

Conditions Governing Importation of Fresh Plant Products from a Foreign Country (except USA and JAMAICA) into the Cayman Islands The Plants (Importation and Exportation) Law, (Revised 1997)

1. Under the Plants (Regulation of Importation and Exportation) Law (Revised 1997), term ‘Plant’ includes any growing plant, cutting, bud, graft, bulb, root, seed, and vegetables intended for propagation and/or consumption.
2. The Plant Law requires that a Plant Import Permit be obtained from the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (DOA) prior to the importation of any ‘Plant(s)’ into the Cayman Islands.

A written application to obtain this Import Permit must be made on a form supplied by the Department before procuring the consignment of ‘plants(s)’ for importation. Applications will be processed within 72 hours of receipt of completed forms.

3. Under this Law the Director of Agriculture has prescribe the following conditions to be met before, and on, landing:

General Conditions for Low and Medium Risk Products

An application must be made to obtain a Plant Import using the prescribed application form that is provided by the DOA.

Only single entry Import Permits will be issued and the applicable processing fees must be paid at the time of submission of each application.

Plant Import Permit will be issued with specific conditions for **Low and Medium quarantine risk plant products only**. The level of risk will be determined by the DOA. **Please note that the status of various products may change over time due to changes in pest outbreaks and distribution in the country of origin of the products.**

Fresh plant products must arrive only at the Cayman Islands Official Ports of Entry namely:

- Owen Roberts International Airport, Grand Cayman
- Charles Kirkconnell International Airport, Cayman Brac
- George Town Port, Grand Cayman
- Creek Dock, Cayman Brac

Forty-eight (48) hours’ notice must be given to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Health Inspection Services (DoA/AHIS) Unit prior to the arrival of every consignment.

All consignments will be subjected to inspection by the Director of Agriculture or his/her designate at the Port of Entry. If plant products are found infested and/or infected with a pest, the consignment will be refused landing, for immediate return to the country of origin at the expense of the importer or seized and destroyed by the Director of Agriculture or his/her designated.

The consignment must be accompanied by the original Phytosanitary Certificate from the country of export and must be issued by an authorized officer of the National Plant Protection Organization of that country within seven (7) days of export. Where the Phytosanitary Certificate is in Spanish or any other foreign language, a certified English translation **MUST** be attached to the original version.

The phytosanitary certificate must indicate that the consignment has been inspected and found free of pests and soil. Additional stamps affixed to the Cayman Islands Import Permit by the competent authority in the country of origin **DOES NOT** constitute a phytosanitary certificate.

Further to the above, the Director of Agriculture prescribes the following specific conditions:

Specific Conditions for Low Risk Products:

All plant produce must be washed or cleaned and be free of pest and soil.

Plant product must be packed in new/unused container.

Product fifty (50lbs) pounds or more must be packed separately in new/unused carton/sacks and exported as manifested cargo.

Specific Conditions for Medium Risk Products:

Specific conditions will be determined for each product in this category and may include all or any combination of the following condition depending on the plant product and the country of origin:

- Washing in 5% bleach solution or brushing with a fungicide
- Hot water or steam-heat treatment
- Fumigation treatment with methyl bromide or other suitable compound such as Phostoxin (*aluminium phosphide*)
- Trimming of crown leaves
- Removing hands from bunches
- Packing at specific packing house(s) only
- Originate from a specific geographic area/production area within a country

Each medium risk product must be packed separately in new, unused carton or sack and exported as manifested cargo.

Specific Conditions for High Risk Products:

A full Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) will be necessary for all high quarantine risk plant products which MAY require that DOA officers undertake a mission to the country of origin to gather detailed information regarding the product(s) and processing facility. In such cases where a mission is requested, the applicant will be required to finance all costs associated with the mission and an import permit will be issued for the import of the product only if the PRA indicates a favorable conclusion.

Note: Live plants are HIGH RISK products and therefore are not considered under these procedures.