

Exports work instruction

# Inspecting horticulture for export using in-line sampling

**Direction to staff**

This is official instructional material of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department). Failure to comply with it may result in a breach of relevant legislation and/or the code of conduct under section 13(5) of the *Public Service Act 1999.*

## Purpose of this document

This document details the procedure for inspecting horticulture for export using in-line sampling for the following commodities:

* fresh fruit
* fresh vegetables
* horticultural plants or plant products (that is, dried fruit, nursery stock, cut flowers, tissue cultures, plant foliage, cuttings, bulbs, tubers and corms) for which a phytosanitary certificate or phytosanitary certificate for re-export is required by an importing-country authority.

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**Contents**

This document contains the following topics.

[Purpose of this document 2](#_Toc64455646)

[Definitions **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc64455647)

[Policy statement 3](#_Toc64455648)

[Legislative framework 3](#_Toc64455649)

[Roles and responsibilities **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc64455650)

[Work health and safety 4](#_Toc64455651)

[Personal protective equipment **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc64455652)

[Essential equipment **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc64455653)

[System requirements **Error! Bookmark not defined.**](#_Toc64455654)

[Prepare for inspection 5](#_Toc64455655)

[Section 1: How do I receive a prepare for inspection? 5](#_Toc64455656)

[Section 2: How do I check the importing country’s requirements? 6](#_Toc64455657)

[Section 3: How do I check the RFP and supporting documentation? 8](#_Toc64455658)

[Section 4: How are the inspection results recorded? 10](#_Toc64455659)

[Section 5: What do I do when I arrive at the registered establishment? 11](#_Toc64455660)

[Section 6: How do I inspect the commodity flowpath? 16](#_Toc64455661)

[Section 7: How do I sample the consignment for inspection? 17](#_Toc64455662)

[Section 8: How do I inspect the sample? 20](#_Toc64455663)

[Section 9: How do I determine the inspection result? 25](#_Toc64455664)

[Section 10: How do I complete additional inspection tasks? 28](#_Toc64455665)

[Passing, failing and withdrawing the inspection 29](#_Toc64455666)

[Section 11: How do I pass the inspection? 29](#_Toc64455667)

[Section 12: How do I fail the inspection? 30](#_Toc64455668)

[Section 13: How do I withdraw the inspection? 32](#_Toc64455669)

[Inspecting resubmitted goods 33](#_Toc64455670)

[Section 14: How do I inspect a resubmitted consignment? 33](#_Toc64455671)

[Related material 34](#_Toc64455672)

[Contact information 35](#_Toc64455673)

[Document information 35](#_Toc64455674)

[Version history 35](#_Toc64455675)

## Policy statement

* The policy and process related to this work instruction is contained in the Exports process instruction: [*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material). Authorised Officers (AOs) must read and comply with the policy and process requirements set out in the Exports process instruction: [*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material) and relevant legislation.
* Prior to conducting an inspection of horticulture for export, the AO must have achieved competency in the relevant commodity attachment for the job function HOR3002.
* Where the consignment is for a protocol market, the AO must have achieved competency in the relevant commodity attachment for job functions HOR3002 and HEP4001.
* This document is to be used in conjunction with the importing country’s requirements (ICRs) listed in import permits, [protocols, work plans](#_Related_material) and the Manual of Importing Country Requirements ([Micor](#_Related_material)).

**Note:** Where the Importing Country Requirements (ICRs) contradict the requirements in this document, the ICR must take precedence.

## Roles and responsibilities

The following table outlines the roles and responsibilities undertaken when inspecting horticulture for export.

| Role | Responsibility |
| --- | --- |
| Authorised Officers (AOs) | * Validating supporting documents. * Inspecting horticulture for export. * Recording and submitting inspection results. |

## Work health and safety

AOs must:

* read and be familiar with Exports reference: [*Work health and safety in the plant export environment*](#_Related_material)
* read, consider and comply with work health and safety (WHS) requirements set out in the Exports process instruction: [*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material).
* not enter work sites unless it is safe, they are wearing the required personal protective equipment (PPE) and have considered any WHS hazards
* comply with applicable Commonwealth, state and territory WHS legislation
* comply with WHS requirements of employers and third-party sites, unless they assess the requirements as placing them at risk, in which case they must take reasonable action to ensure their safety.

## Essential equipment

### Inspection equipment

AOs must have the following inspection equipment:

* knife and scrapers
* tweezers and probes
* hand lens 10x magnification or more
* small artist’s paint brush
* vials and tubes
* 80% ethanol preservative
* snap-lock plastic bags
* labels
* pencils for labelling vials and pens for completing forms
* a device with access to the Plant Exports Management System or a manual horticulture inspection record for contingency purposes.

**Note:** For more information, see the Exports reference: [*Plant exports guide – Equipment*](#_Related_material).

### Personal protective equipment

* AOs must wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE) for horticulture inspections
* hi-visibility vest
* safety boots
* nitrile rubber or polyvinyl chloride examination gloves (not latex).
* AOs must have the following PPE with them and use when required
* first aid kit
* water
* sunscreen
* appropriate emergency communication equipment such as a phone carrier with coverage or satellite phone.
* AOs must wear the following PPE where required by the work site or where they have identified a risk in the work environment
* steel-cap boots
* safety glasses
* long-sleeve clothing
* thermal clothing for cold rooms
* hard hat
* hair net
* hearing protection
* face mask
* portable gas detector.

### System requirements

AOs must have access to the following systems:

* department website
* Micor
* Micor Plants Documents section (username and password required) – protocol markets only
* Plant Exports Management System (PEMS)
* Electronic Export Documentation System (EXDOC) (for departmental AOs only).

