

## **Procedures and Conditions for the Import of High Health Olive Plants Produced Under the Specific Commodity Understanding (SCU)**

The following requirements and conditions apply to the import of high health olive plants (tissue cultures, cuttings or rooted plants) produced under the SCU for olive plants. These conditions are in addition to the conditions specified in the SCU.

The following sources are currently approved to export high health olive plants produced under the SCU:

Rahan Meristem, Ha-Niqra, Western Galilee, Israel  
CO.RIPR.OL, Pescia, Toscana, Italy  
Antinori Nursery, Montefalco (Perugia), Umbria, Italy

(Note: Other sources will be added to this list when AQIS is notified by the National Plant Protection Organisation that the new source meets the conditions of the SCU.)

### **1. PRIOR TO IMPORTING PLANTS**

#### **Importer's Responsibilities**

- a) Importer must be in receipt of a valid Import Permit prior to importing any plants.
- b) **Prior** to entering into commercial contracts or importing any plants, importers are advised to contact their local Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) Office and obtain approval for the proposed quarantine sites and to discuss all arrangements for the importation and inspection of consignments.
- c) Advance notice (of at least 7 days) of impending consignments must be given to AQIS so that AQIS can ensure that resources are available for inspections.
- d) Importer must comply with all quarantine instructions.
- e) In addition to the above, the following pre-shipment requirements apply to **tissue cultures**:
  - (i) Transport receptacles must be sterile and rigid; and must be of a visually clear construction to allow inspection of the cultures and media.
  - (ii) Growth media must be clear, sterile and not liquid; and it must have been introduced into the containers prior to tissue implantation and growth.
  - (iii) Material and growth media must be free from disease symptoms and other extraneous contamination.
  - (iv) Growth media must not contain antibiotics or other microbial suppressants.
  - (v) The containers must be labelled with the botanical name of the plants.

### **2. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE AND ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS**

### Importer's Responsibilities

a) A Government Phytosanitary Certificate containing the following declarations must accompany each consignment:

“The mother trees were inspected, sampled and tested in the manner specified in the SCU between the NPPO\* and AQIS dated XXXX and found free from quarantine pests and diseases, including viruses and olive knot bacteria (*Pseudomonas savastanoi* pv. *savastanoi*)”

AND

“All export plants (tissue cultures, cuttings or rooted plants) in the consignment were produced from approved mother trees and treated in the manner specified in the SCU between the NPPO\* and AQIS dated XXXX”

(\*Note: NPPO = National Plant Protection Organisation)

### **3. ON-ARRIVAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT PROCEDURES**

#### Importer's Responsibilities

- a) A Quarantine Entry must be lodged for each consignment.
- b) All consignments and accompanying documentation must be presented to AQIS for inspection and verification.

#### Quarantine Procedures

- i) The documentation must be carefully examined to ensure that it reconciles with the consignment and to verify that the SCU conditions have been met.
- ii) All consignments are subject to inspection on arrival in accordance with the following guidelines.

#### **A. Tissue cultures**

- 1. All tissue cultures in the consignment must be visually inspected for any disease symptoms or bacterial and fungal contamination.
- 2. Any contaminated cultures are to be referred to the AQIS Plant Pathologist or an AQIS-approved plant pathologist for pest or pathogen identification at the importer's expense.

#### **B. Cuttings and rooted plants**

- 1. The following sampling plan is to be used to determine the number of plants to be selected for detailed examination:

Number of Plants in	Sample Size
---------------------	-------------

Consignment	
1-6000	Inspect at least 600 plants selected at random from the entire consignment
6000+	Inspect at least 10% of plants from each box

2. Selected plants are to be visually inspected for live insects, disease symptoms (particularly galls) and any other material of quarantine concern. Growth media (eg perlite, vermiculite, rockwool, etc.) **must** be removed to enable a thorough examination of the roots. At least 10% of the sampled plants are to be microscopically examined (40 X with a cold light source) for the presence of live insects, mites and arthropod eggs.

**Note:** Rockwool may be difficult to remove without damaging roots and as a result, importers should be advised to consider not using it.

3. Any disease symptoms are to be referred to the AQIS Plant Pathologist or an AQIS-approved plant pathologist for identification at the importer's expense.
4. If **any** live insects, mites or other invertebrates are detected, the entire consignment must either be fumigated with methyl bromide (T9060), destroyed or re-exported at the importer's expense. Any interceptions are to be referred to the AQIS Entomologist or an AQIS-approved entomologist for identification.
5. If **no** live insects, mites or other invertebrates are detected, all plants in the consignment must be immersed for 1 minute in a freshly prepared pesticide mixture consisting of imidacloprid (Confidor) plus a summer oil. Following removal from the dip, the plants must be allowed to dry naturally. The plants must not be washed prior to the dip mixture drying.

**Note:** The importer is responsible for purchasing all chemicals and for dipping the plants using general procedural recommendations under respective legislation for safe and effective use of these pesticides. This process is to be conducted under quarantine supervision.

