



September 2023

Fact sheet: Changes to vegetable seed for sowing permit application form

What has changed?

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has reviewed our existing permit policy for a select group of vegetable seeds (listed below) and the associated biosecurity risks. The review identified policy, operational and financial efficiencies that could be achieved for both industry and the department.

As a result, the department has revised the permit policy to issue import permits for these commodities from **all countries** of export rather than a single country of export. This will benefit stakeholders by reducing the number of permits required and the associated costs, as well as streamlining the application process.

In order to effect this change, we will be publishing a new import permit application form for these commodities.

This change will apply to the following vegetable seed species, including their synonyms and subordinate taxa:

- Capsicum (*Capsicum* spp.)
- Carrot (*Daucus carota*)
- Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)
- Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)
- Tomato (*Lycopersicon* and *Solanum* spp.)
- Wild tomato (*Lycopersicon* and *Solanum* spp.)

How will the changes to the permit application form impact the cost of applying for import permits?

The new application form will streamline the application and assessment process for these highly traded vegetable seed lines, reducing the burden to importers in applying for and managing numerous import permits for multiple countries of export. Additionally, these changes are expected to reduce the cost associated with application and assessment of the listed vegetable seeds.

Two common import scenarios are outlined below demonstrating financial benefit of the new approach. Please note that these are only examples and the actual fees you are charged may vary depending on your application.



Scenario 1: Single commodity and multiple countries of export

- A seed business submits a single application for an import permit for tomato seeds exported from five countries: New Zealand, United States, India, the Netherlands and France.
- **Current fee arrangement:** The business is charged 1 permit application fee and 5 Category 1 assessment fees (one permit issued per country of export). The importer will pay a minimum of \$492 for 5 separate permits for tomato seeds from five countries of export (i.e., a \$122 application fee and 5 x \$74 assessment fees).
- **New fee arrangement** (from 5 October 2023): The business applies for the same permit and is charged 1 permit application fee and 1 Category 1 assessment fee (one permit issued for various countries of export). The importer will pay \$196 for one permit for tomato seeds covering various countries of export. This includes the \$122 application fee and only 1 \$74 assessment fee.

Table 1: Scenario 1 fee summary

Vegetable commodity	Country of export	Total number permits	Total fees charged (minimum)
Current fee arrangement			
Tomato	New Zealand	5 permits	\$492
Tomato	United States of America		
Tomato	India		
Tomato	Netherlands		
Tomato	France		
New fee arrangement			
Tomato	Various countries	1 permit	\$196

Scenario 2: Multiple commodities and multiple countries of export

- A seed business submits a single application for an import permit to import tomato, capsicum, parsnip, parsley and carrot seeds from five countries: New Zealand, United States, India, the Netherlands and France.
- **Current fee arrangement:** the business is charged 1 permit application fee and 5 Category 1 assessment fees (one permit issued per country of export with multiple commodities).
- **New fee arrangement** (from 5 October 2023): the business is charged 1 permit application fee and 1 Category 1 assessment fee (one permit issued for various countries of export with multiple commodities).
- This scenario demonstrates that the fees will be the same as in scenario 1, regardless of the number of selected vegetable seed commodities applied for.



Table 2: Scenario 2 fee summary

Vegetable commodity	Country of export	Total number permits	Total fees charged (minimum)
Current fee arrangement			
Tomato	New Zealand	5 permits	\$492
Capsicum	United States of America		
Carrot	India		
Parsley	Netherlands		
Parsnip	France		
New fee arrangement			
Tomato	Various countries	1 permit	\$196
Capsicum			
Carrot			
Parsley			
Parsnip			

Please refer to the department's [Charging guidelines](#) for more information on charging.



How do I apply using the new application form?

Step 1: Apply for a vegetable seed permit (example Tomato seed) via the Tomato seed for sowing BICON Case.

Step 2: Complete application form details for tomato seed.

Commodity Details - Tomato seed

Application ID	0007686024	Applicant	<input type="text"/>
Application type	Plant Import Operations - New Permit	Importer	<input type="text"/>
Status	Draft	Importer contact	<input type="text"/>
Created	25/09/2023		

Permit type: Vegetable seed for sowing
 Commodity: Tomato seed ! Incomplete

Acknowledgements ! Incomplete ▼

Current permit details ! Incomplete ▼

Proposed permit commencement ! Incomplete ▼

Export details ! Incomplete ▼

Product/commodity details ! Incomplete ▼

Other details ! Incomplete ▼

Save and continue editing

Save and return to Manage Permit Types

Step 3: If you wish to add additional vegetable seeds (such as Capsicum seed and Parsley) to the application form and click 'Add another commodity'.

Manage Permit Types

Vegetable seed for sowing

Commodity	Status	Actions
Tomato seed	! Incomplete	Edit Delete



Step 4: Select the additional vegetable seeds (e.g., capsicum and parsley) and add to application.

This permit type is for vegetable seed for sowing

Select a Commodity

To apply for a permit, please select one or more commodities:

- Capsicum seed
- Carrot seed
- Parsley seed
- Parsnip seed
- Tomato seed
- Wild tomato seed

[Cancel](#)
Return to your application

[Add to Application](#)

Step 5: Complete form details for additional commodities.

Manage Permit Types

[Add New Permit Type](#)

Vegetable seed for sowing

Commodity	Status	Actions
Tomato seed	✔ Complete	Edit Delete
Capsicum seed	⚠ Incomplete	Edit Delete
Parsley seed	⚠ Incomplete	Edit Delete

[Add Another Commodity](#)

[Previous](#) [Next](#)



Note: Once you have completed the form for one commodity, the information in the first sections of the form will be automatically transferred across to all the other commodities selected. You will only need to complete the 'product/commodity details' and 'other details' for each commodity.

Commodity Details - Capsicum seed

Application ID	0007686024	Applicant	
Application type	Plant Import Operations - New Permit	Importer	
Status	Draft	Importer contact	
Created	25/09/2023		

Permit type: Vegetable seed for sowing
Commodity: Capsicum seed ● Incomplete

- Acknowledgements ✔ Complete
- Current permit details ✔ Complete
- Proposed permit commencement ✔ Complete
- Export details ✔ Complete
- Product/commodity details ● Incomplete
- Other details ● Incomplete

Save and continue editing Save and return to Manage Permit Types

Step 6: Submit application with payment as usual.

More information

Please contact Plant Import Operations on 1800 900 090 or email imports@aff.gov.au (with the subject line of the email 'Plant T2 - Seed for sowing').