

Market Access for Kava (*Piper methysticum*) Imports from Solomon

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) wishes to inform stakeholders that the market access for Kava (*Piper methysticum*) from Solomon Islands has been granted. This development marks a significant step forward in strengthening trade relations, however, it necessitates strict adherence to biosecurity protocols to safeguard Fiji's valuable kava industry.

This development represents a significant milestone in enhancing bilateral trade relations and promoting regional economic cooperation. Kava holds immense cultural and economic value for both Fiji and the Solomon Islands. In light of this, BAF emphasizes the importance of strict compliance with all biosecurity protocols to protect Fiji's kava industry from the introduction of exotic pests, diseases, or contaminants.

Key Requirements:

- **Import Permit:** All importers must obtain a valid import permit from BAF prior to the shipment of any Kava products.
- **Compliance with Biosecurity Conditions:** Import consignments must meet all specified biosecurity import conditions outlined in the permit.

Non-Compliance Penalties:

Failure to comply with these conditions will result in:

- Rejection or Re-export of the consignment at the importer's cost.
- Destruction of the consignment where the risk cannot be mitigated.
- Legal action, including fines or prosecution under the Biosecurity Act 2008.

BAF remains committed to facilitating safe and secure trade while safeguarding Fiji's biosecurity integrity.

For more information, please contact the Trade Facilitation & Compliance team at BAF Headquarters on 3312512 Ext 185,182 or alternatively on email: plantimports@baf.com.fj

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