

## **CEBRA 1301B: Analytical assessment of endpoint surveys**

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CEBRA 1301B Deliverable 1

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# Executive Summary

In the passengers and mail import pathways, the Department of Agriculture (Agriculture) seeks to mitigate the inherent biosecurity risk of the pathway by various control measures. These include the profiling and targeted screening of particular cohorts in the pathways.

To achieve its goals, Agriculture needs reliable estimates of the inherent risks of the pathways and the cohorts within them, and reliable estimates of the effectiveness of its control measures at reducing those inherent risks. The endpoint survey provides the data required for calculating these estimates.

This project reviewed the design, methods and execution of the existing endpoint surveys, and the techniques applied when endpoint survey data are used. We find that the general design of the survey is sound, however there are several issues in its execution that compromise the accuracy of the data collected, the credibility of the data products, and the reputation of the survey process itself.

The main issues in the survey's design and execution are

- the target population and sampling frame are not clearly defined
- sample selections are biased
- inspected or partially inspected passenger baggage is not included in survey inspection
- inspection quality is inconsistent
- data are sometimes fabricated or censored
- not all physical processing streams are represented.

The List of Recommendations includes corrective actions that would improve the accuracy and credibility of the cohort profiles and performance indicators produced from survey data. Most of the recommended changes are procedural, carrying minimal if any additional cost.