



Agricultural and Forestry Imports into St Helena Island

An Interim Health Guide for Importers

2012

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The increasing volume of agricultural and forestry imports to the Island is undoubtedly placing increasing pressure on our Government regulatory regime: agricultural and forestry imports can be an unintended means of a new pest or disease arriving on the Island; food, animals, plants or their packaging, may host pests and diseases which, if introduced would affect our agricultural economy even more than past introductions.
- 1.2 New pests and diseases can not only impact our human health but can damage agriculture, horticulture and forestry production, and affect our tourism sector. Therefore protecting St Helena is important as the economic consequences could be dire. Much work is still needed to improve bio-security measures across the range of agricultural and forestry goods imported into St Helena.
- 1.3 Importers are among the most important people in defending against the potential importing dangers that pose the greatest environmental and economic threats.
- 1.4 This interim guide summarises the health import regime for agricultural and forestry imports to the Island and restrictions and requirements relating to the specific imports listed below:

Agricultural

1.4.1 Animal imports:

- Livestock, livestock germplasm;
- Poultry;
- Cats and dogs;
- Meat, eggs and dairy products.

1.4.2 Plants, plant material, plant produce;

1.4.2.1 **Propagable** plant material:

- Nursery Stock;

- Seed for sowing.

1.4.2.2 **Non-Propagable** plant products:

- Fresh cut flowers and foliage;
- Fresh plant produce – fruit and vegetables;
- Frozen vegetables;
- Seed for processing or consumption;
- Plant products;
- Micro-organisms.

1.4.3 Apiculture imports:

- Bees;
- Honey, bee products and bee equipment.

1.4.4 Soil and growing medium

- Earth;
- Compost;
- Peat.

Forestry

1.4.5 Plants and plant material imports:

1.4.5.1 **Propagable** plant material

- Nursery stock;
- Seed for sowing.

1.4.5.2 **Non-propagable** plant products

- Fresh cut flowers and foliage.

1.4.6 Non-propagable forest produce

- Timber;
- Boards (particle; ply; chip; laminated etc);
- Sawlogs;
- Wooden panels;
- Bark;
- Wood shavings, chips and sawdust;
- Poles;
- Wood pallets and crates;
- Bamboo;
- Half-round and round fencing items.

1.5 There is no encompassing legislation or import health directive for agricultural and forestry goods imported to the Island. Instead restrictions and requirements for some of imports falling under these two categories are implemented on the Island through the following:

- The Plants (Protection) Ordinance and Regulations, CAP 93;
- The Animals (Diseases) Ordinance and Regulations, CAP 96;
- The Bees Ordinance and Regulations, CAP 98;
- The Customs (Import and Export) Ordinance and Regulations, CAP 145;
- The Dogs and Cats Ordinance and Regulations, CAP 163.

1.6 There are currently a limited amount of import health standards in place for the import of agricultural and forestry goods into St Helena and further health standards will be developed within the next few months for controlled imports. These standards include the requirements that must be undertaken in the exporting country, during transit and during importation, before clearance can be given at St Helena's Customs facility.

- 1.7 The respective Regulations and importing restrictions and procedures are implemented (on behalf of the St Helena Government) by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (ANRD). The St Helena Customs and Excise Section have overall responsibility and control at designated points of entry for consignments of controlled imports.
- 1.8 It is important to read all parts of this guide before attempting to import any agricultural or forestry imports to the Island. The restrictions it describes may change at short notice. The guide is intended only as a summary and should not be used as substitute for the text of the various legislation covering imports or ANRD Health Import Standards and Procedures.
- 1.9 If you are in doubt, or want to check current restrictions or procedures, **contact us at:**

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate
Scotland, St Pauls, St Helena Island
STH 1ZZ
Tel: 00 290 4724
Fax:00 290 4603

Email: Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources
director@anrd.gov.sh

Or Agricultural Development Officer
ado@anrd.gov.sh

Or Forestry Officer
fofficer@anrd.gov.sh

- 1.10 Imports generally fall into one of the following categories, according to the risk of introduction of pests and diseases and supporting regulation under existing legislation:

1.10.1 Prohibited:

These imports poses such a serious risk that import is not permitted under any circumstances. Includes some plant material for growing; specific animal imports; specific apiculture imports and soil and earth material.

