



**Ascension Island Government  
Conservation and Fisheries Directorate**

**BIOSECURITY**

**Guidelines for importers of rock, stone, sand and pebbles**

These guidelines accompany the import health standard for the importation of ROCK, STONE, SAND AND PEBBLES into Ascension Island.

While rocks, stones, sand and pebbles are not themselves invasive or pests, they are capable of carrying weed seeds and disease-causing microbes in encrusted mud and dirt, and harbouring potentially harmful insects, spiders and mites, hidden away in nooks and crannies. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

- You **do not** require an import licence to import rocks, stone, sand or pebbles into Ascension if it is less than 1,000 tonnes.
- You **do** require an import licence to import rocks, stone, sand or pebbles into Ascension if it is more than 1,000 tonnes. A licence application must be submitted 28 days before the goods are scheduled to depart.
- All consignments must meet specified import health standards.
- Smaller quantities imported in sealed bags of up to 25kg per bag can be imported providing it is from a commercial supplier, in original packaging and free from contaminants.
- Larger quantities imported loose, for example in open canvas bags, can be imported providing it is from a commercial supplier, in original packaging and free from contaminants.
- Some species (for example coral rock) may be covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and require CITES certificates both from the country of origin and Ascension as the country of import.
- **Sand dredged from the beds and banks of rivers are prohibited.**
- It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and understands that consignments of rocks, stones, sand and pebbles must meet these conditions.
- On arrival the consignment may be inspected by an authorised agent.
- If live insects are found treatment will be required, at your expense.
- If the consignment fails to meet the import health standards or licence agreements, it may either be reconsigned or destroyed if necessary, at the importer's expense.
- Further information can be obtained from:

Biosecurity Officer  
Ascension Island Conservation and Fisheries Directorate  
Georgetown  
Ascension Island, ASCN 1ZZ  
Tel/Fax: 00 247 66359  
Email: [biosecurity@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:biosecurity@ascension.gov.ac)