

 <p>St Helena Government</p> <p>BIOSECURITY</p>	<p>Import Health Standard for the importation of <u>BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS</u> into the Island of St Helena</p> <p>Issued in pursuance of the Customs (Export and Import Control) Regulations of 1988 and St Helena Plants Protection Ordinance & Regulations 1938, as amended.</p>
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GUIDE FOR USERS

The information contained in this product import health standard is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of 4 parts.

PART A: General Information: contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for the ANRD biological control agents import health standard and the general responsibilities of each importer for these items.

PART B. Importation Procedure: contains sections which outline the requirements be met prior to and during importation and conditions of eligibility.

PART C: Clearance Procedure: contains sections describing the requirements to be met at all St Helena Island ports of entry and what may happen if the consignment does not meet the requirements of this import health standard.

PART D: Phytosanitary Certification: contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certificate and must accompany the consignment to St Helena, where this requirement is specified.

Part A: General Information

1. Import Health Standard and Importer's Responsibility

- 1.1 Pursuant to the Customs (Export and Import Control) Regulations of 1988 of the Laws of the Island of St Helena and St Helena Plants Protection Ordinance & Regulations 1938, as amended, this is the import health standard for the importation of biological control agents into the Island of St Helena.
- 1.2 Obtaining importation clearance for each consignment of biological control agents imported into St Helena is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import standard.
- 1.3 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the biological control agents import health standard at the time of importation of these items into St Helena.

2. Review of Import Health Standard

- 2.1 The import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes to policy or legislation on St Helena Island, or for any other lawful reason.

3. Definition of Terms

3.1 Inspector

Means the Agricultural Authority or a person appointed by the Agricultural Authority as defined under Section 3 of the Plants Protection Ordinance 2011 CAP 93, in addition to the Collector of Customs or a customs officer appointed under Section 4 of the St Helena Customs Ordinance CAP 145.

3.2 ANRD

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Division of the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, St Helena Island.

3.3 Equivalence

Acceptance by the Agricultural Authority that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the biosecurity status of the consignment is equivalent to the biosecurity status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

3.4 Importation clearance

Means that products given importation clearance are free from all restrictions.

4. Equivalence

- 4.1 It is expected that the biological control agents permitted to enter St Helena will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the products do not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to the Biosecurity Officer for consideration prior to importation. Detailed information supporting the application for equivalence must also be forwarded for a decision, indicating which requirement can not 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 Health Standard is:

Julie Balchin, Biosecurity Officer:

Address: ANRD, Scotland, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ

Telephone: + (290) 24724

Fax: + (290) 24603

Email: julie.balchin@enrd.gov.sh

6. Fees and Costs

- 6.1 All fees and costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining importation clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.

Part B: Importation Procedure

7. Licence To Import

- 7.1 Importations into St Helena of all biological control agents listed at Section 8.2.1 to 8.2.2 which meet the requirements of this health standard require a licence to import.
- 7.2 The process has two stages: firstly the importer presents a proposal on the prescribed 'Proposal Form' available from ANRD to a multisector committee providing evidence on the problem, the proposed biological control agent, host-specificity, likely impacts, capacity and funding, as detailed in Sections 8.4 and 8.5.
- 7.2 Once approval has been given, as detailed in Section 8.10. application for a licence should be made on the prescribed 'Application Form' available from ANRD and submitted to the official point of contact identified in Section 5. At this stage details on transportation, mass rearing (if appropriate), release and post-release monitoring are provided.

8. Eligibility

- 8.1 This import health standard follows the guidelines for risk management as laid out in International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 3 "Guidelines for the Export, Shipment, Import and Release of Biological Control Agents and Other Beneficial Organisms" (2005).
- 8.2 This Import Health Standard covers the importation into St Helena of the following biological control agents:
- 8.2.1 **Invertebrate** predators, parasitoids, competitors or antagonists including: insects and mites.
- 8.2.2 **Pathogenic micro-organisms**, including: bacteria, viruses and fungi.
But: excludes pathogenic micro-organisms formulated and commercially available as biopesticides. Also excludes genetically modified organisms.
- 8.3 **Vertebrate** biological control agents will **not** normally be considered.

- 8.4 At the **first introduction** of a new species to St Helena, **before applying for an import licence** the importer must provide a proposal accompanied by appropriate scientific references as follows:

8.4..1 On the **target pest**:

- Accurate identification of the target pest to at least species level, and information regarding any known related St Helenian native and endemic species.
- World distribution and probable origin.
- Outline of its known biology and ecology.
- Available information on its economic importance and environmental impact.
- Possible benefits and any conflicting interests surrounding its use.
- Known natural enemies, antagonists and other biological control agents or competitors of the target pest already present or used.