## Prepare for inspection

### Section 1: How do I prepare for inspection?

The following table outlines how an AO will prepare for inspection.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Review the inspection request details. The inspection request must include the inspection appointment details and the Request for Permit (RFP). |
| 2. | Determine if the inspection is for a new consignment, re-export consignment or a resubmitted consignment.  **Note:** Re-export RFPs will have endorsement number 6536.   | If the consignment is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | new | **continue to Step 3.** | | for re-export | * validate the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin or a certified true copy of the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin in accordance with the Exports process instruction: [*Supporting documents for plant export*](#_Related_material) * **continue to Step 3.** | | being resubmitted | **go to** [**Section 14: How do I inspect a resubmitted consignment?**](#_Section_14:_How) | |
| 3. | Using the Exports reference: [*Table of plant export protocol markets*](#_Related_material)and the RFP, determine if the consignment is for a protocol market.   | If it is… | Then… | | --- | --- | | a protocol market | * continue with this work instruction, completing all steps *that refer* to protocol markets * **continue to** **Step 4**. | | not a protocol market | * continue with this work instruction, but *do not* complete the steps that refer to protocol markets * **continue to** **Step 4.** | |
| 4. | Check that you are appointed in the job function/s required to conduct the inspection by checking your *Instrument of appointment* within PEMS.   | If you are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | appointed with the required job function/s | **continue to Step 5.** | | not appointed with the required job function/s | * you cannot conduct the inspection * inform the client * **do not continue.** | |
| 5. | Check that the establishment number provided (for example, on the RFP) matches the registered establishment number where the inspection is to be conducted.   | If the numbers... | Then... | | --- | --- | | match | **continue to Section 2:** [**How do I check the importing country’s requirements?**](#_Section_2:_How) | | do not match | * you cannot conduct the inspection * inform the client * **do not continue**. | |

### Section 2: How do I check the importing country’s requirements?

The following table outlines how to check the importing country’s requirements.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Is there a case in [Micor](#_Related_material) for each commodity on the RFP?   | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | yes | **continue to Step 2.** | | no | * the inspection request is not valid * inform the client that they need to * obtain the import requirements for each commodity from the importing country authority * email these to the [Micor administrator](mailto:micorplants@agriculture.gov.au) * **do not continue.** | |
| 2. | Look up the relevant Micor case to:   * obtain the importing country requirements * check if the market is a protocol market.   **Note:** Micor cases will indicate a protocol market in the *Export Criteria* section.   | If the market is… | Then… | | --- | --- | | not a protocol market | **continue to Step 3.** | | a protocol market | * go to the password-protected [Documents section](#_Related_material) of Micor * find the relevant protocol and/or work plan and refer to these when prompted by this exports work instruction   **Note:** Work plans have been developed by the department to assist staff and industry with the interpretation of the protocol requirements. Where both a protocol and work plan exists, refer to the work plan in the first instance.   * **continue to Step 3.** | |
| 3. | Check the Micor case for each commodity to see if an import permit is required.   | If an import permit is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | required | **continue to Step 4.** | | not required | **go to Step 6.** | |
| 4. | Check that the client has provided an import permit and that it is valid as per the Exports process instruction:[*Supporting documents for plant exports*](#_Related_material)*.*  **Note:** The import permit must be uploaded into PEMS.   | If the client... | Then... | | --- | --- | | has provided an import permit and it is valid | * take a copy of the import permit * **continue to Step 5.** | | * has provided an import permit, but it is not valid   or   * has not provided the required import permit | * the inspection request is not valid * inform the client that they need to provide a valid import permit * **do not continue.** | |
| 5. | Check that the requirements on the import permit match the Micor case for each commodity.   | If the import permit requirements... | Then... | | --- | --- | | match the Micor case/s | **continue to Step 6.** | | * do not exist in Micor   or   * do not match the Micor case/s | * the inspection request is not valid * inform the client that * the import permit does not match the Micor case * you cannot conduct the inspection until the Micor case has been updated * they must email the import permit or instrument in writing to the [Micor administrator](mailto:micorplants@agriculture.gov.au) * **do not continue.** | |
| 6. | Read the Micor case for each commodity, to check for any documentation, sampling and inspection requirements. |
| 7. | **Continue to** **Section 3:** [**How do I check the RFP and supporting documentation**](#_Section_3:_How)**?** |

### Section 3: How do I check the RFP and supporting documentation?

The following table outlines how to check the RFP and supporting documentation.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Check if the status on the RFP is initial (INIT) or final (FINL).   | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | yes | **continue to Step 2.** | | no | * the inspection request is not valid * inform the client that they must submit an RFP at INIT or FINL status * **do not continue.** | |
| 2. | Check the RFP has the correct EXDOC endorsement number/s and treatment details, by comparing it to the Micor case (protocol/work plan where applicable) any other details provided in the RFP. |
| 3. | For protocol consignments, determine if you need to check export accreditation of farms and/or packhouses. Ask the client to provide accredited property number/s if required.   | If… | Then… | | --- | --- | | the client cannot provide accredited property number/s | * the consignment is not eligible for export unless the client can provide evidence it has been sourced from an accredited property * **do not continue.** | | the client provides accredited property number/s | * record the accredited property number/s in PEMS in future steps (see Section 6) * **continue to Step 4.** | |
| 4. | Has the client provided all supporting documents required before inspection as per the Exports reference: [*Plant export documents and treatments checklists*](#_Related_material) and the Micor case/s?  **Important:** If Micor indicates that a particular supporting document is permitted to be provided after inspection, the details of the pending supporting document must be recorded in the *comments* Section of the horticulture inspection record.  **Note:** Supporting documents must be supplied to the AO and copies uploaded into PEMS.   | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | yes | **continue to Step 5.** | | no | * the inspection request is not valid * inform the client that they need to provide all required supporting documents prior to inspection occurring * **do not continue.** | |
| 5. | Check that all the supporting documents you have received are valid as per the Exports process instruction:[*Supporting documents for plant exports*](#_Related_material)*.*   | If all supporting documents are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | valid | * ensure supporting documents are uploaded into PEMS * **continue to Section 4:** [**How are the inspection results recorded**](#_Section_4:_How)**?** | | not valid | * the inspection request is not valid * inform the client that they need to provide valid supporting documents * **do not continue.** | |

### Section 4: How are the inspection results recorded?

* Inspection records must be completed in accordance with the Exports work instruction: [*Completing plant export inspection and treatment records*](#_Related_material)*.*
* Results must be recorded in PEMS. A manual inspection record may be used for contingency purposes only or if an exception applies.
* Record inspection details and results throughout the inspection process.

