certificate" is required. Where a consignment is held under bond, as a result of the need to change conveyances, and it is kept in the original shipping container, a "Re-export Certificate" is not required.

6.3 INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will check the accompanying documentation on arrival to confirm that it reconciles with the actual consignment.

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry requires, with 95% confidence, that not more than 0.5% of the units (for okra, a unit is one pod) in a consignment are infested with visually detectable regulated pests. To achieve this, the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will sample and inspect 600 units with an acceptance level of zero infested units (or equivalent), from the (homogeneous) lot.

6.4 BIOSECURITY/QUARANTINE DIRECTIVE

The commodity may be directed to a facility for further treatment if required.

6.5 TESTING FOR REGULATED PESTS

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may, on the specific request of the Director, Plants Biosecurity, test okra (commodity subclass: fresh fruit/vegetables) from Fiji for regulated pests.

6.6 ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN ON THE INTERCEPTION/DETECTION OF ORGANISMS/CONTAMINANTS

If regulated pests are intercepted/detected on the commodity, or associated packaging, the following actions will be undertaken as appropriate:

6.6.1 Quarantine: Risk group 1 pests

If a risk group 1 pest is intercepted, the importer will be given the option of:-

- treatment (where possible) of the consignment at the importer's risk,
- re-sorting (specific conditions apply) of the consignment,
- reshipment of the consignment,
- destruction of the consignment.

6.6.2 Quarantine: Risk group 2 pests

If a risk group 2 pest is intercepted, the importer will be given the option of:-

- treatment (where possible) at the discretion of the Director, Plants Biosecurity and immediate feedback to the national plant protection organisation of the exporting country with a request for corrective action,
- reshipment of the consignment,
- destruction of the consignment.

6.6.3 Quarantine: Risk group 3 pests

Actions for the interception of risk group 3 pests will include:-

- reshipment of the consignment OR destruction of the consignment,

AND

- the suspension of trade, until the cause of the non-compliance is investigated, identified and rectified. The appropriate actions may be audited by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Once the requirements of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have been met to the satisfaction of the Director, Plants Biosecurity, and supporting evidence is provided and verified by the Fiji national plant protection organisation, the trade suspension will be lifted.

6.6.4 Regulated non-quarantine pests

Actions for the interception/detection of regulated non-quarantine pests will be in accordance with the contingencies implemented for that pest if detected in New Zealand.

6.6.5 Regulated non plant pests/unwanted organisms

Actions for the interception/detection of regulated non plant pests/unwanted organisms will be in accordance with the actions required by the relevant government department.

6.6.6 Non-regulated non-quarantine pests

No action is undertaken on the interception of non-regulated non-quarantine pests.

6.6.7 Non-regulated non plant pests/organisms

No action is undertaken on the interception of non-regulated non plant pests/organisms.

6.6.8 Contaminants

Lots with more than 25 grams of soil per 600 unit sample shall be treated, reshipped or destroyed.

Interception of extraneous plant material (e.g. leaves, twigs) in the 600 unit sample will result in the lot being held until an assessment has been made in comparison with the risk of importing the part(s) of the plant species concerned.

6.7 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

If regulated pests are not detected, or are successfully treated following interception/detection biosecurity clearance will be given.

6.8 FEEDBACK ON NON-COMPLIANCE

The Fiji national plant protection organisation will be informed by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Director, Plants Biosecurity of the interception (and treatment) of any regulated pests, "unlisted" organisms, or non-compliance with other phytosanitary requirements.

7 CONTINGENCIES FOLLOWING BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

Should a regulated pest be detected subsequent to biosecurity clearance, the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may implement a management programme (official control programme) in accordance with Part V of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and Part 5 of the Biosecurity Amendment Act 1997.

Appendix

Pest List Commodity Sub-class: Fresh Fruit/Vegetables Okra, *Abelmoschus esculentus* from Fiji

REGULATED PESTS (actionable)

Quarantine: Risk group 3 pests

None

Quarantine: Risk group 2 pests

None

Quarantine: Risk group 1 pests

Insect

Insecta

Coleoptera

Nitidulidae

Urophorus humeralis

dried fruit beetle

Homoptera

Aleyrodidae

Bemisia tabaci

sweet potato whitefly

Diaspididae

Pseudaulacaspis pentagona

white peach scale

Selenaspidus articulatus

West Indian red scale

Lepidoptera

Gelechiidae

Pectinophora gossypiella

pink bollworm

Gracillariidae

Acrocercops sp.

leafminer

Noctuidae

Anomis flava

cotton leaf caterpillar

Earias vittella

spiny bollworm

Pyralidae

Syllepte derogata

cotton leafroller

Fungus

Mitosporic Fungi (Hyphomycetes)

Hyphomycetales

Dematiaceae

Cercospora malayensis

brown leaf spot

Pseudocercospora abelmoschi

leaf spot

Zygomycota: Zygomycetes

Mucorales

Choanephoraceae

Choanephora cucurbitarum

blight

Regulated non-quarantine pests

None

Regulated non plant pests/unwanted organisms

Insect

Insecta

Coleoptera

Coccinellidae

Coccinella transversalis

transverse ladybird

Hymenoptera

Formicidae

Paratrechina longicornis

crazy ant

Paratrechina vaga

ant

Pheidole fervens

ant

Solenopsis geminata

fire ant

Tapinoma melanocephalum

ghost ant

NON-REGULATED PESTS (non-actionable)

Non-regulated non-quarantine pests

Insect

Insecta

Coleoptera

Dermestidae

Anthrenus verbasci

varied carpet beetle

Homoptera

Aphididae

Aphis gossypii

cotton aphid

Lepidoptera

Noctuidae

Helicoverpa armigera

tomato fruitworm

Spodoptera litura

cluster caterpillar

Non-regulated non plant pests/organisms

None