

BAHAMAS

Leitfaden für die Einfuhr von Pflanzen und Pflanzenerzeugnissen

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Die Wiedergabe erfolgt ohne Gewähr.

Guidelines for the Importation of Plants and Plant Products

Plants, plant products and other regulated articles (include but are not limited to – plants, trees, shrubs, Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, seeds, sod/grass, fruits, vegetables, wood & straw handicraft, cut flowers, bulbs etc.) may be imported into The Bahamas under the following conditions:

1. An Import Permit from the Department of Agriculture through the MyGateway Portal, must be obtained that specifies The Bahamas' import requirements.
2. A Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country in accordance with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 12 (ISPM 12). The phytosanitary certificate must include the following where applicable:
 1. Sufficient detail to enable identification of the consignment and its component parts. Information must include country and state/place of origin;
 2. The scientific name of the plant species;
 3. Full details of any treatments applied;
 4. A certifying statement, or a variation that is compliant with ISPM 12.
3. A Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) may be conducted if the commodity has never been previously imported into The Bahamas or the commodity originates from a country or region not previously approved.
4. If the commodity is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), it meets the additional requirements.
5. The commodity meets the following packaging and shipping requirements:
 1. A typed list/invoice should accompany each consignment with the name of the collector/shipper and the scientific names (genus, species, and if possible, variety). Foreign language names and regional names are not acceptable. Plants or bundles of plants should be individually labeled. If different products within a consignment originate in different countries or places, or if products are mixed, blended or bulked, all countries or places should be indicated;
 2. Packaging material must be new, sterile and sturdy. If wood packaging is used, this should be treated, certified and comply with ISPM 15 on Wood Packaging Materials. Plants or plant products which have been wrapped, coated, dipped, sprayed, or otherwise packaged in plastic, wax or other impermeable material that prevents adequate inspection or treatment may be refused entry;

3. The shipment is free from sand, soil, earth, and other growing media, foreign matter or debris, and living organisms such as parasitic plants, pathogens, insects, snails, and mites (extraneous matter).
6. Upon arrival to The Bahamas, shipments will be inspected to ensure they meet import requirements. If the consignment does not meet the conditions above, then the shipment will be refused entry.

Any plant or plant product imported through the mail or by couriers or freight forwarders shall be subject to these regulations; be clearly labelled in English as to its contents and have the required documentation securely sealed to the outside of the package.

*The same guidelines also apply to the travelling public, as passengers transiting the airport or other ports of entry must abide by the rules and regulations of meeting the documentary requirements - Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate to ensure compliance.

Guidelines for the Importation of Fertilizers, Growing Media and Bioremediation Products of Plant Origin

These guidelines apply to the following fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products being imported into the Bahamas from all countries, unless specific country restrictions apply.

1. processed fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products that have been produced:
 1. by the decomposition of fresh or dry plant material;
 2. by processing dried plant material;
 3. from by-products of processed plant products, including but not limited to: oil seed meals, cotton delinting by-product, husks and ground nut shells.
2. coco peat products, including but not limited to:
 1. coco peat products in various grades and finished products for horticultural/agricultural use such as grow slabs, grow bags, bales, blocks, discs, pots, starter cubes and small blocks;
 2. chips derived from the whole chopped and crushed husk pieces;
 3. compressed or non-compressed product.

General Requirements

Fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products of plant origin may be imported into the Bahamas under the following conditions:

1. An import permit from the Department of Agriculture must be obtained that specifies the Bahamas' import requirements.
2. A phytosanitary certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization of the exporting country in accordance with ISPM 12. The phytosanitary certificate must include the following where applicable:

1. Sufficient detail to enable identification of the consignment and its component parts. Information must include country/place of origin;
 2. Full details of any treatments applied to fertilizers and growing media of plant origin; and
 3. A certifying statement, or a variation that is compliant with ISPM 12.
3. A treatment certificate is required for fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products containing viable seed and coconut (coco/coir peat/fibers) products unless details of the treatment have been specified on the phytosanitary certificate. Treatment certificates must include the following where applicable:
1. Authorized person's name and date of issue;
 2. Product identity (description or brand name); and
 3. Date and full details of the treatment.
4. Manufactured fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products in the form of granular, fibrous, powder or liquid derived from plant material, or containing microorganisms requires a manufacturer's certificate. All manufacturer's certificates must include the following where applicable:
1. Authorized person's name and date of issue;
 2. Name and address of the supplier (if different to the manufacturer);
 3. Product identity (description or brand name);
 4. Details of the processing; and
 5. Date of manufacture.
5. The commodity meets the following packaging and shipping requirements:
1. A typed list/invoice should accompany each consignment with the name of the collector/shipper. If different products within a consignment originate in different countries or places, or if products are mixed, blended or bulked, all countries or places should be indicated;
 2. Clearly labelled with the brand name, full description of contents of each package (product type and intended use), or have this information stated on the invoice or accompanying manufacturer's certificate written in English. Foreign language names and regional names are not acceptable.
 3. Shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests; and
 4. Commercially packaged in:
 1. a clean bag made of either polypropylene or double-walled strong paper secured by stitching, stapling or sealing; or

2. a strong, clean plastic sealed package. Packaging material must be new, sterile and sturdy and must be of a visually clear construction to allow inspection of consignment.
6. All fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products must: free from regulated pests and contaminants such as seeds, soil, animal or plant material.
7. Upon arrival to the Bahamas, shipments will be inspected to ensure they meet import requirements. If the consignment does not meet the conditions above, then the shipment will be refused entry.

