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

 **Guidelines for Importers of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Human Consumption**

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard (IHS) for the Importation of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Human Consumption into UKOT [insert name of Territory].

Fresh fruit and vegetables imported for human consumption can harbour pests and diseases which could be harmful to the economy, environment and human health if introduced into UKOT [insert name of Territory]. These standards are designed to manage the biosecurity risks.

* You must obtain a licence to import ALL fresh produce prior to entry into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
* The Import Health Standards defined on the licence will depend on the type of produce (species of plant) and the country of origin.
* All consignments of fresh produce must meet the specified Import Health Standards.
* All require a Phytosanitary Certificate from the recognised authority (National Plant Protection Organisation) in the country of origin. This applies both to produce originating in one country and imported directly as well as to produce originating in another country and being re-exported to UKOT[insert name of Territory].
* Some types of high-risk produce may also need Additional Declarations for example, treatment for fruit flies (Tephritidae)) on the Phytosanitary Certificate.
* It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the Import Health Standard and that fresh produce meets these conditions.
* On arrival the consignment will be inspected by an authorised agent.
* Badly contaminated items may be refused entry to UKOT[insert name of Territory]or be confiscated and destroyed.
* 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****FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR** **HUMAN CONSUMPTION****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 fresh fruit and vegetables for human consumption 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 4 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 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Human Consumption and the general responsibilities of each importer of fresh produce.

**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 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 UKOT[insert name of Territory].

**Part A: General Information**

1. **Import Health Standard and Importer´s Responsibility**
2. 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 fresh fruit and vegetables for human consumption into UKOT[insert name of Territory]. This IHS does not cover plant material for growing purposes or for animal consumption but only covers fresh produce for human consumption.
3. Obtaining importation clearance for each consignment of fresh fruit and vegetables for human consumption imported into UKOT[insert name of Territory]is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of the relevant Import Health Standard.
4. It is the importer or agent´s responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Human Consumption IHS at the time of importation of specified plant produce into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
5. Where it is known to the importer or agent that a consignment of plant produce 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 6.

**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 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 UKOT[insert name of Territory] 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**

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 health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

1. **Importation clearance**

Means that fresh produce for human consumption given importation clearance is free from all restrictions.

**5. Equivalence**

1. It is expected that fresh produce for human consumption permitted to enter UKOT[insert name of Territory] will meet the conditions of this Import Health Standard in every respect. If the produce does not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]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 mitigate any potential risk.

**6. 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]

**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**

* 1. Importations into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of all eligible fresh produce listed at Section 9.1.1 to 9.1.X which meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard, subject to xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation] require a ‘licence to import’. Applications for a licence should be made on the prescribed ‘Application Form’ available from the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department] and submitted to the official point of contact identified in Section 6.

**9. Eligibility**

* 1. This Import Health Standard covers the importation into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of fresh entire, peeled or diced fruit and vegetables of the following eligible produce:

[Add or delete fruit and vegetables as required depending on geographical region. There are many high-risk fruits grown in the Caribbean which should be considered for adding to the list, for example, soursop, sugar apple, sapota, sapodilla, banana, plantain, West Indian cherry, etc.]

* + 1. **Stone fruit**: all varieties
		2. **Cucurbits**: all varieties
		3. **Citrus**: all varieties
		4. **Table grapes**: all varieties
		5. **Pome fruit**:all varieties
		6. **Mango**
		7. **Other fruit** as follows: avocado, blackberry, black currant, blueberry, coconut (husked), grenadilla, guava, kiwi fruit, lychee, pawpaw, pineapple, raspberry, redcurrant and strawberry.
		8. **Vegetables** as follows: asparagus, aubergine (eggplant/brinjal), green beans, beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, carrot, celery, chilli pepper, root ginger, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mange tout, mushroom, parsnip, peas, radish, spinach, sweet corn, sweet pepper, sweet potato, tomato and turnip.
		9. **Onions and garlic**
		10. **Ware potatoes**
	1. The fresh produce listed at 9.1.1 to 9.1.X is eligible for importation as long as the consignment is clearly labelled, and commercially prepared and packed.
	2. All produce must be clean and free from all visible pests. In addition, import health standards apply which are specific to the type of produce and country of origin, they are detailed on the import licence and current standards are shown in Appendix A. Changes may apply in the event of for example a new pest incursion or different country of origin.
	3. All packaging accompanying the consignment must be clean and free from live invertebrates.
	4. No uncertified produce may be shipped in the same container as that destined for UKOT[insert name of Territory].
	5. Fruit and vegetables that have been frozen, cooked or preserved may be imported from all countries.

**10. Documentation**

10.1 The licence to import and all other required documentation must accompany the imported fresh produce to UKOT[insert name of Territory].

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 clearance or rejection of consignments.

10.5 All consignments must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate certifying that the fresh produce 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 UKOT’s[insert name of Territory] 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.

10.6 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.

10.7 In addition, where treatments have been carried out, such as fumigation, a valid treatment certificate must accompany the consignment on arrival.

10.8 Where the country of origin is different to the country of export a copy of the original phytosanitary certificate must accompany the consignment. If there is no recognised biosecurity authority in the country of origin the produce will not be accepted into UKOT[insert name of Territory].

10.9 Some fresh produce species may have entry requirements that require special entry conditions to be developed. Differences may involve:

1. Special treatment requirements;
2. Special phytosanitary certificate ˋAdditional Declarations´.

All consignments must also meet the conditions outlined in Sections 9.2 to 9.6 and 10.1 to 10.8 unless a variation to these conditions is specified.

1. **Transit Requirements and Contaminants**
	1. The produce must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests.

**Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:**

* 1. An inspector at the port of arrival may inspect the entire consignment, or a sample of the consignment.
	2. The XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department] requires that no units (a unit is one piece of fruit, one tuber or one vegetable) 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 XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department], at the expense of the importer.
	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 the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department] as to how the importer or his/her agent might proceed thereafter.

**Part D. Phytosanitary Certification**

**13. Application of Phytosanitary Measures**

1. Several 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 XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department].
2. The phytosanitary certificate must conform to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 12 Guidelines for Phytosanitary Certificates (2006) and any subsequent revisions.

**Part E: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Human Consumption**

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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**Appendix A. Specific health conditions for fresh fruit and vegetables for human consumption imported from xxx** [Add country of origin]

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| **PRODUCE** | **Species related import health conditions – produce must be free from the following specified pests and diseases** |
|  | Add data as appropriate for the Territory. Priority pests and potential pathways have been identified during a Horizon Scanning project |
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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*