



Department of Agriculture

Cayman Islands Government

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Grand Cayman KY1-1106
CAYMAN ISLANDS
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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)

Scope

The conditions for the importation of Fresh Christmas Trees and Wreaths into the Cayman Islands include the general and specific conditions and requirements that must be followed for the importation of Christmas Trees and Wreaths made from *Abies spp.*, *Pinus spp.*, *Picea spp.*, and *Cupressus spp.* The conditions aim to ensure the protection of the Cayman Islands' ecosystem and agricultural resources while allowing the importation of these commodities.

General Requirements

1. Written Application and Plant Import Permit

- a. Importers **must** submit a *completed* application on the prescribed form to obtain a Plant Import Permit from the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (DoA).
- b. The application must be accompanied by the applicable fees.
- c. The DoA will process the applications in accordance with the Plant (*Importation and Exportation*) Law (1997 Revision).
- d. A response to the application will be issued within 72 hours of receiving the completed form.

2. Consultation with NPPO

- a. Importers must present the import permit issued by the DoA to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country.
- b. The NPPO will provide guidance on the specific conditions for the importation of Christmas Trees into the Cayman Islands.

3. Phytosanitary Certificate

- a. The consignment must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued in accordance with *ISPM 12*.¹
- b. The certificate must include a list of all treatments or chemicals used when applicable.

Specific Conditions

4. Production Site and Pest Control Programme

Suppliers intending to export Christmas Trees to the Cayman Islands must have been approved by the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) in the country of origin. The farm must participate in a phytosanitary surveillance programme involving continual assessment and monitoring as follows:

- i. The NPPO must be informed of all production and storage sites from which Christmas Trees will be exported to the Cayman Islands by May to June of each year.
- ii. All production sites must be monitored for the presence of Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*).
 - a. Examinations must include searches for egg masses, larvae and adult moths. The results of all monitoring activities must be recorded and made available for review by the NPPO.
 - b. A minimum of three (3) traps and one pheromone trap must be installed and monitored at each production and storage site.
 - c. In areas where Spongy Moth has been confirmed, an adequate control strategy must be adopted and implemented. The level of infestation must be reduced before shipment of the trees.
- iii. The pre-approved grower or exporter is responsible for maintaining records of all examinations, monitoring and control activities conducted during the calendar year. These records must be retained for at least 2 years. Records must include data

¹ **ISPM 12**-This standard describes principles and guidelines for the preparation and issue of phytosanitary certificates and phytosanitary certificates for re-export, (FAO).

collected from inspection of production areas and pre-shipment examinations including maps, field area, and species grown.

- iv. Records or reports generated from the examination mentioned in parts ii and iii and control activities must be made available for review by the Cayman Islands upon request.

5. Pre- Harvest Pesticide Treatment

A pesticide treatment is required **7-10 days before harvest**, using a federally approved Miticide/Acaricide, Molluscicide, Fungicide, and Systemic Insecticide.

6. Tree Preparation

- a. Trees must be cut to remove all roots and soil contamination.
- b. All trees must be **mechanically shaken using a motor or tractor driven unit for 10-25 seconds** with sufficient intensity to remove and dislodge, dead needles, insect pests, other hitchhiking organisms, or debris before wrapping and preparation for shipping.

7. Inspection and Pest-Free Requirements

- a. The foliage of trees intended for shipping to the Cayman Islands must be inspected and found free of specific pests including but not limited to:
 - i. **Rust Fungi:** *Cronartium ribicola*, *Cronartium quercuum*, *Colesporium asterum*, *Lophodermium seditiosum* and the Brown Spot Fungi, *Scirrhia acaicola*.
 - ii. **Scale Insects:** Pine Needle Scale (*Chinaspis pinifoliae*), Elongated Hemlock Scale (*Fiorinia externa*), Hemlock Scale (*Abgrallaspis ithacae*) and Black Leaf Scale (*Nuculaspis californica*).
 - iii. **Lepidoptera:** Spongy Moth or Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*).
- b. The consignment must be free of soil, bark beetles, and any other pests of quarantine significance.

8. Shipping Timeframe

All consignments must be shipped within twenty-one (21) days of the issuance of the Phytosanitary Certificate.

9. Identity and Documentation

- a. All trees for importation should be labelled and correctly addressed to the importer.
- b. Consignments must be accompanied by:
 - i. Cayman Islands Import Permit
 - ii. Original Phytosanitary Certificate issued and signed by an officer of the exporting NPPO
 - iii. Copy of the fumigation certificate (if applicable)
 - iv. Invoice and packing list
 - v. Copy of Bill of Lading

10. Inspection and Actions on Arrival

Notice and Inspection

- a. Importers must provide at least 24-hour notice to the DoA before the consignment arrives.
- b. All consignments will be subjected to inspection and testing by an Inspector of the DoA upon arrival.

Excess Quantities and Pest Discovery

- a. Consignments exceeding the quantities stated on the Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate will be confiscated.
- b. If any pests are found, the consignment may be refused entry and returned to the country of origin, seized and destroyed, or subjected to post-entry treatment at the discretion of the Director of Agriculture.

Post-Entry Treatment

- a. Post-entry quarantine treatment is generally **NOT** an option and will only be considered at the discretion of the Director of Agriculture based on the type of pest found.
- b. Importers will bear full responsibility for all costs associated with post-entry treatments, quarantine, destruction, and/or re-export.

11. Disposal and Biosecurity Measures

This protocol may provide guidelines for the proper disposal of Christmas Trees and Wreaths after the holiday season to prevent environmental contamination. Biosecurity measures are to mitigate the risk of introducing invasive species into the local environment.

- a. Christmas Trees and Wreaths must be disposed of only in the areas assigned by the Department of Environmental Health.
- b. Importers must follow all other protocols that are in place by the Department of Environmental Health for recycling Christmas Trees and Wreaths.

12. Failure to Comply

Consignments that fail any or all of the above measures will result in refusal of entry or in confiscation and destruction of the commodities.



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Application for a Plant Import Permit

(Plants, parts of a plant or plant products)
Plants (Importation & Exportation) Law (1997 Revision)

(Date Received)

Christmas Trees and Wreaths

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

A. Permit Category: ☐ Single Entry

Name & Address of Applicant: _____ Box: _____ KY - _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Name & Mailing Address of Exporter: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Country of Origin: _____

Means of Conveyance: ☐ Air ☐ Sea Expected Date of Arrival (d/m/y): ____ / ____ / 20____

Type of Consignment: ☐ *Abies spp.* ☐ *Pinus spp.* ☐ *Cupressus spp.*

Intended Use: ☐ Decoration ☐ Scientific Studies ☐ Other _____

B. List quantity required, common and scientific name(s) of plant or plant products(s)

Quantity	Plant Size (Feet/Inch)	Common Name of Plants/ Plant Products	Scientific Name of Plants/Plant Products

Signature: _____ Date: _____

C. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

☐ Application Approved	☐ Application Denied	Official stamp Date Issued
Permit #: _____	Reason: _____	
Fee \$ _____	Date Notified(d/m/y): ____ / ____ / ____	
Date: _____	Notified via; ☐ PH; ☐ Fax; ☐ Email	
Approved By: _____	Denied By: _____	

Note: Single entry permits expire 90 days after the date of issue.