

# Conditions for the Importation of Fresh Christmas Trees and Wreaths into the Cayman Islands

**(*Abies spp.*, *Pinus spp.*, *Picea spp.*, *Cupressus spp.*)**

Plants (Importation & Exportation) Law (1997 Revision)

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## General Requirements

- A. A written application to obtain a Plant Import Permit must be made to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (DOA) on the prescribed form and pay the applicable fees before any consignment of fresh Christmas Trees (Fir, Pine, Spruce, Cypress or Cedar) can be imported into the Cayman Islands.
- B. Applications will be processed by the DOA in accordance with the Plant (Importation and Exportation) Law (1997 Revision) and a response issued within 72 hours of receipt of the completed application form.
- C. Importers must present the import permit issued by the DOA to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country for guidance regarding the conditions for the importation of Christmas into the Cayman Islands.

## Special Conditions

Christmas Trees intended for shipping to the Cayman Islands must be subjected to the following pre-treatment and conditions:

- A. Suppliers intended to export Christmas Trees to the Cayman Islands must have a pest control program.
- B. A pesticide treatment is required **3 to 6 weeks prior to harvest** using a Systemic and Contact Insecticide, Miticide, Molluscicide and Protectant Fungicide.  
**OR**  
**Post-harvest fumigation** using Methyl Bromide in accordance to the dosage recommended on the label.
- C. All treatment or chemicals used must be listed on the Phytosanitary Certificate.
- D. Trees intended for shipping to the Cayman Islands require an additionally declaration on the Phytosanitary Certificate that the trees were harvested from fields free of:
  - i. Rust Fungi: *Cronartium ribicola*, *Cronartium quercuum*, *Colesporium asterum*, *Lophodermium seditiosum* and the Brown Spot Fungi, *Scirrhia acaicola*.
  - ii. Pine Needle Scale (*Chinaspis pinifoliae*), Elongated Hemlock Scale (*Fiorinia externa*), Hemlock Scale (*Abgrallaspis ithacae*) and Black Leaf Scale (*Nuculaspis californica*).

- E. **All trees must** be visually inspected and shaken manually or mechanically for 10-25 seconds prior to shipping.
- F. All trees for export to the Cayman Islands **must** be free of pests.
- G. Trees **must** be without root and soil.
- H. Trees **must** be free of dead branches and/ or twigs and any yellow or red needles caused by pest damage.
- I. All consignments **must** be shipped within seven (7) days of the issuance of the Phytosanitary Certificate.

## **Identity and Documentation**

All trees for importation into the Cayman Islands should be labelled and correctly addressed to the importer.

Consignments destined for entry into the Cayman Islands **must** be accompanied by:

- Cayman Islands Import Permit;
- Original Phytosanitary Certificate issued and signed by an officer of the NPPO of the exporting country;
- A copy of the fumigation certificate if post-harvest fumigation was done;
- Invoice and packing list; and
- Copy of Bill of Lading

## **Inspection and Phytosanitary**

- A. At least 24 hour notice must be given to DOA before consignment arrives.
- B. Upon arrival all consignments will be subjected to inspection and testing by an Inspector of the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture.
- C. Consignments in excess of quantities stated on the Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate will be confiscated.
- D. If pests are found, the consignment will be either subjected to refusal of entry and return to the country of origin, seizure and destruction or post entry treatment at the discretion of the Director of Agriculture.
- E. Post entry quarantine treatment is generally **NOT** an option and will **only** be done at the discretion of the Director of Agriculture according to the type of pest found. Where post entry treatment is authorized all cost associated with the treatment will be the responsibility of the importer.

**Failure to comply with any or all of the above measures will result in the confiscation of consignments.**