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| Insert the appropriate Territory or Government official symbol or logo | **UKOT [insert name of territory] Government**  **XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]**  **BIOSECURITY** |

**Guidelines for importers of shipping containers**

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard for the Importation of SHIPPING CONTAINERS into [insert name of Territory]. This only applies to shipping containers that are moved from the port into the Territory.

While shipping containers are not themselves invasive or pests, they are capable of carrying weeds seeds and disease-causing microbes in encrusted mud and dirt, and harbouring potentially harmful insects, spiders, mites, lizards and snakes, hidden away in nooks and crannies. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

* You do not require an import licence to import shipping containers into UKOT [insert name of Territory].
* They must, however, meet specified import health standards.
* It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and understands that shipping containers must be thoroughly cleaned, both internally and externally, before arrival in UKOT [insert name of Territory].
* It is your responsibility to ensure they are clean and free of all quarantine risk material including live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces, animal material, plant material such as straw, twigs, leaves, roots, bark, food refuse and other debris prior to arrival in UKOT [insert name of Territory].
* On arrival they may be inspected by an authorised agent.
* If they fail to meet the import health standards you are required to clean them or have them cleaned to an acceptable standard.
* If live insects or other animals are found treatment will be required, at your expense.
* Badly contaminated items may be refused entry to UKOT [insert name of Territory].
* Cargo within shipping containers must be managed as per the relevant Import Health Standards.
* Further information can be obtained from:

XXX [Provide full details (telephone number and email) of a named government official. There can be a high turnover of staff with some territories so it may be necessary to add the names of a primary and secondary contact]

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| Insert the appropriate Territory or Government official symbol or logo | **Import Health Standard**  **for the importation of**  **SHIPPING CONTAINERS**  **into UKOT [insert name of Territory]** |
| **BIOSECURITY** | Issued in pursuance of xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation].  Version XXX |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Import Health Standard (IHS) is to set out the requirements that must be met when importing shipping containers by air, sea or land into UKOT[insert name of Territory] in order to manage the biosecurity risks associated with them.

**GUIDE FOR USERS**

The information contained in this IHS 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 the UKOT[insert name of Territory] Import Health Standard for Shipping containers, and the general responsibilities of each importer of these commodities.

**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 UKOT[insert name of Territory] ports of entry and what may happen if the consignment does not meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard.

**Part A: General Information**

1. **Import Health Standard and Importer´s Responsibility**
   1. Pursuant to xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation]of the Laws of UKOT[insert name of Territory], this is the Import Health Standard for the importation of shipping containers, into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
   2. Obtaining importation clearance for each consignment of shipping containers imported into UKOT[insert name of Territory] is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this Import Health Standard.
   3. It is the importer or agent´s responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the Shipping containers IHS at the time of importation of these items into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
   4. Where it is known to the importer or agent that shipping containers will not arrive on the ship voyage approved on the licence to import document, notification of this change should immediately be given to the contact listed at section 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 UKOT[insert name of Territory] or for any other lawful reason.

**3. Definition of Terms**

* 1. **Inspector**

XXX [Add the appropriate contact]

* 1. **XXX** [add and define here any abbreviations for the government departments referred to in this Standard]

XXX is the Government Department**.**

* 1. **Equivalence**

Acceptance by the XXX [Add the appropriate authority/government department]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.

* 1. **Importation clearance**

Means that shipping containers given importation clearance are free from all restrictions.

**4. Equivalence**

* 1. It is expected that shipping containers permitted to enter UKOT[insert name of Territory] 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 XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department] or 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 mitigate any potential risk.

**5. Official Point of Contact**

* 1. The official point of contact(s) for this Import Health Standard is:

XXX [Provide full details (telephone number and email) of a named government official. There can be a high turnover of staff with some territories so it may be necessary to add the names of a primary and secondary contact

**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**

* 1. Importations into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of all shipping containers listed at Section 8.1.1 to 8.1.XX which meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard do not require a licence to import.

**8. Eligibility**

* 1. This Import Health Standard covers the importation into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of the following shipping containers:
     1. **Intermodal container** – standardized shipping container, designed and built for intermodal freight transport, meaning these containers can be used across different modes of transport – from air to ship to rail to truck – without unloading and reloading their cargo.
     2. ‘Dry freight’ or ‘general purpose’ containers – closed steel boxes, mostly of either twenty or forty feet (6.1 or 12.2 m) standard length.
  2. All shipping containers listed at 8.1.1 to 8.1.2 above must be thoroughly cleaned, both internally and externally before arrival in UKOT[insert name of Territory]. It is the importer's responsibility to ensure each consignment is **clean** and **free of all quarantine risk material,** including live insects, reptiles, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces, animal material, plant material such as straw, twigs, leaves, roots, bark, food refuse and other debris prior to arrival in UKOT[insert name of Territory].
  3. Cargo within shipping containers must be managed as per the relevant IHSs.
  4. All wood packaging (pallets, crates, dunnage, etc.) within shipping containers must conform with **International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15** (**ISPM 15**) requiring that they be debarked and then heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and stamped or branded, with a mark of compliance. This mark of compliance is colloquially known as the "wheat stamp". Products exempt from the ISPM 15 are made from an alternative material, like paper, plastic or wood panel products.

**9. Documentation**

9.1 The following documented information for all shipping containers must be sent by importers and received by XXX [add appropriate authority] at least XX hours prior to the arrival of the shipping container (and cargo) in UKOT [insert name of Territory]:

Shipping container Number;

Shipping container type;

Country of origin;

Port of loading;

Port of discharge;

Importer details;

Exporter details;

Quarantine declaration (this may not be required, please check with XXX [add appropriate authority])

Complete and accurate description of the cargo or tariff code, including all packaging; Treatment certificate (where treatment is required).

9.2 Documentation shall be in English.

9.3 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 clearance or rejection of consignments.

**Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:**

10.1 An inspector at the port of arrival may inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment. Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of **Eligibility** the consignment will be given clearance.

10.2 If any contamination is found, the shipping containers must be thoroughly cleaned by the importer to an acceptable standard in an area designated by the authorised authority.

10.3 If live insects or other animals are found, the container is subject to treatment with residual surface spray as follows:

Residual synthetic pyrethroid surface spray (eg Mortein, Raid or Doom crawling insect spray) can be purchased at supermarkets and similar outlets. The surface to be treated should have no free water droplets on it, and the insecticidal spray should be applied to the surface to be treated so that the insecticide is forming small beads and up to but not past the stage where droplets start to run together and run off vertical surfaces. The spray should be completely dried before the goods are released. Treatment will be carried out by an authorised officer.

10.4 Treatment will be carried out at the importer’s expense.

10.5 A shipping container found to be badly contaminated may be refused entry to UKOT[insert name of Territory].

**Part D: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Shipping containers**

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.

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**List of Guidance notes and Import Health Standard Templates available:**

* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of LIVE PLANT MATERIAL
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND TYRES
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of COMPOSTS AND PEAT
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of Rock, stone, sand and pebbles
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of SAWDUST, WOOD CHIPS AND WOOD SHAVINGS
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of SHIPPING CONTAINERS

**List of Inspection Protocol Templates available:**

* Inspection protocol for FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
* Inspection protocol for LIVE PLANT MATERIAL
* Inspection protocol for VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND TYRES

These Guidance notes, Import Health Standards and Inspection Protocols were adapted from documents developed by *Biosecurity St Helena*