

Importing Plants and Plant Products (including fruit, vegetables and seeds)

This guide is intended to help those not familiar with Tasmania's Import Requirements to get a basic understanding of what's required. It does not provide all the information importers will need. You should use the links or references in this guide for all the information you will need about your specific import.



Does Tasmania have its own import rules?

Yes. There are national rules for bringing plants and plant products into Australia and, in addition, there are Tasmanian rules for bringing them into this state. These rules are known as our Biosecurity Import Requirements.

Why does Tasmania have import requirements in addition to the national import requirements?

Tasmania is free of many of the pests and diseases that occur on mainland Australia – and we intend to keep it that way. Tasmania's relative freedom from these pests and diseases is very important for our lifestyle, our environment and our primary industries. This means that, in some cases, additional requirements are needed to support Tasmania's freedom from these pests and diseases.

What sort of imported items are covered by Tasmania's Biosecurity Import Requirements?

In addition to plants and plant products, Tasmania's Biosecurity Import Requirements also apply to:

- animals (including fish and birds)
- animal products that have not yet been processed
- machinery or equipment that has been used in agriculture, horticulture or forestry on the mainland
- boats (including kayaks and canoes), boating gear and fishing gear (including waders and boots)

This fact sheet relates only to plants and plant products. Separate fact sheets have been prepared [for machinery and equipment](#). Please refer to our [DPIPWE website](#) for information on importing animals and animal products.

What types of Import Requirement does Tasmania have?

For plants and plant products, we have two types. All imports must meet the "general" Import Requirements. Some must also meet the "specific" Import Requirements.

"General" Import Requirements apply to everything. Any plants or plant products must be free of soil and the packaging must be undamaged, clean and correctly labelled.

"Specific" Import Requirements apply to any plant or plant product that is capable of carrying a particular pest or disease into the State. So, for example, Tasmania is the only state in Australia free of Queensland fruit fly (QFF) and, to keep it that way, specific import requirements apply to all plants, fruits and vegetables that are potential hosts of QFF (ie are capable of bringing QFF into the state). There are other Import Requirements that relate to hosts of grape phylloxera, fire blight and many other exotic pests and diseases that we want to keep out of Tasmania. These specific Import Requirements spell out how the imports must be treated, inspected or sourced before being allowed into the state and what additional documentation may be required to accompany the import.

How can I find out what the Import Requirements are for the items I want to import?

It's all on our website. The full reference is the [Plant Quarantine Manual Tasmania](#).

We now also have an interactive [TBIRD](#) facility on the DPIPWE website that might help you find the information you need. Simply type in what you want to import and you'll get the Import Requirements that apply in your case.

What paperwork will I need to organise before my imported item arrives at Tasmania's quarantine barrier for inspection?

If you want to import plants, plant products, grain/seeds, livestock or animal products, you must complete a "Notice of Intention (NoI)" form and get it to Quarantine Tasmania at least 24 hours before they arrive.

In many cases you will also need to arrange additional paperwork to accompany your import – typically, these are plant health certificates, evidence of treatment or evidence that the import comes from an area that is free of a particular pest or disease. To find out whether you need this certification and, if so, what specifically needs to be certified, go to our website, and search on [TBIRD](#) for the particular kind of import.

What happens if:

- a) the Notice of Intention doesn't get to Quarantine Tasmania at least 24 hours before the import;
- b) any certification that's required doesn't accompany the import; or
- c) the import arrives at the Tasmanian quarantine barrier and falls short of the Import Requirements?

Generally, if the import is a plant, a plant product or a small quantity of seed/grain, it may be destroyed by Quarantine Tasmania and the importer may be fined. If it is of significant value, the importer may be given the option of having it sent back to its origin or treated here – at his/her expense.

The importer also faces the risk of a fine.

It is the importer's responsibility to make sure that any documentation that is required is complete, correct and on time.

Please note that any seeds or other plants or plant products imported as a result of mail order or online purchases will, if they originate from outside Australia, have to meet both the national import requirements and Tasmania's import requirements. If the purchase is from the Australian mainland, the package must comply with Tasmania's import requirements. In both cases, this includes providing Quarantine Tasmania with a Notice of Intention to Import (NoI) at least 24 hours before the package arrives at the Tasmanian quarantine inspection point (which for most mailed packages is the Kings Meadows mail exchange).

Further Information

We recognise that the Import Requirements can be a little confusing for those who do not import regularly. That's why we have established the user-friendly [TBIRD](#) facility on our website.

If, after using that, you are still unclear about what you need to do, please contact us. We would rather spend a few moments discussing your import plans with you beforehand than spending a lot longer afterwards explaining why your import was barred entry and how much it will cost you!

We have also posted a PDF version of the [Plant Quarantine Manual Tasmania \(PQMTas\) 2013](#) on our website and that contains all the Import Requirements.

If you would like to be kept informed by direct email of any changes to the various Import Requirements or other significant biosecurity issues, you are encouraged to self-register for our Biosecurity Updates. Just go to our [Biosecurity webpage](#) and hit the green button.

Contact

Quarantine Tasmania
Hobart (03) 6233 3352
Launceston (03) 6398 8400
Devonport (03) 6421 7622
After Hours 0418 125 634
Email: Quarantine.Enquiries@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

Or call 1800 084 881 for quarantine service in your state.

Department switchboard: 1300 368 550 (Local call cost, Australia-wide)

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