1.10.2 Controlled:

Poses some risk therefore import is only permitted under authority of an import licence issued by the ANRD. Controlled - includes some

plant material imports; live poultry imports; fresh plant produce (fruit and vegetable); apiculture products and some animal imports.

1.10.3 Unrestricted:

Presents some risk but health import conditions and controls have not been developed to date. Includes meats; dairy produce and products; composts; and many non-propagable forest produce such as sawn timber, pallets etc.

2. Prohibited Imports

2.1 **Agricultural** imports:

2.1.1 Certain plant material, animals and organic material are prohibited from entering St Helena under any condition. Import of the following is prohibited:

Plants and plant material:

- Seed of those species listed on the Prohibited Seeds List held at ANRD (eg. Sunflower seeds);
- Plants, and foliage of those species and forms of plant material not provided for in the table at Appendix 1.

Apiculture imports:

- Bees and honey combs.

Animal imports:

- Parrots and monkeys.

Meat, eggs and dairy products:

- Pork and pork products (fresh) from South Africa that do not originate from abattoirs approved for export by the Republic of South Africa's National Department of Agriculture.

Growing medium for plants:

- Earth or soil.

2.2 **Forestry** imports:

2.2.1 Apart from the plants and plant material indicated below, no forestry imports are prohibited from entering St Helena.

Plants and plant material:

- Plants, and foliage of those species of plants not provided for in the table at Appendix 1.

2.3 Import of prohibited commodities

- 2.3.1 If prohibited agricultural or forestry commodities are imported into St Helena an offence is committed against the Ordinance and Regulations covering the specific import. On conviction (under the Customs (import and Export) Ordinance) an importer may be liable to penalties up to a value of £5000. Imports will be held by the Customs and may be destroyed or re-shipped at the importer's expense.
- 2.3.2 A limited range of imports otherwise prohibited may be imported under a "derogation" from the St Helena legislation. Derogations are granted by the Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources and are available for a limited period with various and stringent conditions applying to import. A licence to import is required for imports made in this way.

3. Controlled Imports

3.1 **Agricultural** imports:

3.1.1 Import of the following is generally controlled:

Plants and plant material:

- Nursery stock of species listed in the table at Appendix 1 and species used for scientific, experimental or trialling ventures towards plant business proposals;
- Seed – potatoes;
– onion sets;
- All fresh plant produce - fruit and vegetables.

Apiculture imports:

- Honey, bee products and bee equipment.

Animal imports:

- Livestock
- Poultry;
- Cats and dogs;
- Other live animals;
- Animals (apart from those under the prohibited list) and animal germplasm.

Import licence conditions provided for animal imports will indicate under which circumstances ANRD quarantine measures are required on St Helena. For example, animal imports from South Africa (even with up to date veterinary health certification provided to ANRD) will require the animal(s) to be quarantined at the ANRD animal quarantine facility for a given period at the expense of the importer.

Meats, eggs and dairy products:

- Imports of meat, eggs and dairy products are not usually controlled.

However, if an outbreak of a potentially damaging livestock disease occurs in a particular country (e.g. BSE and Foot and Mouth diseases in UK; Classical Swine Fever in South Africa), changes to the Customs (Import and Export) Regulations can be made at short notice to prevent imports of specific meat and dairy products, or such imports might require specific health measures to be taken and documentation to be provided from the exporting countries competent authority for animal health or agricultural exports prior to importation.

Currently pork and pork products (fresh, frozen or otherwise) originating from South Africa are controlled by allowing those imports of pork and pork products originating from the abattoirs that have been accredited by the Republic of South Africa's National Department of Agriculture to export their products. Details of the 5 abattoirs are provided in Appendix 2.

3.2 **Forestry imports:**

3.1.1 Import of the following is generally controlled:

Propagable plant material

- Nursery stock.

Non-propagable plant products

- Fresh cut flowers and foliage.

3.3 **Import of controlled commodities under an import 'licence'**

3.3.1 Licences are required for all controlled imports and are issued by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. The relevant licences are laid down in the Regulations to the Ordinances mentioned earlier and provide for the granting of licences subject to detailed health import conditions and any other conditions and measures felt to be necessary by the ANRD.

3.3.2 Applications for a 'licence to import' should be made in writing on the prescribed 'Application Forms' (Available from ANRD) to the Chief Agricultural and Natural Resources Officer and incur a fee that must be paid in advance of imports.

