



BIOSECURITY

Import Health Standard for the importation of Shipping/Air Containers and Wood Packaging

Material 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 responsibilities of importers.

PART B: Import Specification Procedure: this section is the statutory biosecurity import specification issued under section 9 of the 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 or agent's responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of this Import Health Standard at the time of importation of these items 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 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 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 ISPM 15

International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures, Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade, <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>.

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

6. Fees and Costs

6.1 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 Procedure

6. Import licencing

6.1 Importations into Ascension of all shipping/air containers and wood packaging material listed at Section 8.1.1 to 8.1.3 which meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard **DO NOT** require a biosecurity import licence.

7. Application

7.1 This Import Health Standard applies to the importation into Ascension of the following shipping/air containers and wood packaging material:

7.1.1 **Shipping/air freight containers:** new or used container constructed of any material that is used to transport cargo via ship or aircraft e.g. ISO containers or ULD containers.

7.1.2 **Wood packing material:** wood or wood products (excluding paper/cardboard products) used in material supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity. Wood packaging material includes items such as:

- dunnage,
- crates,
- fillets,
- spacers,
- pallets,
- drums,
- reels

Excludes sawdust, wood chips and bark shavings, which are controlled consignments with their own Import Health Standard.

8. Import Requirements

8.1 All shipping and air containers must meet the following requirements:

8.2.1 Interior and exterior (including base) free of living organisms, organic material (e.g. leaves and soil) and any other visible contamination.

- 8.3 Wood packaging material must meet the following requirements:
- 8.3.1 Conforms to ISPM 15 including treatment requirement
 - 8.3.2 Wood packaging must be must be marked according to ISPM 15 to demonstrate it has been treated to the ISPM 15 standard
 - 8.3.3 Free of living organisms, organic material (e.g. leaves, soil) and any other visible contamination.
 - 8.3.4 Free of all bark, except in-grown bark around knots and bark pockets between rings of annual growth

Part C. Clearance Procedure

10.1 Import clearance procedure for shipping/air containers

- 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.** 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 Wood packaging material that does not comply with this Import Health Standard may be treated, or destroyed under the direction of the biosecurity officer and at the importer's expense. If the wood packaging is not marked in accordance with ISPM 15, the wood packaging material will be considered untreated.

Part D. Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Shipping Containers and Wood Packaging Material.

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