



**Ascension Island Government
Conservation and Fisheries Directorate**

BIOSECURITY

Guidelines for importers of sawdust, wood chips, wood shavings, bark, straw and hay

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard for the importation of SAWDUST, WOOD CHIPS, WOOD SHAVINGS, BARK, STRAW AND HAY into Ascension Island.

Wood itself is capable of harbouring potentially harmful forestry pests and diseases, while sawdust, wood chippings, wood shavings, bark, straw and hay can carry weed seeds and potentially harmful insects, spiders and mites. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

- You **do not** require an import licence to import sawdust, wood chips wood shavings, bark, straw and hay into Ascension.
- However, all consignments must meet the requirements of the import health standards.
- It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and understands that consignments of sawdust, wood chips wood shavings, bark, straw and hay must meet these conditions.
- The consignment must be in unopened original bags from a commercial supplier. Bags must be clean and packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination.
- It is your responsibility to ensure the consignments are free of live insects, seeds and other contaminants prior to arrival in Ascension.
- On arrival they may be inspected by a Biosecurity Officer.
- If they fail to meet the import health standards they may be refused entry, or confiscated and destroyed.
- In the event that the inspection detects any biosecurity issues with the consignment, the consignment 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