The following table outlines how to initiate the inspection record in PEMS.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Are you using PEMS or a manual horticulture inspection record to record the inspection results?   | If you are using… | Then... | | --- | --- | | PEMS | **continue to** **Step 2**. | | the manual horticulture inspection record | * download or print a copy of the approved inspection record to record your inspection * **go to Section 5:** [**What do I do when I arrive at the registered establishment**](#_Section_5:_What)**?** | |
| 2. | Initiate the horticulture inspection record in PEMS.  **Note:** For information on how to use PEMS see the Exports reference: [*Plant Export Management System Authorised officer user guide*](#_Related_material). |
| 3. | * Upload the import permit, where applicable, and record a validation outcome. Where one exists, add the import expiry date. * Upload all other supporting documents and record a validation outcome for each.   **Note:** This may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:   * pest-free area declarations * grower declarations * treatment certificates (including reconditioning) * gas-free certificates * transfer records * lab analysis results * crop monitor records * spray diaries * pest-identification reports. |
| 4. | Where internet connectivity is unreliable or unknown at the registered establishment, prepare to use PEMS offline by checking out the inspection record before arriving at the site. |
| 5. | **Continue to Section 5:** [**What do I do when I arrive at the registered establishment**](#_Section_5:_What)**?** |

### Section 5: What do I do when I arrive at the registered establishment?

The following table outlines what to do on arrival at the registered establishment.

| Step | Action | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | On arrival at the registered establishment:   * sign in at the office (if the AO is not already an employee of the site) * ask a staff member about any site-specific WHS requirements including mandatory personal protective equipment (PPE) * put on the required PPE * assess the site for safety * ask a staff member to accompany you to the inspection area. | |
| 2. | Is the consignment being resubmitted for inspection?   | If… | Then... | | --- | --- | | no | **continue to Step 3.** | | yes | * record that the inspection is a reinspection and add the original RFP number on the horticulture inspection record, if applicable * add comments into the *comments* field on the reconditioning treatment that was applied to the consignment * **continue to Step 3.** | | |
| 3. | Check that:   * the inspection bench meets the requirements as per the Exports process instruction: [*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material). * there is safe and adequate access to the processing line so samples can be drawn.  | If the inspection bench and sampling area is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | compliant and safe | **continue to Step 4.** | | * non-compliant or unsafe   and   * rectified whilst you are on-site | * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **continue to Step 4.** | | * non-compliant or unsafe   and   * not rectified whilst you are on-site | * inform the client that they need to provide a compliant inspection bench and safe sampling area * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | |
| 4. | Ask the client to provide any additional supporting documents required prior to or at the time of inspection/re-inspection.  **Important:** If you have not checked the importing country requirements (Section 2) or the RFP (Section 3) prior to arriving at the registered establishment, you must return to the appropriate Section and complete the procedure as written.  **Note:** Supporting documents must be uploaded into PEMS.   | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | no further documents are required at the time of inspection | **go to Step 6.** | | additional supporting documents are provided | **continue to Step 5.** | | not all supporting documents have been provided | * inform the client that they need to provide all required supporting documents prior to inspection occurring * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | |
| 5. | * Check that all the supporting documents you have received are valid as per the Exports process instruction: [*Supporting documents for plant exports*](#_Related_material)*.* * If the supporting documents are not in PEMS, take copies of the documents and upload them into PEMS.  | If all supporting documents are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | valid | * record the validation outcome for each supporting document * **continue to** **Step 6.** | | not valid | * record the validation outcome for each supporting document * inform the client that they need to provide valid supporting documents * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | |
| 6. | Check that the commodity listed on the RFP is the same as what has been presented for inspection.   | If the consignment... | Then... | | --- | --- | | matches the RFP | **go to Step 8.** | | does not match the RFP | **continue to Step 7.** | | |
| 7. | Inform the client that the commodity must match the RFP before the inspection can occur.   | If the client… | Then... | | --- | --- | | amends the consignment to match the RFP | **continue to Step 8.** | | amends the RFP in EXDOC to match the consignment | * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * if using PEMS, record a time entry and withdraw the inspection record * initiate the horticulture inspection record with the reloaded RFP information * **continue to Step 8.** | | does not amend the consignment or the RFP | * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * advise the client that you cannot proceed with the inspection * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | |
| 8. | For protocol consignments, where required by the protocol, check the accredited property farm and/or packhouse numbers listed on the RFP and the consignment labelling, and record the details in PEMS.  **Note:** For consignments to New Zealand, record the accredited property details in the comments section.   | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | the number/s validate correctly | **continue to Step 9.** | | the number/s do not validate correctly | * advise the client that this consignment is not permitted for export to the destination market * advise the client that you cannot proceed with the inspection * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_14:_How)**?** | | |
| 9. | If the consignment has an existing phytosanitary status (that is, it is from a pest-free area, pest free place of production, accredited property, or has been treated), check that the security of the consignment has and will be maintained in accordance with Exports process instruction: [*Maintenance of phytosanitary security for horticulture exports*](#_Related_material).   | If the consignment… | Then... | | --- | --- | | does not have a phytosanitary status | **continue to Section 6:** [**How do I inspect the commodity flowpath**](#_Section_6:_How)**?** | | * has a phytosanitary status * is secured | **continue to Step 10.** | | * has a phytosanitary status * is not secured | * inform the client that the consignment has lost its phytosanitary status * add relevant comments to the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | |
| 10. | Determine if the consignment has been transported since the phytosanitary status was attained.   | If the consignment has… | Then... | | --- | --- | | been transported after obtaining the phytosanitary status | * request a transfer record for the last movement * upload the document to PEMS * **continue to Step 11.** | | not been transported since obtaining the phytosanitary status | **continue to Section 6:** [**How do I inspect the commodity flowpath**](#_Section_6:_How)**?** | |
| 11. | Check that the transfer record is valid as per the Exports process instruction: [*Supporting documents for plant exports*](#_Related_material)*.*  **Note:** For more information regarding transfer records refer to Exports process instruction: [*Maintenance of phytosanitary security for horticulture exports*](#_Related_material)   | If the transfer record is… | Then... | | --- | --- | | valid | **continue to Section 6:** [**How do I inspect the commodity flowpath**](#_Section_6:_How)**?** | | not valid | * inform the client that the consignment has lost its phytosanitary status * add relevant comments to the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | |

