



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Coffee imports and biosecurity

An overview of the scope of DAFF policies and operations

Australian Coffee Traders Association AGM

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Content

- Bo** — Current import conditions
- Khapra beetle urgent actions
- Highly compliant importer scheme (HCI)
- Import data
- Biosecurity risks and non-compliance
- Clearance at border

**Andrew,
Todd & Bo** — Issues and questions



Current import conditions

BICON case: Coffee for processing or human consumption

Commodity	Phytosanitary certificate	Other documentation	Packaging requirement	Inspection
Green coffee beans	✓	X	Clean and new	✓
Decaffeinated green coffee beans	X	✓	Clean and new	✓
Vacuum sealed green coffee bean trade samples	X	✓	Under strong vacuum	✓

Khapra beetle urgent actions



- Staged approach implemented from Sept 2020
- Applied to all plant products with some exemptions
- Prior to export, the goods must be inspected and certified with a phytosanitary certificate of the additional declaration

"Representative samples were inspected and found free from evidence of any species of Trogoderma (whether live, dead or exuviae) in [Australia's list of Trogoderma species of biosecurity concerns](#)"

Detailed information is available at [Urgent actions to protect against khapra beetle - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://www.daff.gov.au/urgent-actions-protect-against-khapra-beetle)

Highly Compliant Importer scheme (HCI)

- Trial commenced in November 2022, soon to be finalised.
- Aimed to **a)** reward compliant importers;
b) shape industry behaviors
- Trial has been a success, as it allows the departmental resources to focus on consignments that do not meet onshore requirements
- Managing biosecurity risk is not just the department's responsibility; it is a joint responsibility with industry.
- As of 21st August:
37 importers received the lowest inspection rate, i.e. **25%**



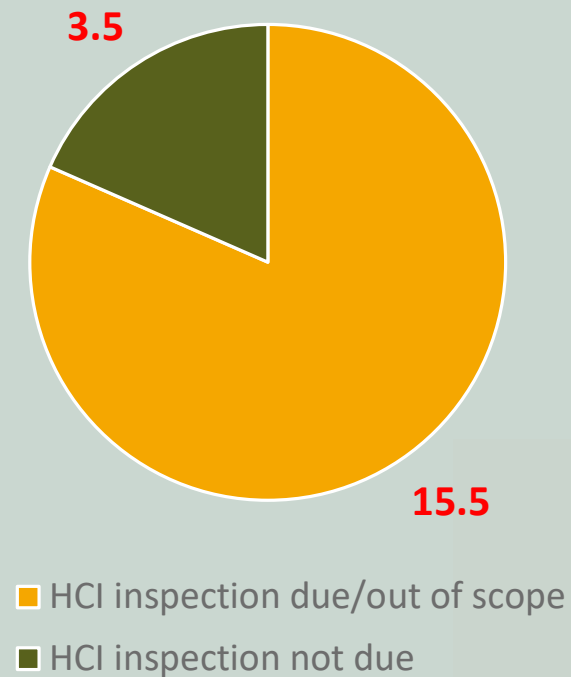
Highly Compliant Importer scheme (HCI) cont.

Overall, industry will benefit from HCI by:

- Demonstrating consistent inspection compliance; and
- Utilising AEPCOMM.

Analysis of green coffee bean entries for the month of October 2023 showed that:

- Entries eligible for HCI had an average clearance turnaround time of 3.5 days



Biosecurity risk material

- The presence of any biosecurity risk material (BRM) results in inspection failure

BRM found in green coffee beans

- Insects - e.g. spiders, ants, beetles, wasps, flies, borers, moths, mites

In June 2023 Khapra beetle was detected from a consignment of green coffee beans ex Brazil


- Plant debris – e.g. coffee fruit pulp
- Contaminant seeds
- Others – e.g. fungi, soil, animal material



Biosecurity risk material cont.

