

Uplift of prohibition on the import of fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock of New Zealand Origin

29 December 2021

On 10 June 2021, the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (“BAF”) was notified by the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (“NZMPI”), New Zealand’s National Plant Protection Organization (“NPPO”), that the *Pepino mosaic virus* (“PepMV”) was detected in two tomato glasshouse facilities in Auckland, New Zealand. PepMV is considered under New Zealand’s Biosecurity Act (1993) as an unwanted and notifiable organism that is economically important to New Zealand and equally for Fiji.

On 15 June, through Biosecurity notice, BAF prohibited importing New Zealand produced fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock into Fiji.

NZMPI have now provided the assurance of the limited distribution of the PepMV, localized mainly within the nursery production areas and NZMPI readiness to issue the phytosanitary certificates for fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds and nursery stock of New Zealand origin exported to Fiji; **effective from 29 December 21, BAF removes the prohibition on the importation and will issue the import permit.**

The stakeholders are advised to apply for an import permit to import fresh tomatoes, tomato seeds from New Zealand.

BAF will continue to closely monitor the disease status and any changes in the importation requirement due to the change in disease status, and the stakeholders will be duly notified.

To receive phytosanitary clearance in NZ and Fiji, stakeholders must source disease-free fresh tomatoes.

For further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Plant Scientific Team or Trade Facilitation & Compliance Team at BAF Headquarters on 3312512 or email at plantimports@baf.com.fj or email tfc@baf.com.fj, respectively.

Notice No. 02-PepMV

Issued on 29 December 2021 from BAF HQ, Suva, Fiji



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