



**BIOSECURITY**

# **Import Health Standard for the importation of**

## **COMPOSTS AND PEAT**

### **into Ascension Island**

Issued under section 9 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020

Issue date: 02 November 2020

#### **GUIDE FOR USERS**

The information contained in this Import Health Standard is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of three parts.

**PART A: General Information:** contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for this Import Health Standard and the general responsibilities of importers.

**PART B: Specification:** this section is the statutory biosecurity import specification issued under section 9 of Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020. It sets out the requirements that need to be met in order lawfully to import the relevant goods into Ascension.

**PART C: Clearance Procedure:** describes the process that applies when a consignment is imported into Ascension and what may happen if biosecurity import clearance is refused.

## **Part A: General Information**

### **1. Import Health Standard and Importer's Responsibility**

- 1.1 A consignment which contains a controlled import must be granted biosecurity import clearance on arrival in Ascension in order to be imported. Obtaining biosecurity import clearance is dependent upon the biosecurity risk posed by the consignment on arrival in Ascension. A consignment which meets the requirements of this Import Health Standard is likely to pose an acceptable biosecurity risk and therefore to be granted clearance.
- 1.2 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the consignment is compliant with the current version of this Import Health Standard at the time of importation into Ascension. Any person who imports or attempts to import an article which does not comply with an import health standard that applies to it commits an offence and may be prosecuted and fined.

### **2. Review of Import Health Standard**

- 2.1 The Import Health Standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes to the risk posed to Ascension by the importation of the goods to which it relates. This may happen without notice, but notice will be given to affected importers where possible.

### **3. Definition of Terms**

#### **3.1 Biosecurity Officer**

A Biosecurity Officer appointed under section 3 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020.

#### **3.2 Controlled imports**

Goods regulated under the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020, the details of which are set out in the Biosecurity (Prohibited and Controlled Imports) Regulations, 2020.

#### **3.3 Biosecurity Import clearance**

Clearance given under section 15 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020 which, once given, means that the goods are cleared for importation without further restrictions.

### **4. Biosecurity Import Exemptions**

- 4.1 The controlled imports to which this Import Health Standard relates must meet the requirements set out in Part B in every respect. If it is not possible for the products to comply with the requirements, an application for an exemption under section 7 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020 must be submitted to the Biosecurity Officer for consideration prior to importation. The application must be made at the earliest possible opportunity and must set out which requirement cannot be met and what measures of an equivalent nature have been taken to compensate.

## 5. Official Point of Contact

5.1 The official point of contact for this Import Health Standard is:

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)

## 6. Fees and Costs

6.1 All fees and costs involved with documentation, transport, storage, treatment and obtaining biosecurity import clearance (including compliance with this Import Health Standard) shall be borne by the importer or agent.

## Part B: Import Specification

### 7. Import licensing

7.1 Importations into Ascension of all composts and peat listed at Section 8.1.1 to 8.1.3 that are supplied in sealed, original commercial packaging and meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard **DO NOT** require a biosecurity import licence.

7.2 All other importations into Ascension of growing mediums such as compost and peat in loose bags and soil, earth, mud or manure in any packaging, require a biosecurity import licence.

7.3 Where required, a biosecurity import licence must be obtained before the goods leave the country of export. Any application must therefore be made at least **28 days** before the goods are scheduled to depart. Applications for a biosecurity import licence should be made on the prescribed 'Application Form' available from the Ascension Island Government website and submitted to the official point of contact identified in section 5.

### 8. Application

8.1 This Import Health Standard applies to the importation into Ascension of the following composts and peat:

8.1.1 **Soil conditioners and potting mixes of plant origin:** manufactured fertilisers, soil conditioners and potting mixes made from plant materials;

8.1.2 **Soil conditioners and potting mixes of terrestrial animal and avian origin:** for example, meat meals, bone meals, blood meals and by-product digests;

But excludes animal manure, hay and straw.

8.1.3 **Peat/peat moss/sphagnum peat moss:** defined as the dead material that accumulates in the lower levels of a peat bog. Harvesters of the horticultural peat moss remove the top few inches of the live sphagnum moss before harvesting the peat from the lower levels of the bog.

But excludes live sphagnum moss.

8.1.4 This Import Health Standard does not apply to material **supplied loose**, such as in open canvas bags – this requires a biosecurity import licence.

## 9. Import Requirements

9.1 All **composts and peat** to which this Import Health Standard applies must be free of live invertebrates, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal material and plant material on arrival in Ascension.

9.2 The consignment must be in unopened original bags from a commercial supplier. Bags must be clean and free from any visible contaminants.

9.5 **Peat can carry foot and mouth disease of livestock.** The following additional conditions apply:

9.5.1 Peat originating in South Africa:

- Each consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate stating that the product was inspected prior to export and found free of live insects, overburden, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal or plant material.
- An additional declaration endorsed either on the Phytosanitary Certificate or on a certificate issued by the relevant government animal health authority of the consignment must state that:
  - the peat covered by the certificate comes from areas in which foot and mouth disease has not occurred within the 12 months preceding the date on the certificate; or
  - the peat covered by the certificate was not sourced from an area within a three (3) kilometre radius of a foot and mouth disease affected property.

9.5.2 Peat originating outside South Africa:

- In the event of a foot and mouth and/or bird flu outbreak, please contact the official point of contact listed in section 5 for advice – a phytosanitary certificate may be required.

## Documentation

10.1 Where required, documentation must accompany the consignment to which it relates.

10.2 Documentation must be in English or accompanied by a translation certified by a scrivener notary or other suitable professional.

10.3 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this Import Health Standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity import clearance or rejection of consignments.

10.4 The Phytosanitary Certificate – where required – must conform to the version

of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 12 Guidelines for Phytosanitary Certificates in force on the date that the certificate is issued.

### **Part C. Clearance Procedure:**

11. A Biosecurity Officer may, on or before the arrival of a consignment at the port of arrival, declare that the consignment is subject to biosecurity import control. Consignments that are subject to biosecurity import control may be inspected, including the taking of samples and the carrying out of tests where necessary, to ensure that the biosecurity risk posed by the consignment is acceptable.
12. Any consignment that meets the import requirements set out in Part B above and has the necessary documentation, is likely to pose an acceptable biosecurity risk and therefore be given biosecurity import clearance.
13. In the event that the inspection detects any biosecurity issues with the consignment, the Biosecurity Officer will take steps to remedy those issues where possible (for example, by applying treatments) so that biosecurity import clearance can be granted.
14. **If soil, faeces, feathers, other animal related material, plant material, seeds or live invertebrates are found on inspection then biosecurity import clearance may be refused and the consignment may either be reconsigned or destroyed if necessary, at the importer's expense.**

## **Part D: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Composts and Peat.**

Amendments to this Standard will be given a consecutive number and will be dated in the body of the table. Brief details of the amended pages will be included.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	First version posted on-line	13/10/2020