



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

Ref: 94/2785

Dr Murali Bandla
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Phytosanitary Issues Management
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
4700 River Road
RIVERDALE MD 20737

Dear Dr Bandla

Re: Emergency measures for US citrus

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2009, which details packing house procedures for US lemons and oranges. These procedures will form a useful basis for establishing a systems approach to mitigate the risk associated with Asian citrus psyllid, ACP (*Diaphorina citri*).

Biosecurity Australia would be pleased to begin work immediately with the US to develop the other important components of a systems approach that fulfils Australia's requirements but allows the US to best manage the emergency measures Australia has implemented. These additional components would include production and pest control practices and monitoring protocols that ensure low pest prevalence in the consignments sent to the packing house, and packing and shipping protocols that prohibit re-infestations with the pest.

I have included here a link to our recently released final pest risk analysis report for "*Candidatus Liberibacter psyllaurosus*" and its vectors.
(http://www.daff.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1258271/Final_PRA_for_Candidatus_Liberibacter_psyllaurosus_and_its_vectors.pdf)

The report contains an example of a systems approach that mitigates the risk associated with a *Liberibacter*-vectoring psyllid. In this regard, I refer you specifically to the most significant component of this systems approach — the Code of Practice for the Management of the Tomato/Potato Psyllid in Greenhouse Tomato and Capsicum Crops outlined in Appendix B.

I note that the upcoming bilateral discussions to be held here in Canberra during November 2009 provide an opportunity for us to finalise suitable import arrangements for US citrus. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or members of my team for further discussions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Findlay'.

Vanessa Findlay
General Manager (Horticulture)
Plant Biosecurity

12 October 2009