



**Ascension Island Government
Conservation and Fisheries Directorate**

BIOSECURITY

Guidelines for importers of composts and peat

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard for the importation of COMPOSTS AND PEAT into Ascension Island.

Composts and peat are capable of carrying weed seeds, disease causing microbes, and harbouring potentially harmful insects, spiders and mites. Peat is also capable of carrying foot and mouth disease. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

- You **DO** require an import licence to import compost and peat in loose bags and importations of soil, earth, mud or manure in any packaging into Ascension.
- Larger quantities imported loose, for example in open canvas bags, need to be from a commercial supplier and require treatment to kill any live insects or other animals in the country of origin. On arrival you will need to show proof of treatment, such as a fumigation certificate.
- All composts and peat listed at Section 8.1.1 to 8.1.3 of the import health standard, that are supplied in sealed, original commercial packaging and meet the requirements of the import health standard **DO NOT** require a biosecurity import licence.
- All composts and peat must be free of live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal material and plant material prior to arrival in Ascension.
- A phytosanitary certificate is only required for peat originating in **South Africa** and other countries of origin if requested by the, Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate.
- It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and understands that composts and peat must meet these conditions.
- It is your responsibility to ensure the consignments are free of live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal material and plant material prior to arrival in Ascension.
- On arrival the consignment may be inspected by a Biosecurity Officer.
- If the consignment fails to meet the import health standards they 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