



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources

A new approach for conducting pest risk analyses – the Group Pest Risk Analysis



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Background: Pest Risk Analysis

Pest Risk Analyses (PRAs) are conducted in accordance with our WTO and SPS obligations

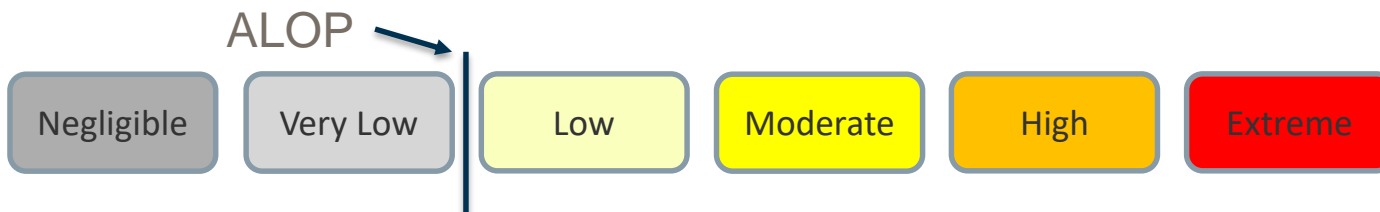
In order to justify requiring phytosanitary measures on a particular commodity an importing country must identify a specific quarantine pest (exotic or limited distribution) and demonstrate that the pest is likely to -

- ✓ be present on the commodity pathway (Importation)
- ✓ be able to be distributed from the commodity to a susceptible host in the PRA area (Distribution)
- ✓ be able to establish in the PRA area (Establishment)
- ✓ be able to spread in the PRA area (Spread)
- ✓ have negative consequences in the PRA area (Consequences)

Risk Analysis Ratings

	Importation	Distribution	Establishment	Spread	Overall Consequences
High	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extreme
Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	High
Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
Very Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
Extremely Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Low
Negligible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible

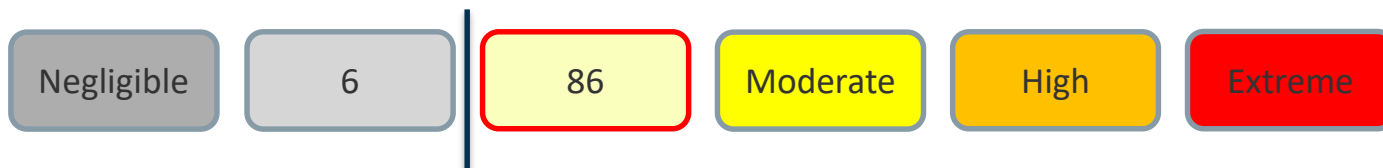
Unrestricted Risk Estimation ←



Pseudococcidae: 92 assessments for 37 species

	Importation	Distribution	Establishment	Spread	Consequences
High	86	4	92	92	Extreme
Moderate	4	88			High
Low	2				Moderate
Very Low					92
Extremely Low					Very Low
Negligible					Negligible

Unrestricted Risk Estimation



The Group PRA is consistent with WTO and SPS agreements

- The International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures Number 2: Framework for pest risk analysis (FAO 2016) states that ‘Specific organisms may be analysed individually, or in groups where individual species share common biological characteristics.’
- This is the basis for the Group PRA in which organisms are grouped if they share common biological characteristics resulting in similar likelihoods of entry, establishment and spread and comparable consequences – thus posing a similar level of biosecurity risk.

Development: Building a Group PRA

Species to consider in a Group PRA – Biosecurity relevance is key.

- Species is known to have a history of being intercepted at the border (Australia and/or international).
- Species is known to transmit plant pathogens.
- Species is identified by Australian industries as a high priority pest in relevant industry biosecurity plans.
- Species is identified as a pest of importance (e.g. CABI, literature reviews, book chapters, monographs, etc.).
- Species has previously been considered by Australia at species level in pest categorisation in final risk analyses.
- Species is a regional pest within Australia.

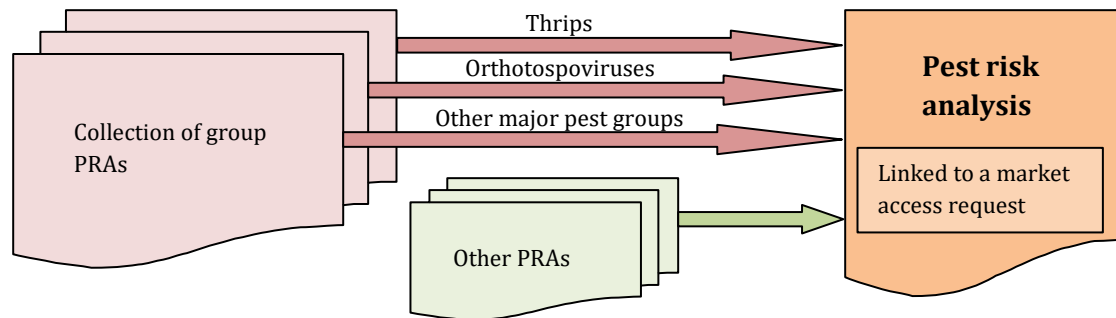
Risk Assessment

- The risk assessment is conducted for the group as a whole, based on the species identified in the categorization step.
- The likelihoods of Importation and Distribution are considered indicative, as these likelihoods will depend on the pathway.
- Establishment, Spread and Consequences are inherent to the shared common biological characteristics.
- The final Unrestricted Risk Estimate is also considered indicative as it is based on importation and distribution.

Implementation: Using a Group PRA

How will a Group PRA be used?

A building block in an Import Risk Assessment



- Specific quarantine pest species must still be identified
- Importation and Distribution must still be determined for each trade pathway
- The URE is then also determined

Group PRA is the 'factory default setting' – not the final word

- Expected to apply in nearly all cases
- Although group policy is meant to cover all cases, it may not always be completely appropriate in some instances.
- A Group PRA may not be adopted but instead a different assessment used.
- The rationale for deviating from Group PRA needs to be clearly explained.

Advantages to group policy

- Improve consistency and effectiveness.
- Able to take a 'big picture' view, identify any pests that may be significant but not yet considered.
- Consideration can be given to other issues not necessarily linked to a specific commodity, such as vectoring (Thrips and Orthotospoviruses).

Group polices in the Future

1. Thrips and Orthotospoviruses: draft published, comment period closed, final expected soon.
2. Mealybugs: draft for public comment.
3. Scale insects: draft for public comment.