6. All used packaging material must be collected, retained and destroyed by an AQIS-approved method.

iii) The AQIS Inspecting officer must ensure that results of inspections are recorded on the Quarantine Entry and that interception forms are completed for any live insects or disease symptoms detected.

iv) AQIS reserves the right to audit consignments for the presence of quarantine pests and diseases. The AQIS Inspecting officer must contact the AQIS Plant Pathologist to determine whether any samples will be required for auditing.

#### **4. TRANSFER OF PLANTS FROM AQIS OFFICE TO AQIS-APPROVED PREMISES/OPEN QUARANTINE SITE**

##### Quarantine Procedures

- i) A Quarantine movement authority (either a Quarantine Entry or a PI1044 form) must be issued authorising the movement of the plants/tissue cultures to the AQIS-approved premise or open quarantine site where the plants are to perform quarantine.
- ii) Plants must be transported in a secure manner in an enclosed vehicle from the AQIS inspection depot to the AQIS-approved quarantine premise or open quarantine site.
- iii) On arrival at the AQIS-approved premise or open quarantine site the plants are to be unpacked within the designated 'quarantine area'. All residues and unwanted plant material must be collected and retained for disposal by an AQIS-approved method.
- iv) All consignments of tissue cultures must be deflasked and the plants subjected to the requirements outlined in this document.

#### **5. CRITERIA FOR OPEN QUARANTINE SITES AND FACILITIES**

Premises are to be located within range of quarantine supervision and inspection of plants by specialists as required, nominally 100km. Applications from establishments located outside this area will be subject to approval by the Regional Manager in conjunction with AQIS Canberra Office.

The criteria are dependent on whether the plants are to be grown in an open quarantine site (ie. field planting) or at an AQIS-approved facility (eg. greenhouse/shadehouse). The requirements for each are as follows:

##### **5.1. Open Quarantine Sites (ie. field plantings)**

- i) Each open quarantine site to be used for the purposes of growing imported olive plants must be approved by AQIS.
- ii) The open quarantine site must be isolated by at least 500 metres from other olive plantings.
- iii) The open quarantine site must be clearly defined and sign-posted as a 'Quarantine Area'.
- iv) Access to the quarantine area is to be limited to those persons required to work in the area. Members of the public are not permitted entry.
- v) The importer is responsible for demonstrating to AQIS that adequate security arrangements are in place to prevent the unauthorised removal of, or interference with, imported plants. As a general guide, AQIS accepts that if the larger premise on

which the quarantine area is located is secure, then it is not necessary to fence the quarantine area.

Where there is a danger of plants being removed or interfered with by unauthorised persons, the importer is to ensure that all reasonable measures (eg. fencing, screening, etc.) are taken to secure the quarantine area.

## **5.2. Screenhouses/shadehouses or other similar structures**

i) Each facility/structure to be used for the purposes of growing imported olive plants must be approved by AQIS. Screenhouses/shadehouses must consist entirely of screencloth so as to allow the unrestricted movement of air through the facility. (Note: These facilities do not have to be insect proof.)

ii) The facility/structure must be clearly sign-posted as a 'Quarantine Area'. Access to the quarantine area is to be limited to those persons required to work in the area. Members of the public are not permitted entry.

iii) The importer is responsible for demonstrating to AQIS that adequate security arrangements are in place to prevent the unauthorised removal of, or interference with, imported plants. As a general guide, AQIS accepts that if the larger premise on which the quarantine area is located is secure, then it is not necessary to fence the quarantine area.

Where there is a danger of plants being removed or interfered with by unauthorised persons, the importer is to ensure that all reasonable measures (eg. fencing, screening, locks, etc.) are taken to secure the quarantine area.

iv) The AQIS-approved facility/structure must be used solely for the purposes of post-entry quarantine growth of imported olive plants.

v) The approved facilities/structures must be isolated by at least 500 metres from other olive plantings.

vi) Hygiene at the facilities is to be maintained at all times so as not to impede any inspection of plants.

## **6. POST-ENTRY QUARANTINE HANDLING AND TREATMENT PROCEDURES**

### Importer's Responsibilities

a) Importer is responsible for maintaining accurate records of all imported plants including:

- Quarantine Entry and Import Number
- number of plants imported and their dates of importation
- inspection dates
- treatment details
- deaths of plants

- movement and location of all plants
- release dates

b) These records must be kept and produced to AQIS upon request.

c) Importer remains responsible and accountable to AQIS for the plants until they have been released from quarantine.

d) Importer is responsible for all AQIS charges and for arranging all necessary inspections while plants are under quarantine.

e) Importer is responsible for developing and implementing a stock control system to keep track of all plants while they are under quarantine. This system must be discussed and agreed upon in advance with the local AQIS office.

