



# Import Health Standard for the importation of PLANT MATERIAL into Ascension Island

## BIOSECURITY

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: Import 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 importation 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 biosecurity import 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 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.

#### **4.3 Biosecurity import clearance**

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

#### **4.4 Controlled imports**

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

## 5. Biosecurity Import Exemptions

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

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 and obtaining biosecurity import clearance (including compliance with this Import Health Standard) shall be borne by the importer or agent.

## Part B: Importation Specification

### 8. Import licensing

- 8.1 Importations into Ascension of commercially-packaged seeds and cut flowers that meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard **DO NOT** require a 'licence to import'.
- 8.2 All other importations into Ascension of plant material are controlled imports that require a biosecurity import licence. This includes:
- 8.1.1 **Bare rooted stock:** dormant whole plants with roots, the material is kept alive during transportation by being stored in chilled conditions;
- 8.1.2 **Bud wood:** part of a plant from which branch, leaf or flower develops; is used for grafting purposes and material is kept alive during transportation under chilled conditions;
- 8.1.3 **Bulbs:** the dry, dormant stage of the rounded underground storage organ of certain plants;
- 8.1.4 **Cuttings:** a nursery stock commodity sub-class for bud wood and cutting propagation material that are stems only (no roots) and is often transported in a dormant state;
- 8.1.5 **Non-commercially packaged seeds:** a unit of reproduction used for sowing,

including mushroom spores that has not be prepared and packaged by a commercial business; excludes bulbs and tubers but includes seed potatoes;

8.1.6 **Tissue culture:** a commodity class for plants *in vitro* growing in an aseptic medium in a closed container;

8.1.7 **Whole plants in sterilised growing medium:** whole plants, potted in sterilised medium such as peat.

8.3. 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 6.

## 9. Application

9.1 This Import Health Standard applies to the importation onto Ascension of the following plant material:

9.1.1 **Flower cuttings:** flowers that have been cut for ornamental purposes, not to grow;

9.1.2 **Seeds:** a unit of reproduction used for sowing, including mushroom spores; excludes bulbs and tubers but includes seed potatoes;

## 10. Import Requirements

10.1 All plant material must be free of live invertebrates, soil, compost or other organic growing material on arrival in Ascension.

10.2 All plant material must be clearly labelled and packaged in a way that excludes pests. Commercially prepared material must be in the original, unopened packaging.

10.3 **Cut flowers** must have any seed heads or pollen removed prior to arrival in Ascension.

10.4 **Seeds** must have been prepared and packaged by a commercial supplier.

## 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 section **Error! Reference source not found.**, any licence conditions (where applicable) 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 clearance can be granted.
- 14 **If any biosecurity issues are found on inspection, 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 Plant Material for Growing Purposes

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 on-line	13/10/2020