Any fertilizers, growing media and bioremediation products of plant origin imported through the mail or by couriers or freight forwarders, shall be subject to these regulations; be clearly labelled in English as to its contents and have the required documentation securely sealed to the outside of the package.

The same guidelines also apply to the travelling public, as passengers transiting the airport must abide by the rules and regulations of meeting the documentary requirements - Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate (Treatment Certificate and Manufacturer's Certificate where applicable) to ensure compliance.

Treatment Requirements

1. Treatment for seed devitalisation is required for products that contain or are suspected to contain viable seed. One of the following treatments must be carried out:
 1. heat treatment by raising the core temperature of the product to a minimum of 85°C for at least 15 hours at approximately 40% relative humidity; or
 2. autoclaving at 120°C core temperature for 30 minutes at 100kPa.
2. One of the following treatments must be carried out for coco peat products, prior to export:
 1. heat treatment by raising the core temperature of the peat to a minimum of 85°C for at least 15 hours at approximately 40% relative humidity; or
 2. autoclaving at 120°C core temperature for 30 minutes at 100kPa.
 3. ethylene oxide, under an initial minimum vacuum of 50kPa at 1500g/m³ for 4 hours at 50°C. Treatment must occur no more than 21 days prior to export; or
 4. ethylene oxide, under an initial minimum vacuum of 50kPa at 1500g/m³ for 24 hours at 21°C. Treatment must occur no more than 21 days prior to export.

Phytosanitary Guidelines for the Importation of Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Garlands and Holiday Greens (for Commercial Purposes ONLY)

Christmas Trees can carry invasive pests and diseases that harm Bahamian agriculture, horticulture, forestry and our environment, causing millions of dollars in damage. To prevent the entry of those pests and diseases into the Bahamas, all Christmas Trees, wreaths, garlands, and bulk greens of the genera *Abies*, *Pinus*, *Picea* and *Pseudotsuga* imported for commercial use are subject to the following import requirements:

1. An import permit from the Department of Agriculture must be obtained that specifies The Bahamas' import requirements.
2. A phytosanitary certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization of the exporting country in accordance with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 12 (ISPM 12). The phytosanitary certificate must include the following where applicable:
 1. Sufficient detail to enable identification of the consignment and its component parts. Information must include country/place of origin;
 2. The scientific name of the tree species;
 3. Full details of any treatments applied; and
 4. A certifying statement, or a variation that is compliant with ISPM 12.
 5. Only certify if an Import Permit (IP) is presented.
3. Trees should be stored in a manner that prevents contact with soil and mixing of trees ready for export with those awaiting inspection or shaking, or those for other destinations. Separation and storage of the trees should be sufficient to prevent infestation or reinfestation of the trees following shaking or inspection.
4. Date of inspection must not be more than 14 days prior to shipment.
5. The commodity meets the following packaging and shipping requirements:
 1. Origin must be clearly stated on the shipping label or bill of lading.
 2. A typed list/invoice should accompany each consignment with the name of the collector/shipper and the scientific names (genus, species, and if possible, variety). Foreign language names and regional names are not acceptable.
 3. If different commodities within a consignment originate in different countries or places, or are mixed, blended or bulked, all countries or places should be indicated; and
 4. If wood packaging is used, this should be treated, certified and comply with ISPM 15 on wood packaging materials.
 5. The consignment was found to be clean, free from sand, soil, earth, and other growing media, foreign matter or debris, and living organisms such as parasitic plants, pathogens, insects, snails, and mites (extraneous matter).
6. Upon arrival in the Bahamas, the consignment must be inspected to verify that they are free of live insects, plant or animal debris, soil and other phytosanitary risk material. If phytosanitary risk materials are identified during inspection, then the consignment will be withheld. Depending on the phytosanitary risk, the consignment may be:
 1. Treated or
 2. Re-exported or
 3. Destroyed. *These options are subject to fees, and conditions may apply.*

7. After inspection, if the consignment is not contaminated with phytosanitary risk material they can be released.

The same guidelines also apply to wreaths, garlands, and bulk greens for commercial purposes.

Destructive wood boring insects have been found in artificial Christmas trees that have real wood trunks with bark attached. Artificial Christmas trees with real wood trunks must have an import permit and be made of kiln dried wood to be allowed into the Bahamas.

Additional Declarations:

100% of the trees must be manually or mechanically shaken.

- **Manual Shaking:** Each individual unbound tree must be lifted or raised not less than 18 inches above ground level with the butt of the tree struck onto a solid surface with sufficient force to dislodge any hitchhiker pests and other contaminants. The tree should be shaken after each strike using a minimum of three strikes and continue until most of the dead needle fall is eliminated.
- **Mechanical Shaking:** Each individual unbound tree must be mechanically shaken for a period of time sufficient to dislodge any hitchhiker pests and other contaminants until all dead needle fall is eliminated.