



**Ascension Island Government
Conservation and Fisheries Directorate**

BIOSECURITY

Guidelines for importers of Shipping Containers and Wood Packing Material

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard for the importation of SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND WOOD PACKING MATERIAL into Ascension Island.

While shipping containers and wood packing material 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 a licence to import shipping containers and wood packing material into Ascension.
- They must, however, meet specified import health standards.
- All wood packing material must follow ISPM 15 standards.
- All wood packing material must be free of living organisms, organic matter and visible contamination. It also must be free of all bark, except in-grown bark around knots and bark pockets between rings of annual growth
- Shipping/air containers must be cleaned prior to loading cargo.
- Measures must be taken to prevent any organic matter or living organism entering the ship/air containers during loading of cargo.
- Containers should be loaded and stored on organic free surfaces to prevent contamination on base of containers.
- It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and these conditions are met.
- On arrival they may be inspected by a Biosecurity Officer.
- If the containers fail to meet the import health standards, cleaning or treatment may be carried out at the importers expense.
- Wood packaging material that does not comply with the corresponding import health standard, may be treated or destroyed at the importer's expense.
- Further information can be obtained from:

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