

REGISTER OF SEED IMPORTERS – GENERAL INFORMATION

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

BIOSECURITY TASMANIA

<https://dpiwpe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania>

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What is the Register of Seed Importers?

Import Requirement 36 – Seed for Sowing (IR36) of Tasmania's *Plant Biosecurity Manual* sets out conditions that apply to all seed imported into Tasmania under the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*. A condition in IR36 states that importers must provide a Statement of Seed Analysis, issued by an accredited seed testing laboratory, to Biosecurity Tasmania. The Statement must certify the seed as being free of species that are Declared Weeds in Tasmania. In some circumstances, obtaining a Statement of Seed Analysis for small quantities of seed may be difficult.

The **Register of Seed Importers** (the Register) is one of two alternatives to a Statement of Seed Analysis available under IR36 to Tasmanian importers who wish to import seed (of a single line) in quantities of 1kg or less. The Register recognises the capability and willingness of certain businesses, organisations and private importers to share responsibility for managing risks posed by weeds and diseases that may be introduced into Tasmania via small quantities of imported seed.

The other alternative to a Statement of Seed Analysis is the **Approved Suppliers List** (the List). This is a list of Australian and overseas businesses and organisations that distribute seed in small quantities and which has production practices, quality control systems or other protocols that reduce the chance of weed seeds and disease being present in seed lots to a level acceptable to the Tasmanian Government.

The Register and the List are complementary. While anyone may import seed of 1kg or less without a Statement of Seed Analysis from an Approved Supplier on the List, the Register is for importers who wish to obtain seed from sources not on the List. To become registered, an importer must demonstrate in their application an ability to comply with a specific set of seed handling procedures that ensure potential weed risks are adequately managed.

The Register and the List operate together to help safeguard Tasmania from Declared Weed and disease incursions.

Importantly, the Register and the List also provide practical and efficient options for importers of small quantities of seed because the need for Biosecurity Tasmania to inspect the seed on arrival is substantially reduced. Apart from periodic verification (audit) inspections, seed obtained from an approved supplier or consigned to a registered importer will not generally be subject to examination by Biosecurity Tasmania for weed seed and disease presence. Conversely, seed imports of 1kg or less that do not originate from an approved supplier or are not consigned to a registered importer will be subject to examination and may subsequently be referred for laboratory testing, re-export or destruction.

While the List and the Register provide alternatives to the Statement of Seed Analysis, neither removes the obligation of importers of seed lots of 1kg or less to comply with all other conditions set out in IR36 and any other IRs where applicable.

Who can apply to become a registered seed importer?

Anyone who anticipates sourcing seed from suppliers not on the List may apply for admission to the Register. Examples of importers who may become registered include, but are not limited to:

- Businesses or research institutions who undertake local condition trialling using elite or other rare seed varieties,
- Specialist nurseries and seed traders who deal in rare vegetables or ornamental plants,
- Horticultural societies or clubs who procure seed from organisations or exchanges outside Tasmania,
- Plant collectors and enthusiasts.

Prior to submitting an application to become a Registered Importer, please consider whether you are able to source the seed locally from within Tasmania, or from a seller on the Approved Suppliers List.

Period of registration

Registration is via a one-time application. However, Biosecurity Tasmania will cancel an importer's registration in the event of any non-compliance with conditions of registration or Tasmanian or Australian biosecurity laws. Biosecurity Tasmania may undertake audits (announced or unannounced) of importers to ensure compliance with requirements. Penalties may apply where importers are found to be non-compliant.

Fees

There is no charge for admission to the Register of Seed importers.

Please note: It is a requirement that a Notice of Intention (see the IR36) must be submitted for every consignment of seeds imported into Tasmania. A fee-for-service will be raised by Biosecurity Tasmania for documentary processing.

