

 <p>St Helena Government</p> <p>BIOSECURITY</p>	<p>Import Health Standard for the importation of <u>PLANT MATERIAL</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 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 Plant Material import health standard and the general responsibilities of each importer of plant material.

PART B. Importation Procedure: contains sections which outline the requirements be met prior to and during importation. Whether a licence to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment, if necessary.

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.

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, this is the import health standard for the importation of plant material into the Island of St Helena. This standard does not cover fresh fruit and vegetables but only covers plant material for growing purposes.
- 1.2 Obtaining importation clearance for each consignment of specified plant material for growing purposes imported into St Helena is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 The following are prohibited and are therefore not included in the import health standard:
 - 1.3.1 Seeds of sunflower species originating from South America
- 1.4 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the Plant Material for Growing Purposes health standard at the time of importation of specified plant material into St Helena.
- 1.5 Where it is known to the importer or agent that a consignment of plant material will not arrive on the ship voyage approved on the licence to import document, notification of this change should immediately be given to either of the ANRD personnel listed at paragraph 5.

2. Review of Import Health Standard

- 2.1 The import health standard may be review, amended or revoked if there are changes to policy or legislation on St Helena Island or the plant health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason.

3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

- 3.1 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 St Helena is a signatory. Application for import of plant species falling under provision 9.1.3 of Section 9 of CITES are 'regulated plant species' and 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 Inspector

Means the Agricultural Authority or a person appointed under Section 4 of the Introductory Part of the St Helena Plants (Protection) Ordinance CAP 93 and Section 4 of the St Helena Customs Ordinance CAP 145.

4.2 ANRD

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

4.3 Equivalence

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

4.4 Importation clearance

Means that plant material given importation clearance are free from all restrictions.

5. Equivalence

- 5.1 It is expected that the plant material 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 Pest Control and Biosecurity Officer for consideration. Detailed information supporting the application for equivalence must also be forwarded for a decision, indicating 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 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

7. Fees and Costs

- 7.1 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

8. Licence to Import

- 8.1 Importations into St Helena of all eligible plant species and all material listed at Section 9.1.1 to 9.1.12 which meet the requirements of this health standard, subject to Section 2 (2) of the St Helena Plants (Protection) Regulations require a 'licence to import'. Applications 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 6.

9. Eligibility

- 9.1 This Import Health Standard covers the importation into St Helena of the following eligible plant species and material of these species:

Plant species:

- 9.1.1. **Fruit species** to include citrus species, pome fruit, stone fruit, pineapple, strawberry, blueberry, cranberry, currants and gooseberry;
- 9.1.2 **Roses**;
- 9.1.3 **Flower bulbs**;
- 9.1.4 **Other plant species** (e.g. orchids and grapevines) in support of commercial trialling purposes;
- 9.1.5 **Seed potatoes and onion sets.**

Forms of plant material:

- 9.1.6 **Whole plants in sterilised growing medium** (this means whole plants, potted in sterilised medium such as peat);
 - 9.1.7 **Bare rooted stock** (this means dormant whole plants with roots, the material is kept alive during transportation by being stored in chilled conditions);
 - 9.1.8 **Bud wood** (this means part of a plant from which branch, leaf or flower develops; is used for grafting purposes and material is kept alive during transportation under chilled conditions);
 - 9.1.9 **Cuttings** (a nursery stock commodity sub-class for bud wood and cutting propagation material that are stems only (no roots) and is often transported in a dormant state);
 - 9.1.10 **Bulbs** (this means the dry, dormant stage of the rounded underground storage organ of certain plants);
 - 9.1.11 **Tissue culture** (a commodity class for plants *in vitro* growing in an aseptic medium in a closed container);
 - 9.1.12 **Seeds** (a unit of reproduction used for sowing, includes mushroom spores but excludes bulbs and tubers except for seed potatoes and those flower species listed in 9.1.3).
- 9.2 The plant material listed at 9.1.1 to 9.1.12 is eligible for importation as long as the consignment is clearly labelled, commercially prepared and packed in original unopened packaging, in a pest-proof container. Each species and type of plant in the consignment must be clearly identified with its common and scientific name.
- 9.3 Only inert/synthetic material may be used for the protection, packaging and shipping materials of the plant material. Consignments found to be

contaminated with soil shall be treated, reshipped or destroyed at the expense of the importer.

