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**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

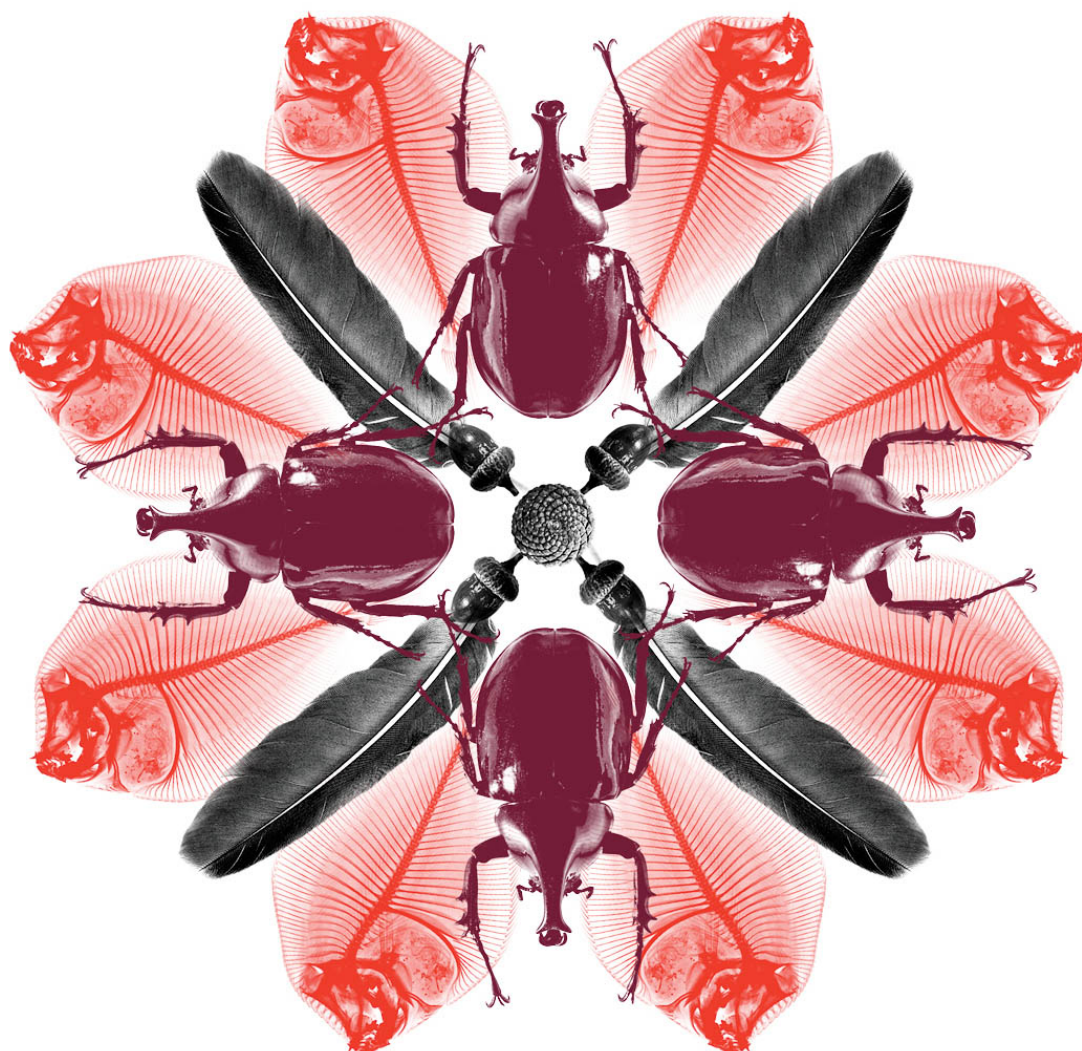
# Approved arrangement

## Class 2.41 Verification of Packaging for Airfreight Perishables

### Requirements

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Version 1.1



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### Version control

Updates to this document will occur automatically on the department's website and the revision table below will list the amendments as they are approved.