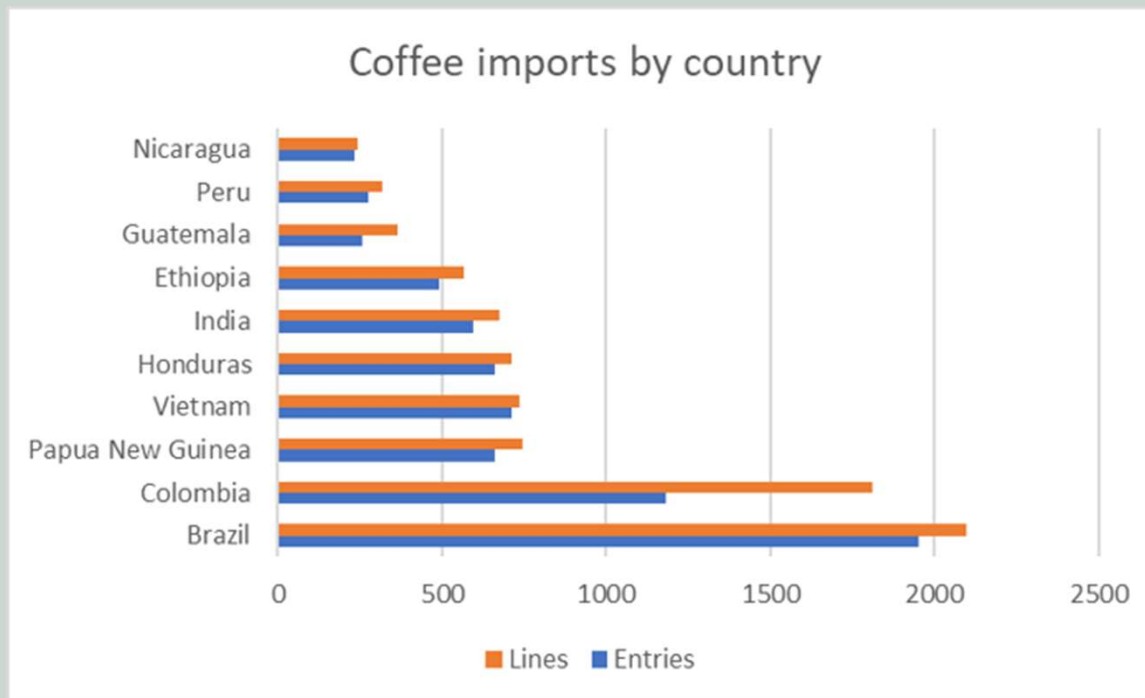
- 12% of biosecurity risk material found in green coffee beans are actionable

How to address the risk posed by actionable BRM

- × **Khapra beetle – export**
 - × Other insects – treatment
 - × Plant debris – cleaning/treatment/processing at AA
 - × Contaminant seeds – cleaning/treatment/processing at AA
 - × Others – treatment/disposal/export
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Sources of green coffee beans

- The vast majority of green coffee beans are imported under tariff 0901110001
- There are 9883 lines (7886 entries) imported during the period 1/10/2021 – 30/9/2023
- 82% of green coffee beans (lines) are imported from the top 10 exporting countries



Actionable biosecurity risk material

Top 10 countries with actionable BRM

Country	# of BRM identified	% Actionable BRM
Vietnam	228	29.8
Honduras	108	20.4
Papua New Guinea	67	17.9
Nicaragua	12	16.7
Indonesia	14	14.3
Ethiopia	25	12.0
Brazil	172	11.1
Peru	46	10.9
India	67	10.5
Colombia	130	3.1



Non-compliance

Top 10 countries with non-compliance

Country	Entries	Lines	Doc failure (line %)	Insp failure (line %)	Biosecur failure (line %)
Vietnam	694	711	2.5	10.4	4.8
Honduras	662	710	2.4	9.2	4.0
India	534	585	5.12	7.5	1.7
Papua New Guinea	656	738	2.74	5.4	1.4
Peru	275	314	2.1	8.1	1.4
Nicaragua	231	244	5.2	5.8	1.3
Ethiopia	491	567	4.6	4.2	0.9
Brazil	1942	2092	3.1	4.8	0.6
Colombia	1157	1740	2.2	6	0.3
Guatemala	257	362	9.1	1.8	0
Total/Average	7886	9883	4.9	5.7	1.3

Operational variation at border

- 97% of green coffee bean consignments are cleared through 3 regions

Regional variation in failure rate and clearance time

Region	# of Lines	% Inspection failure	% Biosecurity failure	Average processing time (days)
Sydney	4696	8.0	0.9	7.9
Melbourne	3622	12.0	1.5	9.4
Brisbane	1067	10.1	2.5	33.1

Questions?



Issues & questions

1. What in fact is the target standard processing time for the quarantine/ inspection for importing green coffee beans?
2. Do DAFF recognise the potential challenges caused by a change in the inspection regime, and the risk of further back logs in container returns, staffing issues, and a developing “logistical nightmare”?
3. If there are new regulations, which channel would DAFF use to announce these to Australian importers to ensure all importers were aware?



Issues & questions cont.

4. Do DAFF organise public meetings with Australian importers and/or Government representatives at origins to discuss/guide/clarify any concerns before/after publishing new regulations?
5. There is a need to improve the receipt/release of coffee samples by Customs. Coffee samples are constantly held up, even when vacuum sealed. What can DAFF do to improve this?
6. How can DAFF improve awareness of the vacuum sealed exception, and can a commitment be given to waive entry processing fees if indeed applied erroneously for vacuum sealed samples?



Issues & questions cont.

7. Do DAFF recognise how the requirement for phytos has created another level of delay (up to 3 weeks) and additional costs in sending green coffee to Australia, for a product where freshness is paramount?
8. Can DAFF provide a brief overview of the work currently being undertaken to enhance coffee growing in Australia?
9. What are the primary biosecurity items, by Law, regarding the importation of raw coffee beans?

