

## **Submission on the importation of kava and kava products into Australia**

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The issue of kava importation into Australia relates to public safety. Consumers have the right to expect safe consumables. There is considerable epidemiological support for its safety since it has been used as a traditional beverage for many years throughout a number of Pacific states without any pathological effects.

The major issue is the treatment of kava prior to packaging and shipping. The basic tenets of Codex Alimentarius must be observed in any kava transaction. That is that the normal horizontal standards which mandate the minimisation of risk of biological, chemical, and physical hazards. Hence the product must be treated with the normal standards relating to food hygiene and that Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points certification of the premises and the handling is a requirement.

This also mandates that wherever possible kava should be harvested in areas where good agricultural practices or the local equivalent are observed.

Codex Alimentarius also require that there is traceability along the supply chain. Ideally this requires that all transactions along the supply chain are monitored and recorded so that risks are reduced from the field to the point of consumption.

Packaging must conform to Codex standards the details of which can be obtained from [www.fao.org/3/Y2770E/y2770e02.htm](http://www.fao.org/3/Y2770E/y2770e02.htm).

Such standards have been achieved in the past in a number of kava exporting companies and so these suggestions are not unattainable.

The standard of kava handling prior to consumption is variable. Most of the reputabke==