Date	Version	Amendments	Approved by
4/1/2017	1.0	Release for industry consultation	Approved Arrangements section
15/3/2017	1.1	Final release	Approved Arrangements section
18 November 2021	1.1	Added biosecurity risk information to the purpose statement in Table 1	Approved Arrangements section

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## Guide to using this document

This document sets out the requirements that must be met before the relevant Director will consider approval for the provision of biosecurity activities under section 406 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, otherwise known as an Approved Arrangement (AA).

This document specifies the requirements to be met for the approval, operation and audit of this class of AA. Compliance with the requirements will be assessed by audit.

In the event of any inconsistency between these requirements and any Import Permit condition, the Import Permit condition applies. If the Applicant chooses to use automatic language translation services in connection with this document, it is done so at the Applicant's risk.

Unless specified otherwise, any references to 'the department' or 'departmental' means the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Any references to contacting the department mean contacting your closest regional office.

Further information on AAs, regional contact details and copies of relevant AA documentation is available on the department's website: [awe.gov.au](http://awe.gov.au).

## Definitions

Definitions that are not contained within the Approved Arrangements Glossary can be found in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* or the most recent edition of the Macquarie Dictionary. Further Class specific terms are defined below.

Term	Definition
<b>Airfreight perishables</b>	Fresh fruit and vegetables, cut flowers (including foliage which forms part of the consignment) and nursery stock (excluding tissue culture) imported as airfreight and subject to biosecurity control.
<b>Secure packaging</b>	Secure packaging options, as prescribed in this document, that provide insect proof containment of goods subject to biosecurity control.
<b>Carton</b>	Carton, package or box used to pack goods subject to biosecurity control
<b>Enclosed container</b>	An enclosed 6-sided container. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>containers with solid sides, or</li> <li>Unit Load Devices (ULDs) with tarpaulin sides that have no holes or gaps.</li> </ul> Excludes consignments without secure packaging placed in an enclosed vehicle.

## Other documents

The *AA General Policies* should be read in conjunction with these requirements. They will assist in understanding and complying with the obligations and requirements for the establishment and operation of an AA.

## Nonconformity guide

The nonconformity classification against each criterion is provided as a guide only. If more than one nonconformity is listed against a requirement, the actual nonconformity applied will correspond to the gravity of the issue. The nonconformity recorded against any criteria remains at the discretion of the Biosecurity Officer.

Nonconformity classifications are detailed in the *AA General Policies*.

## AA requirements

Requirements	Nonconformity guide
<b>1 Purpose</b>	
<p>1.1</p> <p>Approved Arrangement (AA) for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• verification of consignment packaging for airfreight perishables, and</li> <li>• securing of airfreight perishable consignments for transport.</li> </ul> <p>Examples of biosecurity risks associated with goods subject to biosecurity control handled under a class 2.41 approved arrangement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• infestation of insects in or on the goods, packaging material or containers e.g., timber pests (e.g., termites, ants and larvae), stored product pests (e.g., beetles and larvae), insects seeking refuge (e.g., ants, bees, wasps, moths and spiders), hitchhiker pests (e.g., brown marmorated stink bug), and plant pests (e.g., fruit flies, mites and thrips etc)</li> <li>• animals such as rodents, reptiles, geckos, birds, and cats that can inadvertently travel in containers</li> <li>• contamination of soil or plant material in or on goods, packaging material or containers e.g., soil can contain seeds of exotic plants or weeds, plant diseases, insects and insect eggs, and soil-borne animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease</li> <li>• other contamination such as water can contain mosquito larvae and algae. Mosquitos are vectors for various diseases</li> <li>• plant diseases associated with goods that are made of or contain plant material e.g., Karnal bunt of wheat, citrus greening, leaf blight.</li> </ul> <p>Information on biosecurity import conditions and biosecurity risks for imported goods, containers, other cargo and arriving vessels is available on the <a href="#">department's website</a>.</p>	
<b>2 Scope</b>	
<p>2.1</p> <p>The Verification of Packaging for Airfreight Perishables AA is limited to consignments of airfreight perishables directed by the department for packaging verification, prior to a biosecurity inspection.</p>	Major or critical
<p>2.2</p> <p>Activities outlined in this AA must occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at the AA site listed on the biosecurity direction,</li> <li>• prior to movement to an AA site for biosecurity intervention.</li> </ul>	Major or critical
<b>3 Operating Requirements</b>	
<p>3.1</p> <p>Knockdown spray must be applied to insects detected during deconsolidation and/or packaging verification of airfreight perishables.</p>	Major or critical