- 9.4 Tissue cultures imported in growing media must have been grown in the vessel in which they are imported. The container must be pest-proof, rigid, and either clear plastic or glass. The tissue culture media must not contain fungicides or antibiotics. Plants in tissue culture must be produced in a facility under conditions that prevent contamination with regulated pests.
- 9.5 Specified pesticide treatments of whole plants and cuttings will depend on the likelihood of infestation by identified quarantine pests and diseases, and this will vary depending on the plant species, the form in which it is being imported and the country of origin. This will be assessed at the time of application and details of any pesticide treatment required included on the import licence. All pesticide treatments must be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, including labelling of the treated plant commodity with the name of the active ingredient used and any handling requirements.
- 9.6 Mushroom spawn can be imported from a commercial supplier on sterilised or pasteurised medium, this is usually grain. The medium must be free from high-risk substrates such as soil and animal or avian manure.
- 9.7 Seed potatoes can be imported from the UK and South Africa as follows:

From South Africa:

- 9.7.1 Seed potato must be certified under the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme in compliance with the Plant Improvement Act 1976 (Act No. 53 of 1976) and other relevant South African Directives as one of the following classes:
- Class 1, generation 1 to 8
 - Elite, generation 1 to 8
 - Standard Class

From the UK:

- 9.7.2 Seed potato must be certified under the British Seed Potato certification systems in compliance with EC Directive 2002/56/EC and other relevant EC Directives as follows:
- Category: Basic or Certified
 - Grades: Super Elite 1-3 or Elite 1-3
 - EC Class: EC2 or EC3

10. Documentation

- 10.1 The licence to import and all other required documentation must accompany the imported products to St Helena.
- 10.2 Documentation shall be in English.
- 10.3 It is the importers responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in

delays in obtaining ANRD and St Helena Government Customs clearance or rejection of consignments.

Phytosanitary certificate

- 10.4 All consignments must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate certifying that the plant material has been inspected in the exporting country in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of visually detectable regulated pests, and conforms to St Helena's current import requirements. If visually detectable pests are found which are not listed in the import health standard, the certifying National Plant Protection Organisation must establish their regulatory status prior to issuing the certificate.
- 10.5 If satisfied that the specified pre-shipment pesticide treatments have been undertaken, the exporting country National Plant Protection Organisation must confirm this by recording the treatments applied in the 'Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment' section of the phytosanitary certificate.
- 10.6 For whole plants in sterilised compost media the phytosanitary certificate must have the following additional declaration:
- 'The plants have been raised in or re-potted in sterilised containers and the roots have been appropriately cleaned of soil rooting material prior to being placed in soil-less rooting media and such containers have been maintained out of contact with the soil'
- 10.7 For plantlets recently removed from *in-vitro* tissue culture, the phytosanitary certificate must be endorsed that:
- 'these plantlets were removed from their original culture container(s) in which they were grown, not more 48 hours before export, and have not been in contact with any other growing media'.
- 10.8 Some plant species may have entry requirements that require special entry conditions to be developed. Differences may involve:
- i. Special treatment requirements;
 - ii. Special phytosanitary certificate additional declarations.

Consignments must also meet the conditions outlined in Sections 9.2 to 9.7 and 10.1 to 10.7, as appropriate, unless a variation to these conditions is specified.

11. Transit Requirements and Contaminants

- 11.1 The plant material must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests.
- 11.2 The package(s) should not be opened in transit. However, where a consignment is either stored, split up or has its packaging changed whilst in another country en route to St Helena, a 'Re-export Phytosanitary Certificate'

is required.

- 11.3 Consignments contaminated with soil, or other carriers of regulated pests (i.e. leaf litter) will not be permitted entry into St Helena if the level of contamination is above the acceptable level of tolerance.

Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:

- 12.1 An inspector at the port of arrival may inspect the entire consignment, or a sample of the consignment.
- 12.2 The ANRD requires that no units (a unit is one plant, one piece of bud wood, one cutting or one culture) in a consignment is infested with visually detectable quarantine pests. If quarantine pests or diseases are detected the material may be treated, reshipped or destroyed as directed by the Biosecurity Officer, at the expense of the importer.
- 12.3 Provided that the consignment meets the conditions of **Eligibility**, Section 12.2 and **Part D. Phytosanitary Certification**, the consignment will be given clearance. In cases where clearance is not given, advice will be provided by ANRD as to how the importer or his/her agent might proceed thereafter.

Part D. Phytosanitary Certification

13. Application of Phytosanitary Measures

- 13.1 A number of different phytosanitary measures may be applied to pests and diseases depending on the plant commodity and the type of pest or disease. Phytosanitary measures to be undertaken and applied to the plant commodity will be outlined on the 'Licence to Import' document issued from the ANRD.
- 13.2 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 Plant Material for Growing Purposes

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	Updated in line with Policy for the Importation of Plant Material and organisational restructure in SHG	9 July 2013
2	Updated in line with new SHG branding guidelines and new 5-digit telephone numbers.	4 November 2013
3	Revised to allow the importation of 6 species of ornamental dry dormant flower bulbs, as approved by the EDC on 4/02/16	4 February 2016