



**BIOSECURITY**

# **Import Health Standard for the importation of FRESH PRODUCE 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: Importation 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. 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 import 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. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species**

- 3.1 In addition to requirements under Ascension's Biosecurity Ordinance, the importation of plants and plant products of some plant species is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), of which the UK is a signatory and which is extended to Ascension. Application for the import of species identified in Appendices I, II or III must be accompanied by a valid CITES export permit issued by the appropriate management authority in the country of export. Additional information can be obtained at: <http://www.cites.org>.

### **4. Definition of Terms**

#### **4.1 Biosecurity Officer**

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

#### **4.2 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.

#### **4.3 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.

### **5. Biosecurity Import Exemptions**

- 5.1 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.

## **6. Official Point of Contact**

6.1 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)

## **7. Fees and Costs**

7.1 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**

### **8. Import licensing**

8.1 Goods to which this Import Health Standard applies may be imported into Ascension without a biosecurity import licence. Goods which an Import Health Standard does not apply, including goods that are expressed excluded, require a biosecurity import licence.

8.2 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 6.

### **9. Application**

9.1 This Import Health Standard covers the importation into Ascension of fresh entire, peeled or diced fruit, vegetables, herbs and edible fungi as set out in the Schedule.

9.2 Fruit and vegetables that have been frozen, cooked or preserved are not controlled imports and may be imported from all countries without following these standards.

9.3 All fresh produce other than that listed in the Schedule will require a licence to import.

### **10. Import Requirements**

10.1 Fresh produce carried in personal baggage must be declared to Biosecurity Officer at the point of entry.

10.2 All fresh produce must be clean and free from live invertebrates, other plant material and soil or other growing medium.

10.3 All packaging containing fresh produce must be clearly labeled, clean and free from live invertebrates, other plant material and soil or other growing medium.

10.4 Goods in transit must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by live animals or plant material, such as: plastic wrapping, six-sided boxing, or a

closed shipping container.

10.5 In respect of any quantities of peaches, nectarines mangoes and other stone fruits exceeding 0.5m<sup>3</sup> (approximately ten cartons):

a) the fruit must have been treated to destroy Tephritid larvae (e.g. by fumigation) prior to export and certified as such;

b) a valid certificate confirming Tephritid larvae treatment has been applied is to accompany the consignment;

c) treated and untreated fruit shipped together must be packaged separately in a manner adequate to prevent cross contamination.

N.b. any fruit for which a valid Tephritid certificate cannot be provided on request may be confiscated and destroyed;

10.7 In respect of consignments of 50kg or more:

a) all consignments of 50kg or more must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate or equivalent documentation certifying that the fresh produce has been inspected in the exporting country by an independent, trained person and found to be free of visually detectable regulated pests, and conforms to Ascension's current import requirements.

b) If satisfied that any specified pre-shipment pesticide treatments have been undertaken, the exporting country National Plant Protection Organisation must confirm this by recording the treatments applied in the Phytosanitary Certificate or equivalent documentation. Specifically, the treatment required for peaches, nectarines and mangoes for Tephritid flies must be mentioned here.

c) In addition, where treatments have been carried out, such as fumigation, a valid treatment certificate must accompany the consignment on arrival.

10.8 All consignment of 50kg or more from South Africa must be additionally be accompanied by an Export Inspection Certificate issued by the official body, the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB), certifying that the produce is of export quality.

10.9 If for imports over 50kg, the country of origin is different to the country of export (for example, ginger is imported into South Africa from Thailand and then exported to Ascension) a copy of the original Phytosanitary Certificate from the country of origin must accompany the consignment. If there is no recognised biosecurity authority in the country of origin the produce will not be accepted into Ascension.

## **11. Documentation**

11.1 All required documentation must accompany the consignment to which it relates.

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

11.3 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.

11.4 The Phytosanitary Certificate – where required – must conform to the version of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 12 Guidelines for Phytosanitary Certificates (2006) and any subsequent revisions in force on the date that the certificate is issued..

## **Part C. Clearance Procedure**

- 12.** 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.
- 13.** 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.
- 14.** 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 clearance can be granted.
- 15.** If live invertebrates, soil, other growing mediums or plant material are found on inspection, the consignment may either be reconsigned or destroyed if necessary, at the importer's expense.

## Part D: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Fresh Produce

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

**Schedule – Fresh produce to which this Import Health Standard applies.**

**Fruit:** plums, peaches, oranges, lemons, pineapple, mandarin, lime, grapefruit, melon, mangos, pears, apples, grapes, kiwi, strawberry, banana, kiwi and tomato.

**Vegetables:** Potatoes, sweet potatoes (yams), carrots, beetroot, onions, garlic, ginger, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, cucumber, peppers, chilli, capsicum, avocados, courgette, cucumber, celery, leek, lettuce, spinach, asparagus and peas.

**Herbs:** basil, coriander, mint, chives, parsley curly, rosemary, thyme.

**Edible Fungi:** all varieties.