Requirements	Nonconformity guide
<p>3.2</p> <p>Consignment packaging for airfreight perishables must be verified for compliance with one or more of the following secure packaging options:</p> <p>a) Integral cartons.</p> <p>Goods must be packed in integral (fully enclosed) cartons that have no ventilation holes, and with lids tightly fixed to the bases.</p> <p>b) Ventilation holes of cartons covered.</p> <p>Ventilation holes must be covered/sealed with a mesh/screen of no more than 1.6 mm diameter pore size and not less than 0.16mm strand thickness. Alternatively, ventilation holes must be taped over.</p> <p>c) Polythene liners.</p> <p>Vented cartons with polythene liners/bags must be sealed. Overlapping folded edges of the polythene liner is considered sealed.</p> <p>d) Meshed or plastic (shrink) wrapped pallets or ULDs.</p> <p>ULDs transporting cartons with ventilation holes/gaps, or palletised cartons with ventilation holes/ gaps must be fully covered or wrapped with polythene/plastic/foil sheet or mesh/screen of no more than 1.6 mm diameter pore size and not less than 0.16mm strand thickness.</p> <p>e) Cartons packed in an enclosed container.</p> <p>f) Other packaging requirements prescribed by the department.</p> <p>This includes, but is not limited to, a direction or Import Permit issued by the department that prescribes packaging requirements that are different from the secure packaging options detailed in this document.</p>	<p>Major or critical</p>
<p>3.3</p> <p>Airfreight perishables verified as without secure packaging must be immediately secured with one or more of the following secure packaging options:</p> <p>a) Placed in an enclosed container.</p> <p>b) Ventilation holes of cartons covered.</p> <p>Ventilation holes must be covered/sealed with a mesh/screen of no more than 1.6 mm diameter pore size and not less than 0.16mm strand thickness. Alternatively, ventilation holes must be taped over.</p> <p>c) Mesh or plastic (shrink) wrap applied to the goods or the ULD transporting the goods.</p> <p>Cartons of airfreight perishables, whether loose or palletised, or the ULD transporting cartons must be fully covered or wrapped with polythene/plastic/foil sheet or mesh/screen of no more than 1.6 mm diameter pore size and not less than 0.16mm strand thickness.</p>	<p>Major or critical</p>
<p>3.4</p> <p>A biosecurity direction authorising movement of airfreight perishables must be obtained from the department prior to transfer to an AA site.</p>	<p>Major</p>

Requirements	Nonconformity guide
3.5	
The department must be notified without delay where:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is an inability to secure airfreight perishable consignments as per section 3.3, or</li> <li>• insects are detected externally on airfreight perishables with secure packaging.</li> </ul>	Major or critical
<b>4 Administration and Management</b>	
4.1	
Records of each airfreight perishable packaging verification must be kept for a minimum period of 18 months from the date the verification was conducted.	Minor, major or critical
4.2	
Records for each consignment of airfreight perishables must include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• biosecurity direction</li> <li>• Import permit number (if applicable)</li> <li>• Air Waybill or Bill of Lading number</li> <li>• name of accredited person(s) that performed the biosecurity activities</li> <li>• date and time of secure packaging verification</li> <li>• description of the airfreight perishable, including scientific names, country of origin and quantities (if applicable).</li> <li>• detail of consignment packaging. This must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ which secure packaging option prescribed in section 3.2 was observed, and</li> <li>○ where applicable, the action taken to secure airfreight perishables in accordance with section 3.3.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Major
<b>5 General</b>	
5.1	
Goods subject to biosecurity control must be maintained and processed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant AA class.	Minor, major or critical
5.2	
Goods subject to biosecurity control must be maintained and processed in accordance with import conditions specified in the department's Biosecurity Import Conditions Database (BICON).	Minor, major or critical
5.3	
Goods subject to biosecurity control must be maintained and processed in accordance with an Import Permit (where applicable).	Minor, major or critical
5.4	
	Minor, major or critical



