



Agriculture and Natural Resources Division

BIOSECURITY

Guidelines for importers of biological control agents

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard for the Importation of BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS into the Island of St Helena.

Biological control agents are new species to the island and so are capable of becoming pests in their own right if they switch to non-target species. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

- For first introductions of a new species to the island you need to submit a proposal, and a standard form is provided.
- Proposals must include: the objective of the introduction, justification for the selection of the proposed biological control agent, and an assessment of the risk associated with its introduction. They must also include information on your technical capacity and source of funding to carry out the introduction, and an appropriate source of organisms. A brief outline is also required of how you propose to breed up and / or release the new species, if introduction is approved.
- The proposal is reviewed by a panel comprising representatives of key sectors, as appropriate, and there may also be at least one independent external adviser.
- The deadline for a decision after submission of the documents is 3 months.
- The decision will be to accept the proposal, reject the proposal, or request further information.
- If the proposal is accepted there will be a public consultation period of 1 month.
- If the final decision is positive, you then apply to ANRD for an import licence. At this stage you are required to provide full technical details of the following: how the specimens will be brought to the island, the mass-rearing (if appropriate) programme, and plans for release and post-release monitoring.
- For second or further introductions, you are required to provide justification for the need.
- It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier has a copy of the import health standard and understands that biological control agents must meet these conditions.
- It is also your responsibility to ensure the consignments are free of contaminants prior to arrival in St Helena.
- On arrival they will be inspected by an authorised inspector. Rearing facilities and release sites may be inspected by an authorised officer at any time post-introduction.
- If they fail to meet the import health standards they may be refused entry, or confiscated and destroyed at the expense of the importer.
- Badly contaminated items may be refused entry to St Helena.
- Further information can be obtained from:

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