

10 October 2007

To interested staff and stakeholders

### **Revisions to Risk Analysis Procedures**

As a result of the formation of the Policy and Risk Directorate under the new MAF Biosecurity New Zealand structure and work on reviewing how we prepare and consult on our risk analysis work some changes have been made to the above procedures with immediate effect.

These changes include:

- Risk analyses will now go out for consultation as *drafts* – with *option(s)* for different levels of intervention and related measures as opposed to *recommended* measures. Feedback will be sought from stakeholders on these options. Risk analyses will then be finalised following this consultation and will present options – refined if appropriate – for the Import health standard process to consider. (Measures will only be *recommended* to the Chief Technical Officer for decision once the import health standard process is complete.)
- Draft and final risk analyses will be signed off by a committee chaired by the Manager of the Risk Analysis team with the Manager, International Co-ordination and Manager Standards the other members of the team. Decisions will be made by consensus – if this is not possible then differences will be escalated to the Director Policy and Risk and Director Standards for resolution.
- Decisions about the content and measures outlined in draft and final risk analyses should be guided by the Decision Making Framework – process and principles – as endorsed by the Biosecurity New Zealand Executive Management Team in March 2007 as well as the our domestic and international obligations.

Further changes may arise from a broader review into how border decisions are made (the “Border Systems Review”). Until any further such changes take effect, the above procedures – and all unaffected procedures as set out in the attached Risk Analysis procedures shall continue to apply.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Birnie  
Director Policy and Risk  
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand