Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Live animal imports of exotic species/specimens

Terms of Reference: Biological Control Agents

Application to amend the List of Specimens taken to be Suitable for Live Import (Live Import List)

The purpose of the Terms of Reference is to provide the information to assist the department to assess the potential impact that a species/specimen may have on the Australian environment. This enables the Minister for the Environment and Water to make a decision on the species proposed for import, based on a thorough assessment of the potential risks to the environment.

The processes for importing animal biological control agents are conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Please read this information in conjunction with the DAFF guidelines: Protocol for biological control agents.

Applicants must contact Plant Biosecurity, DAFF, to discuss their application before submitting an application. Applicants may need an import permit prior to bringing the specimens into Australia.

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Biosecurity

An application to amend the Live Import List, addressing the Terms of Reference (below), must be submitted to DCCEEW prior to applying for a testing permit. The application form for amending the Live Import List can be found in the 'Amending the list' section of this page.

Testing permits allow the importation of specimens into quarantine-approved facilities for conducting tests to obtain information for assessing potential impacts of the species on the Australian environment. A testing permit will only be issued if it can be demonstrated that the information cannot be obtained without conducting the tests in Australia.

A testing permit may allow a single consignment or multiple consignments of the species to be imported for testing over a period of six months.

Note: if the species is undescribed, or there is doubt about its taxonomy, a voucher specimen or specimens of the most readily identifiable stage must be lodged at a recognised institution (e.g. the Australian National Insect Collection or a State Agricultural Insect Collection or Museum) prior to permits being issued. Please provide the name of the species in the following form: Genus name, sp. 'collection location' (Institution, voucher specimen number).

Terms of Reference

1. **Provide a summary of the proposed activity, including the proposed source of the biocontrol agent, the number of individuals to be imported and the way in which the specimen(s) will be kept and transported within Australia and disposed of.**

Provide a summary of the types of activities that the specimen may be used for if imported into Australia (e.g., research, education, or for commercial purposes) and from where the animals will be obtained. Please include information on the rationale for this species, the numbers you want to import, details on where the animals are obtained and standards for importation.

2. **Provide information on the target species.**

Include:
- *taxonomy*
- *related Australian native and introduced species*
- *native range*
- *current distribution*
- *pest status*
- *documentation of approval for biological control.*

3. **Provide information on the taxonomy of the biological control agent.**

Provide information on the taxonomy of the species including family, genus, species and subspecies, common names, as well as any synonyms. Include the taxonomic reference (e.g. Axelrod, page no., illustration page no.)

4. **Provide information on the biology and ecology of the biological control agent.**

Include but do not restrict your response to:
- *The natural geographic range*
- *Current distribution (i.e. has the species been used for biological control in any other countries?)*
- *Related species*
- *An estimate of the likely efficacy of the species*

5. **Describe the current status of the biological control agent in its native range.**

What is the country of origin and what is the natural distribution of this biological control agent? Where does the species occur naturally? Exclude any areas where the species has been introduced through human intervention. Provide a distribution map for the species. Acknowledge the source of image(s)

6. **Describe the current status of the biological control agent in Australia.**

*Is the **biological control agent** known to be in Australia in research facilities? Or known to have been introduced and/or established in the wild in Australia?*

7. **Provide information on where, when and how initial releases will be made.**

8. **Report on the results of host-specificity testing of the biological control agent.**

Include the approved host specificity test list, an explanation of any variation from this list, testing methods, risk evaluation to non-target species and any evidence of laboratory artefacts.

9. **Provide an analysis of the overall potential impacts on the Australian environment of importing and releasing the species.**

Include information on the likelihood that the species could become an environmental pest.