



**BIOSECURITY**

# **Import Health Standard for the importation of SAWDUST, WOOD CHIP, WOOD SHAVINGS, BARK, STRAW and HAY 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](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 Importations into Ascension of sawdust, wood chips, wood shavings, bark, straw and hay listed at Section 9.1.1 to 9.1.2 which meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard **DO NOT** require a biosecurity import licence.

### 9. Application

- 9.1 This import health standard applies to the importation into Ascension of the following: sawdust, wood chips, wood shavings, bark, straw and hay.

9.1.1 **Sawdust, wood chips and wood shavings** means wood that has been sawn, chipped, shaved or peeled to form wood pieces that are either no larger than 15 mm in length and 10 mm in cross-section, or no greater than 3 mm in cross-section if longer than 15 mm.

9.1.2 **Bark** means all products made up primarily of the outer layers of trees and woody shrubs (such as bark chippings), but not timber products that retain a bark layer.

9.1.3 **Straw** means the dried stems of grain plants usually produced after the threshing process has been completed

9.1.4 **Hay** means the cut and dried stems of grasses used as animal food

### 10. Import Requirements

- 10.1 All sawdust, wood chips, wood shavings, bark, straw and hay must be:

- 10.1.1 in unopened original bags from a commercial supplier – bags must be clean and free from any visible contaminants;
- 10.1.2 free of live invertebrates and other animals;
- 10.1.3 free of extraneous material (e.g. leaves, soil, faeces);
- 10.1.4 packed and shipped in a manner that prevents infestation and/or contamination by pests, such as: plastic wrapping, six-sided boxing, or a closed shipping container.

### **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.
- 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 Sawdust, Wood Chips and Wood Shavings.**

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 placed on-line	13/10/2020