

From:
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Subject: FSANZ Submission Form Received (Internet) - Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Categories:

	
Application/Proposal Number: P1052	
Organisation Name:	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Organisation Type:	Government Agency
Representing:	Government oversight of food imports and plant exports
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Submission Text:	<p>The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment supports the development of primary production and processing requirements for high-risk horticulture.</p> <p>Enhancements in domestic food safety regulation supports Australia's reputation as a supplier of safe food to Australia's export markets. The improved confidence in Australia's horticulture food safety will benefit the industry in regaining and maintaining market share in the event of an incident or</p>

recall. The development of primary production and processing requirements for high-risk horticulture will facilitate better consistency between Australia's domestic production of high-risk horticulture with the regulation of at-border measures for imports of horticultural produce. For example, the department intends to introduce the use of food safety management certificates for the importation of certain high-risk horticulture. This requirement can be met by importers obtaining certification from an accredited third party certification body that demonstrates that a food producer operates a food safety management system consistent with internationally agreed food safety principles as set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This certification provides evidence that a food producer has the necessary controls in place throughout the supply-chain to mitigate food safety hazards. The department also supports a broadening of the scope of other commodities required to meet primary production and processing requirements in the Code, to include those that have been associated with foodborne illness including dates, semi-dried fruit, nuts, fresh herbs and fresh coconut.