### Quarantine Procedures

i) All plants must be grown under quarantine for a minimum period of 12 months in either:

- an AQIS-approved screenhouse/shadehouse (or other similar structure approved by AQIS); or
- at an AQIS-approved open quarantine site.

**NOTE: Requirements for each were outlined in Section 5 above.**

ii) Imported plants must be grown in the AQIS-approved 'quarantine area(s)' at all times. Plants are not to be removed from these areas without AQIS-approval. No other plants other than those performing post-entry quarantine are to be kept in the AQIS-approved quarantine areas.

iii) In the initial stage of post-entry quarantine, plants may be grown in an AQIS-approved closed facility (eg. glasshouse) for the purposes of establishing plants (ie. growing out of tissue culture, striking cuttings and hardening off). After the plants have been sufficiently established, they must then be transferred to an AQIS-approved open quarantine site or screenhouse/shadehouse for the commencement of the 12 months post-entry quarantine growth. (Plants must be grown for a minimum of 12 months in an environment that exposes them to weather conditions to enable any disease expression to occur. Glasshouses and other similar closed facilities generally do not provide environments conducive for the expression of diseases such as olive knot.)

iv) Each consignment of plants grown in the approved premises must be separated and clearly labelled with the variety name and import date. The method of identifying each consignment must be decided and agreed upon in consultation with AQIS. There must be sufficient spacing between rows to enable inspection of the plants by AQIS.

v) Imported plants must be maintained in good health and relatively free from weeds and endemic pests and diseases so as not to impede inspection for any quarantine diseases.

vi) All plants imported as rooted cuttings must be treated with a nematicide (T9280) under AQIS supervision within two weeks of planting. This requirement does not apply to plants imported as tissue cultures or unrooted cuttings.

vii) Fungicides (except copper-based sprays) can be used with the prior approval of AQIS.

viii) Bactericides (eg. copper-based formulations) are not to be used on the plants as they may suppress the development of olive knot disease symptoms.

ix) Any plant(s) that die while in quarantine are to be retained for inspection by AQIS. Where applicable, soil and pots containing dead plants are to be collected and retained for inspection by AQIS. Following prior approval from AQIS, all dead plants, soil and pots must be disposed of by an AQIS-approved method.

x) Pruning of plants may only occur with prior approval from AQIS. Pruning will only be approved provided that AQIS is satisfied that such actions will not mask any disease symptoms. All residue material (ie. pruned branches) are to be collected and retained for disposal by an AQIS-approved method.

xi) Propagation of plants will not be permitted whilst they are under quarantine.

xii) AQIS will suspend approval of premises that have failed to comply with these conditions.

## **7. POST-ENTRY QUARANTINE INSPECTIONS**

### Quarantine Procedures

i) An AQIS inspector or an AQIS-approved plant pathologist must inspect the imported plants for freedom from quarantine diseases at **monthly intervals** in the **first three months** and at **three monthly intervals thereafter**. Inspections should be timed such that the final inspection is within one week of releasing plants from quarantine.

ii) AQIS will ensure that the plant pathologist or inspector is familiar with symptoms of olive diseases of quarantine concern to Australia.

iii) The following sampling plan is to be used to determine the number of plants to be selected for detailed examination:

- a) **Plants grown in an open quarantine site (ie. field plantings):** A transect is to be established through the plantings in such a way as to randomly select a minimum of 600 plants for detailed examination for the presence of any disease symptoms. A different transect is to be established on each occasion that plants are to be inspected.

- b) Plants grown in pots within a screenhouse/shadehouse (or other approved facility):** A minimum sample of 600 plants is to be randomly selected from the consignment for detailed examination for the presence of any disease symptoms.

- iv) The inspecting officer must record the results of all inspections.
- v) Plants exhibiting disease symptoms must be referred to the AQIS Plant Pathologist or to an AQIS-approved plant pathologist for identification. All disease interceptions must be reported to AQIS Canberra office for further advice on the action to be taken.
- vi) In the event that a quarantine disease or pest is suspected or confirmed, the AQIS Canberra office is to be advised immediately.
- vii) All inspections and disease identifications are at the expense of the importer.
- viii) AQIS reserves the right to collect samples of imported plants for the purposes of auditing for the presence of disease.
- ix) In the event that a quarantinable pest/disease is detected and provided the circumstances warrant such action, AQIS may order the destruction of all plants in the quarantine area.

## **8. RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE**

### Quarantine Procedures

- i) Following 12 months growth in an AQIS-approved screenhouse/shadehouse (or other similar structure approved by AQIS) or at an AQIS-approved open quarantine site and provided no quarantine pest or disease is found, plants may be released from quarantine.
- ii) Plants that have been grown in pots in a screenhouse/shadehouse (or other approved structure) must be removed from the 'quarantine area' and placed in another area at least 500m from any other olive plants that may be under quarantine.
- iii) The importer may request a pre-release inspection 14 days prior to anticipated date of release to pre-empt any disease issues before the final release inspection.