### Section 6: How do I inspect the commodity flowpath?

The following table outlines how to inspect the commodity flowpath.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Determine the likely flowpath of the goods prior to and following inspection.  **Note:** Include the:   * processing line * the inspection area * storage areas * cool rooms * treatment areas * load-out area. |
| 2. | Check the flowpath to ensure there is no risk of the consignment becoming infested, contaminated or substituted before (if there is a phytosanitary status), during or after inspection.  **Note:** Some consignments may be subject to further phytosanitary security requirements during inspection, for example, irradiated and pest free area product.  **Refer** to Exports process instruction: Maintenance of phytosanitary security for further information.   | If the flowpath is… | Then... | | --- | --- | | compliant | * record the flowpath as ‘passed’ on the horticulture inspection record * **continue to** **Section 7:** [**How do I sample the consignment for inspection**](#_Section_7:_How)**?** | | non-compliant | * advise the client of the non-compliance * add relevant comments to the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * record the flowpath as ‘failed’ * **continue to Step 3.** | |
| 3. | Ask the client if the flowpath non-compliance will be rectified whilst you are on-site.   | If the issues... | Then... | | --- | --- | | are rectified whilst you are on-site | * **return to Step 1** and reinspect the flowpath * record how and when the issues were rectified in the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * record the flowpath result as ‘passed after rectification’ * **continue to Section 7:** [**How do I sample the consignment for inspection?**](#_Section_7:_How) | | cannot be rectified whilst you are on-site | * the consignment fails inspection * **go to Step 5 of Section 12:** [**How do I fail the inspection**](#_Section_12:_How)**?** | |

### Section 7: How do I sample the consignment for inspection?

The following table outlines how to sample the consignment for inspection.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Determine the sampling rate for the consignment.  **Note:** Sampling rates will be specified in Micor (and the protocol/work plan where applicable) if they differ from the departmental rates of:   * 600 units   or   * 2%.  | If the importing country... | Then... | | --- | --- | | specifies a sampling rate other than:   * 600 units   or   * 2% | * if using PEMS, record the sampling rate as ‘other’ and specify the rate * if not, record the sampling rate on the manual horticulture inspection record * **continue to Step 2.** | | * doesn’t specify a sampling rate   or   * only allows one of the approved rates | * ask the client to choose either a 600 unit or 2% sampling rate, where there is an option * record the chosen sampling rate on the horticulture inspection record as either 600 units or 2% * **continue to Step 2.** | |
| 2. | Ask the client to define:   * the lot/consignment (for example: a grower line, one hour pack, a shift (maximum 24 hours), number of pallets, bulk bins or similar) * the estimated pack time * the number of packages to be packed for the lot. |
| 3. | Using the table below, determine:   * how many units or packages will make up each sample * how often to draw a sample.   **Note:** The sampling intervals selected should be such that there is sufficient time to fully inspect the units as they are drawn, before the next sample is due to be taken.   | If the sampling rate selected is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | a number of units unpackaged (for example: 450 or 600 units) | * choose a time interval in which the samples will be taken (for example: every 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour) * divide the pack time by the chosen time interval (for example: 3-hour pack time divided by 30-minute sampling intervals equals 6 sampling events) * divide the required number of units by the number of total sampling events (for example: 600 units divided by 6 sampling events is 100 pieces of fruit required for each sample). | | a number of units packaged  (for example: 450 or 600 units) | * estimate the number of units per package (for example: 60 oranges per carton) * divide the required number of units by the number of units per package (for example: 600 units divided by 60 oranges equals 10 cartons required in total)   **Note:** Where the calculated number of packages is not a whole number, round the number of packages up   * select a minimum of 3 packages per lot/consignment unless ICRs specify a sampling rate, then a minimum number of packages does not apply * choose a time interval in which the samples will be taken (for example: every 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour) * divide the pack time by the chosen time interval (for example: 3-hour pack time divided by 40-minute sampling intervals equals 5 sampling events) * divide the required number of packages by the number of total sampling events (for example, 10 packages divided by 5 sampling events gives you 2 packages to take per sampling event). | | a percentage of packages (for example: 1% or 2%) | * calculate the percentage of the number of packages in the consignment (for example: 2% of 600 cartons expected to be packed is 12 cartons to sample)   **Note:** Where the calculated number of packages is not a whole number, round the number of packages up.   * select a minimum of 3 packages per lot/consignment unless ICRs specify a sampling rate, then a minimum number of packages does not apply * choose a time interval in which the samples will be taken (for example: every 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour) * divide the pack time by the chosen time interval (for example: 3-hour pack time divided by 30-minute sampling intervals equals 6 sampling events) * divide the required number of packages by the number of total sampling events (for example, 12 packages divided by 6 sampling events equals 2 cartons per sampling event). | |
| 4. | Using an approved sampling technique (random or systematic), select the packages or units of product to be inspected at the required time intervals.  **Important:** Samples must be drawn from a continuous production run, meaning no break in production for the same export destination(s). Exceptions include meal breaks, brief rest breaks, temporary machinery breakdown and brief power failures.  **Note:** For more information on the approved sampling techniques see Exports reference: [*Plant exports guide—sampling horticulture*](#_Related_material). |
| 5. | Identify the selected units or packages through any means acceptable to the client.  **Note:** This could be by removing or turning packages, making discrete marks or using stickers. |
| 6. | Record the following details in the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record:   * sampling start time * time each sample is taken * number of units/packages drawn for each sample * finish time for the lot. |
| 7. | * Ask the client to collect and move the selected units or packages to the inspection area.   **Note:** To achieve the sample required, the samples can be taken either:   * individually from the grader   or   * as packages from the processing line.   **Important:** The client is responsible for moving and repacking the goods. |
| 8. | **Continue to** **Section 8:** [**How do I inspect the sample**](#_Section_8:_How)**?** |

