

BIOSECURITY ALERT

20 December 2018

LOXTON FRUIT FLY OUTBREAK: MOVEMENT CONDITIONS FOR WINE GRAPES

Further to the Biosecurity Alert issued by Vinehealth Australia on 7 December advising that PIRSA had declared an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly (Q-fly) in Loxton, this Alert is to update the wine industry on the conditions for movement of wine grapes grown in and transiting through the fruit fly affected area in Loxton.

The fruit fly affected area is broken up into:

- **Outbreak area** → 1.5km radius around the location of the Q-fly detections, and
- **Suspension area** → 1.5km to 15km radius around the location of the Q-fly detections.

Map of the Loxton outbreak area:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/336497/Outbreak_area_web_map.pdf

Map of the Loxton suspension area:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/336495/Market_access_map.pdf

South Australia is the only mainland Australian state that is fruit fly free. While this outbreak does not impact the fruit fly status of the rest of the Riverland Pest Free Area or the state, it is important that the risk of spread is minimised by placing controls on produce grown in the outbreak and suspension areas, in addition to a comprehensive eradication program currently being undertaken in the fruit fly affected area.

Consequently, given that wine grapes are a host for Q-fly, conditions have been placed on the movement of wine grapes grown in the outbreak and suspension areas. **It is mandatory that growers, wineries and carriers comply with these conditions**, as the strength of Australia's biosecurity system and the response measures put in place in the event of an outbreak of fruit fly underpin ongoing access to lucrative export markets for our horticultural produce.

There is a strong emphasis on implementing control measures during this outbreak. This is because:

- Interactions with export markets for the Riverland Pest Free Area have changed significantly since 2014. The past four years have seen an increase in export markets for produce from the Riverland Pest Free Area, in particular the recognition of the region's pest free status by China. The value of trade has increased significantly as a result and it is estimated by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) that the value will continue to increase in future years. That increase in value comes with increased scrutiny and oversight.

- In addition to the above, national scrutiny has been further heightened following the fruit fly outbreaks in Tasmania, Western Australia and parts of South Australia during 2018.
- One of the outcomes of this increased scrutiny is the need to provide more robust assurances to DAWR and trading partners that the potential for spread of fruit fly through transportation of host material is being effectively managed.

The conditions that must be complied with for the movement of wine grapes grown in either the outbreak or suspension area are detailed below. **These conditions will be in force until at least 11 March 2019.** Any extension to the date for compliance with these conditions will be communicated to industry accordingly.

PIRSA is responsible for managing the response to the outbreak, accreditation systems and ensuring compliance with conditions imposed on the movement of wine grapes grown in and transiting through the outbreak and suspension areas.

Movement conditions for wine grapes grown in and transiting through the outbreak and suspension areas as advised by PIRSA

Grape grower

1. If your vineyard is within the suspension area and your wine grapes are destined for a winery/processing facility also within the suspension area, then:
 - a. Your wine grapes can move without accreditation or certification.
 - b. Prevent spillage of wine grapes during loading and transportation, by not filling each grape bin or bulk truck more than within 200mm of the top lip of the truck or bin.
2. If your vineyard is within the outbreak area and your winery/processing facility is within the suspension area, **OR**, if your vineyard is within the outbreak area or suspension area and your wine grapes are destined for a winery/processing facility outside the outbreak or suspension area in South Australia, then:
 - a. Accreditation or certification is required, being either:
 1. ICA-33 accreditation, OR
 2. PIRSA certification
 - b. Prevent spillage of wine grapes during loading and transportation, by not filling each grape bin or bulk truck more than within 200mm of the top lip of the truck or bin.
3. If your vineyard is within the outbreak area or suspension area and your wine grapes are destined for a winery/processing facility interstate then you must contact the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556 to confirm movement conditions.

To obtain the necessary ICA-33 accreditation or PIRSA certification, please contact the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556. At this time, PIRSA staff will also be able to inform you of any notice of movement they require for consignment under this accreditation or PIRSA certification.

Prior to applying for ICA-33 accreditation, it is important to contact your winery/processing facility as some will assist their growers in organising this accreditation. It is also important to contact your carrier to advise movement requirements as detailed in this Alert.

