

Interstate Certification Assurance scheme

Certification Assurance arrangements allow businesses to self certify commodities as meeting interstate and intrastate quarantine requirements.

The Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) scheme is a national plant health certification scheme based on quality management principles.

The ICA scheme provides a harmonised national approach to the accreditation and auditing of businesses in Australia and mutual recognition of Plant Health Assurance Certificates accompanying consignments of commodities moving interstate.

The ICA scheme provides a more convenient alternative to the traditional inspection system, which involves regulatory officers supervising the treatment or inspecting produce and issuing a Plant Health Certificate for interstate and intrastate movement. Under an ICA arrangement, a business is accredited to issue its own Plant Health Assurance Certificate.

How the ICA scheme operates

Each ICA arrangement is based on documented operational procedures developed by the Department of Primary Industries in conjunction with industry and interstate quarantine authorities.

Each operational procedure describes the management, processes and process controls that must be implemented and maintained by a business to become and maintain their accreditation.

Each operational procedure sets out the:

- scope of the procedure including the pest, commodities, locations covered
- quarantine requirements to be met
- responsibilities and duties of staff involved in managing or implementing the ICA arrangement
- principles of operation, design features and standards applying to treatment, calibration or inspection
- processes and process controls that must be implemented
- records and documentation that must be maintained by the accredited business
- completion and issue of nationally accepted Plant Health Assurance Certificates

Benefits for your company

Although benefits will vary according to the type of operation and commodity covered by the ICA arrangement, the benefits are considerable.

- Increased flexibility of operations. A business can plan and schedule operations without arranging for a regulatory officer to be present.
- Improved operational control. Procedures are well documented.
- Improved awareness of quality issues. Staff responsibilities and duties are documented.
- Improved staff participation staff involved in structured and documented training.
- Reduced certification costs.



What is an ICA arrangement?

An ICA arrangement is an agreement between a business and the Department of Primary Industries. The ICA arrangement covers one business operating under one operational procedure at one facility (location).

Under an ICA arrangement the accredited business assumes responsibility for specified treatments and inspections previously undertaken by a regulatory officer. The Department ensures that the ICA arrangement is working effectively through a program of regular audits.

Becoming ICA accredited

A business seeking to become ICA accredited must complete an application on the prescribed form and forward it to the Certification Assurance Records Officer, Plant Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries, Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800.

Applications can be made by a legal entity which owns and operates the business to be covered by the arrangement. A separate application is required for each ICA arrangement being sought.

The ICA arrangement must be audited before accreditation is granted. Audits are a systematic examination of the business, its staff, equipment and facilities to verify conformance with the requirements of the ICA arrangement.

Subsequent to the business gaining ICA accreditation, regular scheduled audits are carried out. The number and frequency of audits depends on the period of operation of the facility under an ICA arrangement and issues such as suspected non-conformance with the requirements of the ICA arrangement.

Further Information

For more details including operational procedures and application forms, contact the Department of Primary Industries by phone or email either:

Certification Assurance Records Officer (02) 6391 3732
annie.kelly@industry.nsw.gov.au

or

ICA Database Administrator (02) 6938 1976
bev.zurbo@industry.nsw.gov.au

or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/ica

ICA operational procedures available for New South Wales businesses

- ICA-01 Dipping with Dimethoate or Fenthion
- ICA-02 Flood spraying with Dimethoate or Fenthion
- ICA-03 Low volume non-recirculated spraying with Fenthion
- ICA-04 Fumigating with Methyl bromide
- ICA-07 Cold treatment
- ICA-08 Mature green condition and immature green condition of pawpaw and babaco
- ICA-13 Unbroken skin condition of approved fruits
- ICA-15 Mature green condition of passionfruit, Tahitian limes and black sapotes
- ICA-16 Certification of mature green condition of bananas
- ICA-17 Splitting consignments and reassigning original consignments of certified produce
- ICA-18 Treatment and inspection of custard apple and other *Annona* species
- ICA-19 Treatment and inspection of mangoes
- ICA-20 Pre-harvest treatment and inspection of table grapes
- ICA-21 Pre-harvest treatment and inspection of stonefruit
- ICA-23 Certification of area or property freedom based on monitoring by the accrediting authority
- ICA-26 Pre-harvest treatment and post-harvest inspection of tomatoes, capsicums and chillies
- ICA-29 Treatment of nursery stock and soil-less media
- ICA-31 Pre-harvest insecticide treatment of blueberries
- ICA-33 Movement of wine grapes
- ICA-37 Hot water treatment of grapevines
- ICA-56 Pre-harvest baiting and inspection for pest free areas