### Section 8: How do I inspect the sample?

The following table outlines how to inspect the sample.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Once the sample is on the bench, begin inspecting for pests and contaminants, using your inspection equipment as required.   | If the sample is… | Then... | | --- | --- | | packaged | * check the outside of the packaging * open the package and before handling the product, inspect the surface area whilst it is in the box * tip out or remove the product (even if the packaging is transparent) and inspect the inside of the packaging, including all inner linings and sub-packaging * **continue to Step 2.** | | unpackaged | **continue to Step 2.** | |
| 2. | Inspect the entire surface of each piece of product by turning it over, one unit at a time.  **Note:**   * Do not roll the pieces along the inspection bench as a means of inspection. * Inspect all recesses and sheltered sites on the outside of the product in detail, making sure there is adequate light to penetrate into these areas. * Use a magnifying lens of at least 10x magnification where required, for example to examine recesses, pest symptoms, inside the product or when a pest is found. * Where there are signs of internal feeders (such as holes, frass, damage, decay and softness) cut the product using a slicing or conical cut, to see if any pests are inside the product. * Inspect any remaining debris on the inspection bench for pests and contaminants. |
| 3. | Ensure you inspect the following commodities as follows:  **Note:** The importing country may require specific inspection techniques. Refer to specific protocols for further requirements such as cutting a sample of fruit.   | If the commodity is… | Then… | | --- | --- | | citrus | * for protocol markets: lift 10 per cent of calyces with a knife and look for live pests under the calyx * for non-protocol markets: only lift the calyx if you see signs of pests or infestation. | | grapes | * wear a mask and gloves (due to the sulphur dioxide pads in cartons) * turn the bunch over in the palm of your hand to allow it to fall open * inspect inside the bunch for signs of pests * where bunches are too tight to inspect, cut them open.   **Note:** Do not break grapes off a bunch and count them as additional bunches in the inspection count. | | mango | where the seed requires cutting by the importing country or because of mango seed weevil symptoms, ask the client to cut the mango longitudinally through the middle of the seed. | | bananas | break open tight bunches where you cannot see in between the bananas. | | leafy vegetables | * pull back the outer stalks or leaves and inspect for live pests and contaminates * use the shaking-and-tapping technique once you have inspected the outside surface. | | cut flowers and foliage | use the shaking-and-tapping technique once you have inspected the outside surface.  **Note:** This can be done holding more than one stem. | | tissue culture | hold each flask up to the light and inspect the substrate (usually agar) for discolouration that might indicate contamination or disease.  **Important:** do not open the sterile flasks. | | plants in potting mix | examine the potting medium. |   **Note:** For more information on inspection techniques for different commodities refer to Exports reference: [*Plant exports guide—horticulture inspection techniques*](#_Related_material). |
| 4. | Continue to inspect the sample as follows.   | If the sampling rate is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | a number of units unpackaged (for example: 450 or 600 units) | **continue to Step 5.** | | a number of units packaged (for example: 450 or 600 units) | * stop inspecting once you reach the required number of units, even if you are part way through a package.   **Note:** Empty the package and inspect the packaging but do not inspect the remaining units   * if the consignment is made up of less than 3 packages and the ICRs do not specify a sampling rate, inspect proportionally from each package in the consignment * if the three packages contain greater than the required number of units, sample a proportionate amount from each package to reach the required number of units (i.e. sample a maximum 200 units from each package if you need 600 units). * **continue to Step 5.** | | a percentage of packages (for example: 1% or 2%) | * inspect every unit in the selected sample packages * if the consignment is made up of less than three packages and the ICRs specify a sampling rate, then a minimum number of packages does not apply * **continue to Step 5.** | |
| 5. | Once the packing is complete and all samples have been inspected, ensure the final consignment matches the quantity and commodities listed on the RFP.   | If the consignment... | Then... | | --- | --- | | matches the RFP | **go to Step 7.** | | does not match the RFP | **continue to Step 6.** | |
| 6. | Inform the client that the consignment must match the RFP before you can pass the inspection.   | If the client... | Then... | | --- | --- | | amends the consignment to match the RFP | **continue to Step 7.** | | Amends the RFP in EXDOC to match the consignment | * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * if using PEMS, record a time entry and withdraw the inspection record * initiate the horticulture inspection record with the reloaded RFP information * populate the inspection record with the information entered into the withdrawn inspection record * **continue to Step 7.** | | Does not amend:   * the consignment   or   * the RFP | * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * advise the client that you cannot proceed with the inspection * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | |
| 7. | Check that the trade description on the packaging complies with:   * the trade description policy in the process instruction * any specific importing country requirements listed in Micor, for example accredited property number/s * where applicable, the protocol/work plan.   **Important:** If export labelling has not been applied to the consignment at the time of inspection, the AO must:   * sight the label which is yet to be applied to all cartons. The inspection cannot proceed if the export labelling cannot be verified. * confirm that some labels or identifying marks have been applied to all export pallets or bins to enable traceability. If this has not been applied, the consignment has not met phytosanitary security requirements and cannot proceed.  | If the trade description is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | compliant | * record trade description compliance on the horticulture inspection record * **continue to Step 8.** | | Non-compliant but rectified whilst you are on-site | * add relevant comments into the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * record trade description compliance on the horticulture inspection record * **continue to Step 8.** | | Non-compliant and not rectified whilst you are on-site | * inform the client that they need to meet the trade description requirements * add relevant comments to the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | | Suspected of being deliberately falsified | * request the client produce documentary evidence to support the description given * if not satisfied with the evidence provided, advise the department at [Horticulture Exports Program](#_Contact_information) * add relevant comments to the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | |
| 8. | Check the packaging complies with:   * the packaging material requirements in the process instruction * any specific importing country requirements listed in Micor * where applicable, the protocol/work plan.  | If the packaging material is... | Then... | | --- | --- | | compliant | **continue to** **Section 9:** [**How do I determine the inspection result**](#_Section_9:_How)**?** | | non-compliant | * inform the client that the packaging is not compliant * add relevant comments to the *comments* field of the horticulture inspection record * **go to** **Section 13:** [**How do I withdraw the inspection**](#_Section_13:_How)**?** | |

