

A NEW APPROACH TO ADOPTION OF POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE
QUARANTINE TREATMENTS WORLD-WIDE.

Richard T. BAKER

*New Zealand Plant Protection Centre - Lynfield, Ministry of Agriculture
Quality Management, PO Box 41, Auckland, New Zealand.
Fax: 6496279750*

Recent GATT agreement over the way plants and plant products are traded is expected to lead to more transparent and scientifically justified quarantine regulations on a world-wide basis. Following the guidelines set by FAO for the regulation of quarantine specifications and entry conditions, many countries are now starting to develop justifiable Import Standards. These must be based on the principles of Pest Risk Analysis which demands the production and categorisation of pest lists, scientific and realistic assessment of pest risk from both economic and biological viewpoints, and development of transparent risk management options. While the initial thrust is to apply the new methods to the trade in fresh produce it is inevitable that they will be applied to the movement of all forms of plant products, including stored products. Whether the implementation of new technologies is delayed by the actions of quarantine agencies will depend on the quality of scientific research and the clarity with which the justification for new treatments is presented. This paper illustrates the new challenges to the trade in stored products by describing the approach being taken by New Zealand, in response to the FAO initiatives.