3.3.3 On landing controlled imports licences must be surrendered to St Helena Customs and ANRD Inspectors at the time and place where Customs formalities are carried out. Imports arriving without a licence may have to be

re-exported or destroyed at the importers expense under notice from the Customs or ANRD.

3.3.4 Requests for new derogations are assessed against the potential risks to the Island's environment and community. This is a time consuming procedure and cannot be completed in less than 2 months.

3.3.5 If an importer fails to declare controlled imports an offence is committed against the Ordinance and Regulations covering the specific import. On conviction an importer may be liable to penalties up to a value of £500 or twice the value of the imports, whichever is the greater. Such imports will be seized by Customs Officers.

3.4 Phytosanitary certificates

3.4.1 Apart from bee equipment, all controlled imports permitted to enter St Helena must be accompanied by a phytosanitary ('health') certificate. Such a certificate provides a statement that the import to which it relates have been officially inspected in the country of origin (or country of despatch), comply with health import conditions and measures to enter St Helena , including free from certain serious pests and diseases and are substantially free from other harmful organisms.

3.4.2 Details of these requirements are set out in the Import Health Standards developed for the respective import. Where there is currently no Health Import Standard in place, the requirements will be set out in the Import Licence for the specific import.

3.5 Reforwarding phytosanitary certificates

3.5.1 These are required if, after a phytosanitary certificate has been issued in the country of origin, the consignment is stored, split up or repacked in another country before being exported to St Helena.

An example of where a reforwarding phytosanitary will be required is when an importer purchases fruit material from Spain and the material is repacked in the UK before being exported to St Helena.

3.6 Export inspection certificates

- 3.6.1 The Export Inspection Certification is a certificate of export quality issued by the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) in the case of exports from the Republic of South Africa and is required to accompany the importation of fresh fruit and vegetable produce from South Africa.

3.7 Conditions relevant to certificates

- 3.7.1 The following conditions must be satisfied by consignments of imports requiring phytosanitary certificates:

- i. Each consignment must be accompanied by either a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate and a reforwarding phytosanitary certificate.
- ii. The inspection referred to in the certificate(s) must have occurred no more than the required days (listed in the conditions section on the Licence to Import) before the date of the dispatch of the consignment of the specific import and the certificate(s) must have been signed within the same given day period.
- iii. The certificate(s) must be issued by the official protection service of the exporting country or re-exporting country.
- iv. The certificate(s) must be signed by or on behalf of an authorised officer of the protection service of the issuing country.
- v. Certificates issued in a language other than English must be accompanied by a translation and the translation must be signed by an authorised officer.

3.7 Points of entry

- 3.7.1 Only Jamestown wharf has been designated as a point of entry for imports to reach St Helena. Consignments imported through non-designated points of entry risk goods being held and even destroyed by inspectors at the expense of the importer.

3.8 Presentation of documents

- 3.8.1 On landing of consignments in St Helena original phytosanitary certificates and reforwarding phytosanitary certificates must be surrendered to Inspectors and Customs Officers.

- 3.8.2 Consignments to be imported by Post should have the relevant certificates enclosed in an envelope marked "for the attention of Customs" securely attached to the outside of the package. If the certificate relates to more than one package, the original certificate should be attached to one of them in this way and a copy of it attached to each of the others.

3.9 Inspection of consignments of imports

- 3.9.1 All controlled imports entering St Helena will be subject to inspection by Inspectors and Customs on arrival. Inspection may take place aboard a ship or yacht or at the designated point of entry or inland at point of entry if imports have been made illegally (e.g. the importers premises). Any consignments found to contain pests or diseases, which are landed in contravention of imports health legislation or import permit health conditions, or where the documentation is not adequate may be destroyed, treated or re-exported at the importer's own expense and risk.
- 3.9.2 There is provision within the ANRD Phytosanitary Inspections Procedures Manual for some controlled imports (such as fresh fruit and vegetables) to be carried out at a reduced frequency (i.e. on a random sample of consignments rather than each one) if there is evidence, based on previous imports, of little or no plant health risk.

3.10 Fees and charges

- 3.10.1 Fees apply for all licences to import that are needed for consignments of controlled imports. An inspection charge is also applicable for some imports such as animals. Information on fees and charges relevant to controlled imports can be viewed by requesting a copy of the ANRD Fees and Charges List from either of the contacts listed on page 5 of this document.