### Section 9: How do I determine the inspection result?

The following table outlines how to determine the inspection result.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Record inspection results and relevant comments in the horticulture inspection record whilst you are undertaking the inspection.  **Note:** Contaminants include more than 25 g of soil per sample taken for 2% inspections and 25 g of soil in the combined samples for the inspection lot for 600 unit inspections.   | If live pests and/or contaminants... | And the importing country... | Then... | | --- | --- | --- | | are found | prohibits reconditioning for any pest/contaminant | * stop the processing run * **continue to Step 2.** | | are found | has a pest list which the client can provide | * stop the processing run * **continue to Step 2.** | | are found | does not have a pest list | * stop the processing run * the consignment fails inspection * **go to Section 12:** [**How do I fail the inspection**](#_Section_12:_How)**?** | | are not found | n/a | * the consignment passes inspection * **go to** **Section 10:** [**How do I complete additional inspection tasks**](#_Section_10:_How)**?** | |
| 2. | Ask the client if they intend to recondition and present the consignment for reinspection or challenge a pest list, as they will require a formal pest/contaminant identification.  **Important:**   * Some protocols and/or workplans mandate that Authorised officers **must** notify the Horticulture Exports Program if certain pests are detected during inspection which may warrant suspension of the accredited block. AOs must be aware of these requirements when inspecting protocol product. * Where an AO suspects an interception of these pests, the suspected samples **must** be identified to accurately determine the pest intercepted.  | If… | And… | Then… | | --- | --- | --- | | yes | you can make an identification within your training and knowledge | **go to Step 6**. | | yes | you cannot make an identification | * a formal identification is required * **continue to Step 3.** | | no | n/a | * the consignment fails inspection * **go to Section 12:** [**How do I fail the inspection**](#_Section_12:_How)**?** | |
| 3. | Retrieve the pest or contaminant.  **Note**:   * Attempt to retrieve the pest without damaging it. * If retrieval without damage is not possible, the pest should be bottled still in, or on, the substrate in which it was found. * If the pest is left on the commodity, mark the sample in some way to assist the diagnostician in finding it. For example, if an egg is found on a piece of fruit, put a mark/dot/arrow on the fruit with a pen or permanent marker near where the egg was seen. |
| 4. | Secure the specimen for identification.   | If the specimen is… | Then… | | --- | --- | | an adult insect | put it in 80% ethanol in a sample vial. | | a juvenile stage insect (i.e. pupae or larvae) | blanch in water (greater than 70°C) for a few minutes and then drain and put in 80% ethanol inside a vial.  **Note:** The Hydrotaps or Miniboil in most lunch rooms are ideal. | | a large specimen that does not fit in a vial | double bag it in snap lock bags. | | a live nematode | put in tap water (not hot) inside a sample vial. | | a disease symptom | put in a snap lock bag, still on the substrate it was found (with no ethanol). | | a weed seed | place in an empty vial (with no ethanol). |   **Note:**   * Methylated spirits should be avoided in place of ethanol, as it hardens the specimens and makes identification difficult. * For more information on how to prepare a specimen for identification see Exports reference: [*Plant exports guide—specimen collection*](#_Related_material). |
| 5. | Label the specimen with the following information written in pencil:   * date and time * the RFP number followed by a, b, c etc. (depending on the number of samples submitted for that consignment) * the registered establishment number the inspection was done at * your name, AO number and signature * if the pest is alive * any known treatments that have been applied to the goods. |
| 6. | Once the pest or contaminant has been identified, compare it against the pest list or confirm it is not prohibited from being reconditioned.   | If pests and/or contaminants... | Then... | | --- | --- | | do not exceed tolerance levels | **continue to** **Section 10:** [**How do I complete additional inspection tasks**](#_Section_10:_How)**?** | | exceed tolerance levels | * the consignment fails inspection * **go to** **Section 12:** [**How do I fail the inspection**](#_Section_12:_How)**?** |   **Important**: If Queensland or Mediterranean fruit fly (alive or dead) is found in product from a fruit-fly pest-free area, immediately notify the department at [Horticulture Exports Program](#_Contact_information). |

### Section 10: How do I complete additional inspection tasks?

Additional requirements to be completed by the AO are detailed in the relevant importing country requirements or protocol/work plan.

The following table outlines how to complete additional inspection tasks.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Refer to Micor or the protocol/work plan to determine if you need to complete additional inspection tasks.  **Note:** This may include:   * recording labelling details * ensuring package security prior to leaving the inspection room * applying stickers or tape to packages or the container * empty container inspection * supervising loading into the final export container * sealing the container.  | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | no | **go to** **Section 11:** [**How do I pass the inspection**](#_Section_11:_How)? | | yes | **continue to Step 2**. |   **Important:**   * Where tasks are required as part of a supervised treatment, refer to the relevant treatment work instruction (for example Exports work instruction: [*Initiating an in-transit cold treatment for plant exports*](#_Related_material)). * Where a work instruction does not exist, refer to the protocol/work plan. |
| 2. | Ensure that any additional tasks required by the importing country are completed. |
| 3. | Record additional information on the horticulture inspection record, if required, including:   * container number * seal number. |
| 4. | **Continue to Section 11:** [**How do I pass the inspection**](#_Section_11:_How)**?** |