Winery/processing facility

1. A winery/processing facility in South Australia that receives wine grapes grown in the outbreak or suspension areas must:
 - a. Be accredited by PIRSA under 'Import Verification Compliance Arrangement' (IVCA CA-01), OR
 - b. Certified by PIRSA to receive wine grapes from these areas

To obtain IVCA CA-01 accreditation or PIRSA certification, please contact the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556. At this time, PIRSA staff will also be able to inform wineries/processing facilities of any notice of movement required for receiving wine grapes under ICA-33 accreditation or PIRSA certification.

2. A winery/processing facility in Victoria or New South Wales that receives wine grapes grown in the outbreak or suspension areas, must contact Agriculture Victoria on 1800 084 881 or NSW Department of Primary industries on 02 9741 4790.
3. A winery/processing facility in Western Australia, Tasmania or Queensland that receives wine grapes grown in the outbreak or suspension areas, must contact the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556.

Carriers

- Ensure all drivers have been trained in spillage management and have relevant contact numbers for reporting a spill.
- Pay particular attention to cleaning any spilled harvested wine grapes consigned under ICA-33 accreditation or PIRSA certification from the truck tray prior to leaving the winery. Notify the responsible person at the winery of any spillages that occur within the winery.
- Present all documentation provided by the grower to the receiving winery.

Winegrape loads transiting through the outbreak or suspension area

- Where possible, wine grapes grown outside of the outbreak and suspension area should travel to the winery or processing facility via a route that avoids the fruit fly outbreak area.
- In cases where transiting through the Loxton outbreak and suspension areas en route to a winery or processing facility is unavoidable, each wine grape load must be consigned to prevent spillage (i.e. filled to no more than 200mm from the top lip of the truck or grape bin).
 - The truck must not stop, backload or unload while transiting through the outbreak or suspension area.
 - Each wine grape load in this situation must show adequate security (e.g. under ICA-33 or PIRSA certification). Please seek specific advice from the Riverland Industry Hotline for your specific situation if transiting the outbreak or suspension areas.

For growers and wineries where transiting the Loxton fruit fly area applies, please contact the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556 to confirm any notice of movement that may apply.

Wine grape maturity samples

- Where whole wine grape bunch or berry samples are collected in the suspension area for maturity assessment within the suspension area, then the maturity samples can move without accreditation or certification.
- Where whole wine grape bunch or berry samples are collected in the outbreak area for maturity assessment within the suspension area, OR, are collected in the outbreak area or suspension area for maturity assessment outside the outbreak or suspension area in South Australia, then:
 - a. Samples are required to be sent from the vineyard under ICA-33 accreditation or PIRSA certification AND the winery/ processing facility must obtain IVCA CA-01 accreditation or PIRSA certification to receive these samples.
 - b. Maturity samples must be in sealed bags.

Cleaning of grape harvesters

It is a best practice recommendation for all grape harvesters working in the outbreak and suspension areas to be washed down of soil and grape material prior to moving to vineyards outside the outbreak and suspension areas. This practice will ensure that any grape material originating from inside the outbreak and suspension areas remains there.

Accreditation costs

PIRSA will not be invoicing businesses for costs associated with either obtaining ICA-33 or IVCA CA-01 accreditation or PIRSA certification, or any associated audit costs that are required as part of the Loxton fruit fly outbreak.

General

Many wine grape growers in the Riverland also grow other horticultural crops commercially or in their backyard. Please ensure that you check your crops and report any maggots in fruit or vegetables, or anything that looks suspicious to the 24-hour Fruit Fly Hotline on 1300 666 010.

Additional information

- Please contact the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556 for any further information regarding the movement of wine grapes from the outbreak or suspension areas. This Industry Hotline is manned 24/7 over the Christmas and New Year period.
- If you are unsure whether your vineyard is located in the outbreak or suspension area, contact Inca Pearce at Vinehealth Australia on 0418 818 543.
- **Conditions have also been placed on the movement of table grapes grown in the outbreak and suspension areas. Restrictions also apply to grapes that are moving from within or transiting the outbreak/suspension area for drying. Please call the Riverland Industry Hotline on 1800 255 556 for information.**
- PIRSA website: http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/fruit_fly/outbreaks_detections/loxtton
- All media enquiries should be directed to Media.AASLocal@sa.gov.au or 0484 335 578.