



BIOSECURITY

Import Health Standard for the importation of ROCK, STONE, SAND AND PEBBLES 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 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 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. 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

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 Importations into Ascension of rock, stone, sand and pebbles of less than 1,000 tonnes that meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard **DO NOT** require a biosecurity import licence.
- 8.2 Importation into Ascension of a consignment of rock, stone and pebbles weighing more than 1,000 tonnes requires a biosecurity import licence.
- 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 into Ascension of the following mineral organic and non-organic material in single consignments of less than 1,000 metric tonnes:

9.1.1 Rock, stone, sand, pebbles, gravel and clinker (including coral rock and sand of shell or coral origin).

10. Import Requirements

- 10.2 Material supplied in **sealed bags of up to 25kg** each must meet the following criteria:
- 10.2.1 it is in sealed, original packaging and the packaging must be new and clean;
 - 10.2.2 it is from a commercial supplier;
 - 10.2.3 it is clean and free from live invertebrates and organic debris of plant or animal origin (soil, seeds, bark, leaves, fur, feathers, etc.).
- 10.3 Material **supplied loose**, such as in open canvas bags, must meet the following criteria:
- 10.3.1 it is from a commercial supplier.
 - 10.3.2 it is clean and free from live invertebrates and organic debris of plant or animal origin (soil, seeds, bark, leaves, fur, feathers, etc.).
- 10.4 Material **supplied via bulk carrier vessels** must meet the following criteria:
- 10.4.1 it must have been fumigated in accordance with the International Maritime Fumigation Organisation Code of Practice¹ and a valid treatment certificate must accompany the consignment on arrival.
 - 10.4.2 it is clean and free from live invertebrates and organic debris of plant or animal origin (soil, seeds, bark, leaves, fur, feathers, etc.).

11. Documentation

- 11.1 Where 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.

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 is likely to pose an acceptable biosecurity risk and therefore be given biosecurity import clearance.

¹ https://www.imfo.com/IMFO_Code_of_Practice.pdf

- 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 **soil, faeces, feathers, other animal related material, plant material, seeds or live invertebrates** 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 Rock, Stone, Sand and Pebbles.

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.

No.	Details	Date
1	First version placed on-line	13/10/2020