<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Nonconformity guide</b>
Goods subject to biosecurity control must be maintained and processed in accordance with any other direction from the department.	
5.5 Goods subject to biosecurity control must be maintained and processed in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015 and subordinate legislation.	Major or critical
5.6 Any equipment that has been used or brought in contact with imported items subject to biosecurity control, or which could have been potentially contaminated by the imported items, must not leave the biosecurity area until it has been processed (cleaned, disinfested, decontaminated) or disposed of in accordance with relevant AA requirements, import conditions and departmental directions.	Major or critical
5.7 An Accredited Person must personally conduct or directly supervise activities involving physical contact with, or handling of items, subject to biosecurity control. Directly supervise means that the Accredited Person must be present in the area where the items subject to biosecurity control are being handled and must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• visually verify for themselves that the items are being handled in accordance with the department's requirements</li> <li>• communicate immediately and effectively with the persons being supervised.</li> </ul>	Major
5.8 Persons performing the function of an Accredited Person must have successfully completed the department's approved training to obtain and maintain Accredited Person status.	Major
5.9 Ensure goods subject to biosecurity control are traceable in terms of (where applicable): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• declaration/entry number</li> <li>• import Permit number</li> <li>• Air Waybill or Bill of Lading number</li> <li>• date of receipt</li> <li>• processing (including inspection, treatment, testing) details</li> <li>• release from Biosecurity Control</li> <li>• disposal details</li> <li>• storage location</li> <li>• Accredited Person responsible for the items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Minor</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> </ul>
5.10	Major



<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Nonconformity guide</b>
The BIP must ensure that persons having physical access to goods subject to biosecurity control are aware that such items must only be handled by an Accredited Person or under the direct supervision of an Accredited Person.	
5.11 Records must be maintained of Accredited Persons.	Minor
5.12 A contingency plan must be in place to manage unexpected events that may compromise biosecurity integrity of the AA site. Unexpected events include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appearance of pests or symptoms of disease</li> <li>• structural damage (due to storms etc.)</li> <li>• unauthorised removal of goods subject to biosecurity control</li> <li>• spillages of goods subject to biosecurity control</li> <li>• sudden unavailability of an Accredited Person.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Major</li> <li>• Minor</li> </ul>
5.13 If there is any doubt as to whether goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are subject to biosecurity control</li> <li>• remain subject to biosecurity control</li> <li>• become subject to biosecurity control</li> </ul> then the goods must be handled in accordance with requirements for goods subject to biosecurity control.	Major
5.14 The BIP must notify the department in writing as soon as practicable within 15 days of any change in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons in positions responsible for controlling, directing, enforcing or monitoring people performing activities associated with the approved arrangement</li> <li>• BIP details, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ entity name</li> <li>○ ABN or ACN</li> <li>○ postal address</li> <li>○ email address</li> <li>○ facsimile number</li> <li>○ telephone number.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Major or Critical
5.15 The BIP must notify the department in writing as soon as practicable within 15 working days of becoming aware of any change of status, not previously been notified to the department, of the BIP or their associates relevant to the operation of the AA in relation to any of the following matters:	Critical

Requirements	Nonconformity guide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conviction of an offence or order to pay a pecuniary penalty under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015, Quarantine Act 1908, Customs Act 1901, the Criminal Code or the Crimes Act 1914</i></li> <li>• debt to the Commonwealth that is more than 28 days overdue under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015, Quarantine Act 1908, Customs Act 1901, the Criminal Code or the Crimes Act 1914</i></li> <li>• refusal, involuntary suspension, involuntary revocation/cancellation or involuntary variation of an Import Permit, quarantine approved premises, compliance agreement or AA under the <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i> or the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</li> </ul>	
<p>5.16</p> <p>Departmental auditors or department approved auditors, must be provided with facilities and assistance as requested, and any required documents, records or things relevant to the audit.</p>	Major or critical
<p>5.17</p> <p>The department must be notified of any Reportable Biosecurity Incident as soon as practicable, in accordance with the determination made by the Director of Biosecurity.</p>	Critical
<p>5.18</p> <p>Department approved auditors must be permitted to collect evidence of compliance and noncompliance with AA requirements through actions including the copying of documents and taking of photographs.</p>	Major or critical