3.11 Personal allowances for travellers aboard ships or yachts

- 3.11.1 No exemptions are allowed from the need for import licences or phytosanitary certificates for controlled commodities imported in passengers' personal baggage. Contact should be made with ANRD before attempting to include agricultural or forestry imports as part of personal baggage or, 'if in doubt, leave it out'.

3.12 Other import requirements for controlled imports

3.12.1 CITES (Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

3.12.1 CITES aims to protect certain plant and animal species by regulating and monitoring their international trade and prevent this trade reaching unsustainable levels. There are restrictions and prohibitions on imports of many plant species that are endangered. A licencing system operates to allow trade in certain CITES specimens. Further information is available from the CITES website at <http://www.cites.org/>.

4. Unrestricted Imports

4.1 **Agricultural** imports:

4.1.1 Import of the following is generally unrestricted:

Plants, plant material, plant produce

- Frozen vegetables;
- Seed for processing or consumption;
- Plant products;
- Micro-organisms.

Soil and growing medium

- Compost;
- Peat.

Meats, eggs and dairy products:

- Apart from circumstances mentioned at Section 3.1 (Meats, eggs and dairy products) on page 8 of this guide and the current control of pork and pork products originating from South Africa, imports of meat, eggs and dairy products are unrestricted.

4.2 **Forestry** imports:

4.2.1 The following are generally unrestricted imports:

Non-propagable forest produce

- Sawn timber;
- Roundwood
- Boards (particle; ply; chip; laminated etc);
- Wooden panels;

- Bark;
- Wood shavings, chips and sawdust;
- Poles;
- Wood pallets and crates;
- Bamboo;
- Half-round and round fencing items.

APPENDIX 1

Plant Material and Fresh Plant Produce

Category	Common Name	Botanical name	Origin	Requirement
Nursery stock	All fruit species		All exporting countries	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate
Nursery stock	Roses		All exporting countries	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate
Species for trialling purposes			All exporting countries	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate
Species for scientific purposes			All exporting countries	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate
Fresh produce	Fruit and Vegetables		UK	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate
			Ascension Island	Prohibited as not able to provide Phytosanitary Certificate
			Tristan da Cunha	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate
			South Africa	Licence to Import Phytosanitary Certificate Export Inspection Certificate from PPECB

APPENDIX 2

Procedure for Imports of Pork and Pork Products (fresh, frozen or otherwise) Originating from South Africa as of 10 September 2007

1. A list of the South African Classical Swine Fever-free abattoirs approved for export and their respective contact details is provided in the table below.
2. Importers of pork and pork products are required to provide certification by way of a dated Letter of Confirmation or Sales Document from the 'Approved Exporter' to be produced to Customs Officers to indicate that each time pork and pork products are consigned by an importer, they have originated from the abattoirs approved for export.
3. Copies of this certification should be passed by importers to ANRD as the Veterinary and Livestock Officer assists Customs Officers with checks on imports to ensure compliance with restriction.
4. Non-certified imports may not necessarily be able to be simply exported to Ascension to avoid confiscation as Ascension may have Import Prohibition Orders in place from time to time. This will need to be checked by Customs with Ascension Island.

List of South African Abattoirs Approved For Export of Pork and Pork Products at September 2008

Abattoir	Contact Details
ZA 14, Debsteer (Pty) Ltd,	P O Box 223, 10 Tierkat Street, Valley Settlement, Randvaal, Meyerton, 1960, Contact: Dr Wantie Burger, Tel: +27-16-3622856/7/8/9
ZA 41, Basfour 2482 T/A Winelands Pork	P O Box 121, La Belle Road, Stikland, Bellville, 7535, Contact: Ken Polley, Tel: +27-21 948 1821
ZA 58, Eskort Heidelberg,	P O Box 28, Prinsloo Street, Heidelberg, 2400, Contact: Mr J. Pereksles, Tel: +27-16 340 4600
ZA 60, Enterprise Pork Packers (Pty) Ltd	P O Box 4, 25 Main Road, Germiston, Olifantsfontein, 1665, Contact: Mr Otto Scholtz, Tel: +27-11- 316 2290
ZA 74, Vereeniging Abattoir (Pty) Ltd	ZA, P O Box 1734, 1 Power Road, Leeukuil, Ext.2, Vereeniging, 1930, Tel: +27-16- 422 4093