## Passing, failing and withdrawing the inspection

### Section 11: How do I pass the inspection?

The following table outlines how to pass the inspection.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Record the passed inspection result on the horticulture inspection record.   | If you are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | using PEMS | * add a time entry for your inspection activities * **continue to Step 2.** | | not using PEMS | * record your finish time on the manual horticulture inspection record * **continue to Step 2.** | |
| 2. | * Advise the client that the consignment has passed inspection. * Ask the client to * label the consignment as ‘passed for export’ * secure it from other product. |
| 3. | * Complete the remaining fields as per the Exports work instruction: [*Completing plant export inspection and treatment records*](#_Related_material). * Submit the inspection record and supporting documents.  | If you are… | Then… | | --- | --- | | using PEMS | * download and print, or email a copy of, the horticulture inspection record for the client (if they request it) * ensure the inspection record is checked in * submit the inspection record * **continue to Step 4.** | | not using PEMS | * provide a copy to the client * send a copy, along with any supporting documents, to [Assessment Services - Exports](#_Contact_information)   **Important:** Keep the original and copies of the supporting documents for a minimum of 2 years for audit purposes   * **continue to Step 4.** | |
| 4. | * For departmental AOs, invoice the client. * If you used PEMS, record the relevant invoice number under the *time entry* tab of the RFP record. * **End of inspection, do not continue.** |

### Section 12: How do I fail the inspection?

The following table outlines how to fail the inspection.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Identify the sampling rate used during the inspection.   | If the sampling rate is… | Then… | | --- | --- | | 600 units | * fail the entire consignment   **Note:** This includes:   * product already packed and previously sampled * product on the processing line * product in the lot that has not yet been processed. * record the failed inspection result on the horticulture inspection record, and the reasons why in the *comments* field * record the number and type of pests/contaminants found, if applicable * **continue to Step 2**. | | 2% | * fail all goods that have been packed since the last ‘passed’ sample was taken (or if only one sample has been taken, since packing started) * record the failed inspection result on the horticulture inspection record, and the reasons why in the *comments* field * record the number and type of pests/contaminants found (if applicable) * **go to Step 3**. | |
| 2. | * Advise the client * that the consignment has failed * the reasons why. * Ask them to * consolidate the lot * label it as ‘failed for export’ * secure it from other product. * **Go to Step 4.** |
| 3. | * Advise the client of * the failure * the reasons why. * Ask them to * remove the rejected goods from the consignment and place them in a designated area * label them as ‘failed for export’ * secure them from other product.  | If the client… | Then... | | --- | --- | | wants to continue the inspection | **return to** **Section 6: How do I inspect the commodity flowpath?** | | does not want to continue with the inspection | **continue to Step 4.** | |
| 4. | Ask the client if they intend to recondition the consignment.   | If the client... | And… | Then... | | --- | --- | --- | | intends to recondition | any pests found have not been identified | * prepare the pest/s for identification and provide the specimen to the client * **continue to Step 5**. | | intends to recondition | any pests found have already been identified | **continue to Step 5.** | | does not intend to recondition | n/a | **continue to Step 5.** |   **Note:**   * Reconditioning failed consignments is the responsibility of the client. * The requirements for reconditioning are in the exports process instruction: [*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material). |
| 5. | * Complete the remaining fields as per the Exports work instruction: [*Completing plant export inspection and treatment records*](#_Related_material)*.* * Submit the inspection record.  | If you are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | using PEMS | * add a time entry for your inspection activities * ensure the inspection record is checked in * submit the record * if requested, download and print (or email) a copy to the client. | | not using PEMS | * record your finish time on the horticulture inspection record * provide a copy to the client * send a copy, along with any supporting documents, to [Assessment Services - Exports](#_Contact_information) * keep the original and copies of the supporting documents for a minimum of 2 years for audit purposes. | |
| 6. | * For departmental AOs, invoice the client. * If you used PEMS, record the relevant invoice number under the *time entry* tab of the RFP record. * **End of inspection, do not continue**. |

### Section 13: How do I withdraw the inspection?

The following table outlines how to withdraw the inspection.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Record the withdrawal in the horticulture inspection record.   | If you are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | using PEMS | * select ‘withdraw’under the *actions* tab * add a time entry for your inspection activities * **continue to Step 2.** | | not using PEMS | * record ‘withdraw’ in the *comments* field on the horticulture inspection record * record your finish time on the horticulture inspection record * **continue to Step 2.** | |
| 2. | Advise the client:   * that the inspection has been withdrawn * the reasons why. |
| 3. | * Complete the remaining fields as per the Exports work instruction: [*Completing plant export inspection and treatment records*](#_Related_material). * Submit the inspection record and supporting documents.  | If you are... | Then... | | --- | --- | | using PEMS | download and print (or email) a copy to the client, if requested. | | not using PEMS | * provide a copy to the client * send a copy along with any supporting documents to [Assessment Services - Exports](#_Contact_information).   **Important:** Keep the original and copies of the supporting documents for a minimum of two years for audit purposes. | |
| 4. | * For departmental AOs, invoice the client. * If you used PEMS, record the relevant invoice number under the *time entry* tab of the RFP record. * **End of inspection, do not continue**. |

## Inspecting resubmitted goods

### Section 14: How do I inspect a resubmitted consignment?

The following table outlines how to inspect a resubmitted consignment.

| Step | Action |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Before inspecting, ensure that:   * the client has submitted a new RFP (if the composition of the consignment has changed), along with a copy of the original RFP and inspection record * the client has provided written notification that the consignment previously failed inspection, and the method of reconditioning applied * when applicable, the client has provided evidence that the treatment applied has treated the pest/s or contaminants found.   **Important:** Evidence of treatment effectiveness against a pest would only be required if an AO or the department had reason to believe that the chosen reconditioning treatment did not address the biosecurity risk found in the consignment. |
| 2. | Has the consignment been treated with a fumigant, chemical treatment or controlled atmosphere?   | If... | Then... | | --- | --- | | no | **continue to Step 3.** | | yes | * take a copy of the treatment certificate * check that the certificate is valid as per the Exports process instruction:[*Supporting documents for plant exports*](#_Related_material) * for fumigations, look at the gas-free certificate to determine the date and time of gas clearance (i.e. to ensure that any exposure, airing periods and safety precautions have been completed) * if the gas-free certificate is a separate document to the treatment certificate, take a copy of the gas-free certificate * **continue to Step 3.** | |
| 3. | Return to Step 3 of **Section 1**: [**How do I receive a request for inspection**](#_Section_1:_How)**?** to inspect the resubmitted consignment. |

