



PLANT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRIES AND FISHERIES
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Import procedures for Plants, Plant parts and Plant products into Suriname

Although Suriname is participating in the globalization and the trade liberalization process, the import of agricultural products is regulated by the National Plant Protection Ordinance (GB.1965, no.:102). Here to, an import application form,; Phytosanitary Import Permit, is developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries for users who wants to import any agriculture product.

All applications are processed by the Plant Quarantine Department, which include a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). Only in the case of low or non-risk a permit will be granted, including the additional requirements which the importer's consignment should meet viz. a valid phytosanitary certificate, issued by a competent and recognized government authority of the exporting country, and eventually when necessary an appropriate quarantine treatment.

Upon arrival of the consignment, the importer should notify the Plant Quarantine Department of such, since inspection is mandatory. Only when the Quarantine Inspector conclude that the consignment is free from any quarantine pest and the documents needed are in compliance with the additional requirements, an Import Inspection Voucher will be issued, so that the Customs Department could clear the commodities to enter in the "free traffic".

In case a pest of quarantine importance and/or a regulated non-quarantine pest is intercepted, the Inspector can demand a quarantine treatment or seize and destroy the consignment. This depends on the level of risk said consignment could pose to Suriname's agriculture sector.

Plant Quarantine regulations for the Import of Tissue culture –PB.WP-06.11

Importer's Responsibilities

1. Importer must be in receipt of a valid Permit to import plants prior to the said plants being landed in Suriname
2. The cultures must be free from any bacterial or fungal infection, live insects, disease symptoms or other extraneous contamination of quarantine concern.
- 3 The tissue culture laboratories from the exporting countries needs to submit documentation that they are following required sanitation protocols and take into consideration phytosanitary and quality concerns in the production of plant materials. These protocols/ documentation should also include appropriate indexing procedures with the aim of producing virus-tested material.

All tissue culture containers must be either:

- labelled with the full botanical name of the plant including genus and species.
4. the accompanying documentation (eg. packing list, Phytosanitary certificates, invoices etc) and labels on the consignments must correspond and the documentation must clearly identify the plants by their botanical names
 5. if the documentation does not match the consignment, or if the documentation does not clearly provide the botanical name, then the consignment is to be held and the importer advised to supply further information or details to verify the identification of the plants.
 6. Transport receptacles must be sterile and rigid and must be of a visually clear construction to allow inspection of the cultures and media. Growth media must not contain antibiotics or other microbial suppressants.
 7. All plant material must be grown and tested at a post entry quarantine facility approved by the Plant Quarantine Department instructed to the importer.

Suriname doesn't have a well established and equipped post entry quarantine facilities that's why it is important for the importer to be responsible to confirm with all the instructed arrangements made by the Plant Quarantine Department.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

- a) Consignment(s) MUST be accompanied by a valid Phytosanitary Certificate from the country of origin and issued and signed by an officer of the Department of Agriculture of the country of origin and stating treatments given.
- b) The Certificate must be issued not more than seven (7) days prior to shipments.
- c) Material shall be free of SOIL, TRASH, ORGANIC MATTER, PLANT PESTS and DISEASE.
- d) Material shall arrive in new, sturdy/sealed/fully labeled containers/bags.
- e) Sample of material shall be forwarded on arrival for Post-Entry Inspection.
- f) Inspection on arrival by Plant Quarantine officer/Plant Pathologist and any other treatment as may be necessary.

Post entry quarantine Procedures

All consignments must be visually inspected on arrival by a Quarantine officer for freedom from bacteria and fungal infection, disease symptoms, live insects and other extraneous contamination of quarantine concern. Any infected or contaminated material shall be held and referred to the Plant Quarantine Lab diagnostic unit for assessment and advice on the action to be taken.

If the above conditions are met and the material is found to be free of bacterial or fungal infection and any other contamination of quarantine concern, all material must be contained and securely packaged to the satisfaction of a Quarantine officer and forwarded directly to the instructed post entry quarantine facility

The mother plants are to be grown in post-entry quarantine for a minimum for a certain period depends on the variety (and until the required disease screening/testing is completed) with general disease screening, virus indexing and including growth in open quarantine for bacterial screening.

During growth in post-entry quarantine the plants must be visually inspected at least once every month and immediately prior to release to check for symptoms. If any plants

are suspected to be showing signs of quarantine species, the Quarantine Officer must culture the fungus and send samples for morphological characterisation to an accredited Lab., at the importers expense. All remaining plants in the consignment must be held and not released until the results of the test are confirmed.

Any plants found to be infected with quarantine species must be destroyed.

No material will be released from quarantine until all testing and screening procedures have been completed and the material is screened for and found negative for quarantine pathogens.