For further information contact Biosecurity Tasmania



APPLICATION FORM: TASMANIAN REGISTER OF SEED IMPORTERS

Once this application has been completed in full and signed, please return it and the supporting documentation to biosecurity.marketaccess@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name: _____

Company/Organisation (where applicable): _____

ABN (where applicable): _____

Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone/Email: _____

Reason/s for application: _____

Professional or personal seed importation experience: _____

Horticultural or Agricultural Industry or Association Affiliation/Membership or Accreditation (attach copy of current membership card or statement, if applicable): _____

The following must be supplied along with this application and declaration:

- Proof of subscription to the Biosecurity Update emails (link in Section (c))
- Photo / Description of inspection area where the seed inspections in Section (l) will take place
- A copy of the logbook or spreadsheet which will be maintained for imports
- A list of intended suppliers (if applicable)

APPLICANT DECLARATION

I, _____ (full name)
of _____
_____ (address and business name)

request admission to the Register of Seed Importers, and in doing so I agree to:

KNOWLEDGE OF SEED IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

- a) Maintain an up-to-date understanding of Tasmanian and Australian Biosecurity requirements for seed for sowing to ensure any seed imported in quantities of 1 kg or less meets all relevant state and national import requirements.
- b) Maintain a current copy of the *Plant Biosecurity Manual Tasmania* (electronic copies are permitted) and have read and understood Part 2 (General Requirements), Import Requirement 36 – Seed for Sowing, Appendix I.1 List A and List B Declared Pests and Diseases, and any other relevant import requirements, such as those relating to Restricted Seeds, therein.
- c) Register at <https://dpiwve.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania> to receive Tasmanian biosecurity updates by email.

RESTRICTED SEED REQUIREMENTS

- d) Requirements for seeds that are classified as restricted seeds (pea, lupin, chick pea, canola) under the Plant Quarantine Act 1997 must still be met (various IRs in the Manual).
- e) No seeds of plants that are listed as Prohibited under the PQA 1997 (Appendix I: List A & B in the Manual), the Seed Regulations 2010 (Schedule 1) or the Poisons Act 1971 are to be imported into Tasmania.

SEED IMPORTATION, EXAMINATION, REPORTING AND RECORD REQUIREMENTS

- f) A Notice of Intention must be submitted for each consignment;
- g) Consignments of seed must be 1 kg or less per line;
- h) All consignments are to be marked in legible text “Attention Biosecurity Tasmania”;
- i) All imported seeds must be labelled with botanical name and common name, and name and address of supplier and of the consignee;
- j) Seed carried on a person or in personal baggage accompanying a person entering Tasmania must be presented for inspection to Biosecurity Tasmania at the permitted point of entry (*i.e. airport or seaport*);
- k) Maintain a clean, well ordered, enclosed and draught-free area for examining imported seed prior to use or further distribution. The examination area must be equipped with a clean bench, a lamp or other adequate light source and a white tile or tray upon which seed can be spread out for examination;
- l) An examination must be conducted on the entire, or a sufficiently representative sample, of all imported seed lots for:
 - i) Identity (*ie. seed must appear to be of the type ordered, so far as you know*)
 - ii) Homogeneity (*ie. the seed must appear to be of the same type*)
 - iii) Seed condition (*ie. seed must be free of mould, lesions, of regular size and shape and have no other potential signs of disease*)
 - iv) Presence of material of potential Biosecurity concern (*ie. seed must be free of insects, frass, cocoons, soil, leaf or stem material, fruit pulp, pod or capsule fragments, faeces, feathers or other animal matter etc.*)
- m) Double bag, immediately, any seed that does not satisfy any of the conditions in f) in plastic zip-lock bags, store it securely and contact Biosecurity Tasmania as soon as practicable.
- n) Maintain a log book or spreadsheet of all seed imports (*must include date of arrival, supplier, type of seed, quantity and examination results. Where seed is being on-sold or distributed, a record of all other relevant documentation related to importation should also be maintained with the log*).

AUDIT

- o) I understand that I may be audited by Biosecurity Tasmania and that this may occur without prior notice.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO PROVIDE FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

I declare that the information provided on this form to be true and correct in every regard to the best of my knowledge

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only

Date Assessed: _____

Application # _____

Officer: _____

Signature: _____

Comment:

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Personal information on this form is collected from you for the purpose of importing / exporting produce into Tasmania under the Plant Quarantine Act 1997. This information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies also involved with the enforcement of requirements under this legislation, or where necessary, for the efficient use and storage of the information. Personal information is managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to DPIPWE. You may be charged a fee for this service. Sept 2019