## Related material

The following related material is available on the department’s website:

* Manual of Importing Country Requirements ([Micor](http://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Plants/Pages/Documents.aspx))
* [Micor Plants](https://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Plants/Pages/default.aspx) (importing country requirements, protocols and work plans)
* [Protocols, work plans](http://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Plants/Pages/Documents.aspx)
* [Plant Export Operations Manual](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plantexportsmanual/)
* Exports process instruction: *Inspection of horticulture for export*
* Exports process instruction: *Maintenance of phytosanitary security for horticulture exports*
* Exports process instruction: *Supporting documents for plant exports*
* Exports work instruction: *Completing plant export inspection and treatment records*
* Exports work instruction: *Initiating an in-transit cold treatment for plant exports*
* Exports reference: *Plant exports guide—horticulture inspection techniques*
* Exports reference: *Plant exports guide—equipment*
* Exports reference: *Plant exports guide—sampling horticulture*
* Exports reference: *Plant exports guide—specimen collection*
* Exports reference: *Horticulture inspection record*
* Exports reference: *Transfer record for horticulture exports*
* Exports reference: *Plant export documents and treatments checklist*
* Exports reference: *Plant Export Management System Authorised officer user guide*
* Exports reference: *Table of plant export protocol markets*
* Exports reference: *Table of authorised officer job functions.*
* Exports reference: *Work health and safety in the plant export environment*

Related WHS material is available on the [Instructional Material Library (IML)](http://iml.agdaff.gov.au/Pages/Topic/Plant%20exports.aspx) for departmental AOs.

## Contact information

* Authorised Officer Program: [PlantExportTraining@aff.gov.au](mailto:PlantExportTraining@aff.gov.au)
* Authorised Officer Hotline: 1800 851 305
* Horticulture Exports Program: [HorticultureExports@aff.gov.au](mailto:HorticultureExports@aff.gov.au)
* Assessment Services Exports: [PlantExportsNDH@aff.gov.au](mailto:PlantExportsNDH@aff.gov.au)
* Micor administrator: [MicorPlants@aff.gov.au](mailto:MicorPlants@aff.gov.au).

## Document information

The following table contains administrative metadata.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Instructional Material Library document ID** | IMLS-9-3497 |
| **Instructional material owner** | Director, Horticulture Exports Program, Plant Export Operations Branch |
| **Risk rating** | Medium |
| **Review period** | Due for review within 3 years of the most recent approved date. |

## Version history

The following table details the published date and amendment details for this document.

| Version | Date published | Date last approved | Review type | Summary of review |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 | 22/09/2017 | 22/09/2017 | New document. | First publication of this work instruction. |
| 2.0 | 29/09/2018 | 29/09/2018 | Major change | Updated pest identification tasks. |
| 3.0 | 23/10/2018 | 23/10/2018 | Major change | Amended phytosanitary security, work health and safety and HEP email address. |
| 4.0 | 15/08/2019 | 15/08/2019 | Major change | Amended section 2, step 2 and section 5, step 9. |
| 5.0 | 28/03/2021 | 28/03/2021 | Major change | Amendments made for the commencement of the *Export Control Act 2020* and subordinate Plant Rules. |
| 6.0 | 6/11/2024 | 6/11/2024 | Major change | Amendments to include PEMS updates. |

## Appendix A: Definitions

The following table defines terms used in this document.

**Note:** More definitions can be found in Exports process instruction:[*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material) (the Exports process instruction).

| Term | Definition |
| --- | --- |
| Accredited property | The recognition of a property complying with the departmental standards and importing-country requirements for accreditation.  **Note:** This may be referred to as registration or approval in protocol documents. |
| Grower | Individual or business that produces horticulture for export. |
| In-line sampling | A sampling method used whereby the AO removes samples of the goods for inspection from the production line at defined intervals.  **Note:** The goods may or may not be in packages at the time of sampling. |
| Line | A quantity of goods of a single type, identifiable by its homogeneity of composition and origin, forming part of a consignment and reflected as one line on a notice of intention (request for permit). |
| Lot | Units of a single commodity, identifiable by its homogeneity of composition and origin, defined during in-line sampling. |
| Packhouse | Facility where horticulture is washed, graded and packed for export. |
| Protocol | A government-to-government document that specifies import requirements and is bilaterally agreed to by Australia and the importing country authority.  **Note:** Countries in which Australia has an agreed protocol with are referred to as ‘protocol markets’. For a list of protocol markets see Reference: [*Table of plant export protocol markets*](#_Related_material). |
| Recess | Parts on produce which are hard to see because light does not reach them, or they are hidden from view.  **Note:** Examples include:   * underneath the calyx of a strawberry * in-between the scale leaves that make up the crown of a pineapple * the navel of an orange * the petals of a flower * the rough surface area of a plant stem. |
| Treatment facility | Facility where phytosanitary treatments are performed. |
| Unit | An individual item that is considered to represent a single item of the good for the purposes of sampling and inspection.  **Note:** Examples include:   * Fruit and vegetables: 1 apple, 1 blueberry, 1 bunch of grapes (a bunch of grapes is defined as 3 or more grapes), 1 banana, 1 asparagus spear, 1 dried apricot. * Cut flowers and nursery stock: 1 flower stem, 1 plant, 1 cutting, 1 bulb * Tissue culture: 1 flask, 1 tube, 1 jar. |

## Appendix B: Legislation and related policy frameworks

The legislation that applies to the inspection of horticulture for export can be found in the Exports process instruction: [*Inspection of horticulture for export*](#_Related_material).