8.4..2 On the proposed **biological control agent**, a pest risk analysis to include:

- Sufficient characterization of the biological control agent or other beneficial organism to allow for its accurate identification, in general to the species level at minimum.
- Summary of all available information on its origin, world distribution, biology, natural enemies, hyperparasites, and impact in its area of distribution.
- Available information on host specificity (in particular, a list of confirmed hosts) of the biological control agent or beneficial organism and any potential hazards posed to non-target hosts.
- Assessment of the risks posed to St Helena's native and endemic species.
- Description of natural enemies and contaminants of the agent and procedures required for their elimination from laboratory colonies.
- Information on any phytosanitary measures taken prior to shipment should also be provided.
- Identification of potential health hazards and analyses the risks posed to staff operatives exposed when handling biological control agents under laboratory, production and application conditions.
- Details of appropriate emergency action plans, should the biological control agent display unexpected adverse properties.

8.4..3 On the **material to be imported**:

- Source of the organism, with accurate information on locations of field sites, where appropriate.
 - Nature of material and how it will be packaged and transported.
 - Procedure, where appropriate, to identify accurately and, if necessary, eliminate from the culture the host upon which the biological control agent or beneficial organism was cultured.
 - Procedure, where appropriate, to identify accurately and, if necessary, eliminate from the culture parasitoids, hyperparasitoids, pathogens and other contaminants.
- 8.5 Importers must demonstrate that they have **adequate capacity** (funding, staffing and facilities) for in-country containment and mass breeding, an appropriate release strategy, post-release monitoring of impact against both target and non-target species for an appropriate period of time post-release.
- 8.6 In the case of a **second or further introduction** of a biological control agent already in St Helena, the following documentation is required:
- Justification for a further introduction, with details of the first introduction, if available, and its impact to date.
 - Information as outlined in Section 8.4.3.
- 8.7 The proposal will be **reviewed by a panel** consisting of representatives of ANRD, EMD and other key stakeholders, as appropriate depending on the nature of the biological control agent and target pest. The panel may also include at least one external member from an independent internationally recognised organisation or agency, to provide an objective perspective on the proposed introduction. Examples of acceptable organisations include:
- Universities.
 - Government agencies, departments and research institutes.
 - Intergovernmental organisations.
 - Regional institutions such as the International Centre for the Potato.
 - Charitable organisations such as the RSPB, Flora and Fauna International, Froglife and Buglife.
 - Recognised local expertise.
- 8.8 Once the proposal as outlined in Sections 8.4.1 to 8.4.3 and 8.5 has been submitted the review panel will respond within a period of 3 months; this period is required to allow a full consideration of the proposal, and wider consultations may be required. The decision must be transparent and based on clear, scientifically justified grounds:

EITHER

- Approval of the proposal.

OR

- Rejection of the proposal. Reasons for rejection must be given.

OR

- Request for further information in order to adequately assess the risk and arrive at a decision.

8.9 If the proposal as outlined in Sections 8.4.1 to 8.4.3 and 8.5 is approved the review panel will submit it for public consultation for a period of 1 month. Any substantive feedback from the public will be considered by the review panel, and the proposal may be returned to the importer for revision or further information.

8.10 If the public consultation supports the proposal the importer can **apply for an import licence** for the named biological control agent. At this stage full details must be provided in the form of technical protocols or plans for:

- Transport: how the specimens will be brought to the island
- Mass-rearing (if appropriate)
- Release
- Post-release monitoring of dispersal and impact

8.11 Importers are required to formally **report back** to the review panel after an appropriate period of time, as identified in the import licence. The review panel will also undertake periodic facility and field visits to assess compliance and success for an agreed period of time.

8.12 Importers must deposit authoritatively identified **reference specimens** of the imported biological control agent or other beneficial organism (and host(s) where appropriate) in the appropriate national collections. It is preferable to deposit a series of specimens, where available, to accommodate natural variation.

8.13 Any packaging used with the consignment must be clean, preferably new.

Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:

9.1 An inspector will inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment, either at the port of arrival or under biosecurity secure conditions at ANRD, as appropriate. Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of **Eligibility** the consignment will be given clearance.

9.2 If **other species not covered in the import licence** or **contamination by dirt or soil** are found on inspection the consignment may be confiscated and destroyed, at the importers expense.

Part D. Phytosanitary Certification

10. Application of Phytosanitary Measures

- 10.1 A phytosanitary certificate is only required where plant material is needed to maintain the biological control agent during transport, if requested by ANRD Biosecurity and detailed in the import licence.
- 10.2 The phytosanitary certificate must conform to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 12 Guidelines for Phytosanitary Certificates (2001) and any subsequent revisions.

Part E: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Biological Control Agents.

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 draft posted on-line	April 2015
2	Revised draft, following feedback from biocontrol review panel	4/06/15
3	Revised with new contact details for BSO	10/09/15
4	Revised with feedback from public consultation and endorsed by EDC	21/07/16