



Department of Agriculture
Cayman Islands Government

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Conditions for the Importation of Coconuts (Dried and Green) for Consumption into the Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Plants (Importation & Exportation) Act

AIM

The condition aims to protect agriculture, natural ecosystems, and the biodiversity of the Cayman Islands from the introduction of plant pests and diseases, while enabling the safe trade of coconuts for consumption.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Import Permit

- i. Importers must submit a completed application on the prescribed form to obtain a Plant Import Permit from the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (DoA).
- ii. The application must be accompanied by the applicable fees.
- iii. The DoA will process the applications in accordance with the Plant (Importation & Exportation) Act.
- iv. A response to the application will be issued within 72 hours of receiving the completed form.

2. Consultation with Exporting NPPO

- i. Importers/ exporters must present the import permit issued by the DoA to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country.
- ii. The NPPO will provide guidance on the specific conditions for the importation of Plants into the Cayman Islands.

3. Phytosanitary Certification

- i. The consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued in accordance with International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12.
- ii. All treatments applied must be listed on the Phytosanitary Certificate.
- iii. The Import Permit number must be referenced on the Phytosanitary Certificate.

- iv. All consignments must be shipped within seven (7) days of the issuance of the Phytosanitary Certificate unless otherwise stated.
- v. Consignments not listed and/or in excess of quantities stated on the Phytosanitary Certificate and invoice will be confiscated for destruction.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

To protect local agriculture and biodiversity from the introduction of harmful pests and diseases, the importation of fresh coconuts in husk or shell is highly restricted. Importers must adhere to the following mandatory conditions:

1. Classification

Fresh green coconuts in husk are classified as high-risk plant material due to the potential for harbouring pests and pathogens. Importation is **not permitted for propagative use** and will only be considered for non-planting purposes (**consumption only**) under strict conditions.

Dried coconut used for oil extraction must be free of husk and will only be considered for non-planting purposes (consumption only) under strict conditions.

2. Country of Origin

Coconuts must originate from countries that are approved by the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture.

Pre-Harvest Considerations

Green Coconuts

Fresh coconuts used for water extraction must be harvested at 6 to 8 months after flowering, when they are still green and full of water.

Dried Coconuts

Dried coconuts intended for consumption must be harvested at 11 to 14 months of maturity. Coconut must not be imported with sprouting potential.

3. Post-Harvest Cleaning and Inspection

Green Nuts

- Must be partially dehusked to remove all inflorescence and calyx.
- **No mechanical damage:** De-husking must not crack the shell or compromise the sterile coconut water
- Must be free of soil, debris, and surface contaminants using brushes and water jets.

- Must be inspected for insect infestation or surface lesions.

Dried Nuts

- Complete removal of the exocarp/husk to expose the endocarp (shell).
- Dehusking should be done in a sanitary, pest-free area to avoid contamination.
- Must be free of soil, debris and foreign matter

4. Drying and Packaging

- Air dry in a clean, shaded, and pest-free area.
- Package in clean, unused containers
- Labelled with lot number and origin

5. Inspection at Port of Entry

- All consignments are subject to quarantine inspection upon arrival by authorised officers of the Agricultural Health Inspection Services (AHIS).
- Any coconuts showing signs of germination, pest infestation, or non-compliance will be confiscated and destroyed at the importer's expense.

6. Post-Entry Use and Handling

- Approved coconuts must be used for consumption only.
- Planting of coconuts imported in husk is strictly prohibited.

Failure to comply with these regulations may result in seizure and destruction of non-compliant commodities.