



Implementation of new horticulture inspection policy – what it means for exporters and Registered Establishments

This factsheet explains how policy changes to horticulture export inspections will affect exporters and Registered Establishments (REs). All policy will be reflected in instructional material to be published in the [Plant Export Operations Manual \(PEOM\)](#) on the department's website.

What instructional material is being updated and when?

- The *Guideline: Inspection of horticulture for export* will replace *Volume 9: Commodity inspections – horticulture* and be published in the next fortnight.
- There will also be updated work instructions and reference materials for Authorised Officers (AOs) conducting export inspections.
- If you are interested in changes to how your product will be inspected, see the factsheet for AOs.

When will the instructional material come into effect?

- Instructional material will come into effect one month after it is published.
- All inspections done after this date must comply with the new policy.

What are the key changes?

Flowpath inspection

- AOs must inspect the product flowpath in the RE.
- REs must be clean, free of pests and maintain adequate traceability and segregation. This will be verified by AOs prior to each inspection to ensure there are no risks of cross contamination or substitution to the consignment.

Product inspection

- Request for Permit (RFP) lines can be presented for individual inspection.
- A tolerance of 25g of soil per consignment sample has been added.

Trade description

- Trade description is mandatory for all horticulture commodities to enable the AO and the importing country to identify the goods. This can be applied as a pallet card where the product is the same.
- Trade description requirements have changed.

Inspection benches

- Inspection benches must be white and approved where used for imports and exports. If the RE has a stainless steel bench, the bench must be covered with a suitable white material or white inspection tray.

Sampling

- Sampling rates for all horticulture commodities have been standardised to 600 units or two percent of packages unless otherwise specified by the importing country.

Labeling the consignment post inspection

- Clients must label consignments as 'passed for export' or 'failed for export' following inspection.

Pest identification

- The pest identification policy has changed. If a live pest is detected a formal pest identification is required in some cases.



Failure and re-conditioning

- Clarity has been provided around failure of consignments, reconditioning and re-inspection.
- A new RFP is required where a failed consignment is represented for inspection and the composition has changed from the original RFP.
- The client must provide a copy of the original RFP and inspection record to the AO prior to re-inspection.

Delayed consignments

- Clarity has been provided on delayed consignments, export compliance periods and how to apply for an extension to the export compliance period.

Export compliance

- Clients must ensure that all export sea and airfreight containers are clean, free of pests and structurally sound in order to maintain the phytosanitary security of the consignment during transit.
- The client is responsible for maintaining the export compliant status of the consignment that is, keeping it in secure conditions, from the time of inspection until the time the consignment is exported.

How does this affect my responsibilities?

Exporters and REs need to ensure they are complying with the policy in the *Guideline: Inspection of horticulture for export* from its date of effect. Any identified non-compliance may be subject to a penalty provision under the *Export Control Act 1982* or administrative sanctions such as suspension, audits or refusal to issue certification.

How can I find out more information?

The new instructional material will be available in the next fortnight and will be advised via an Industry Advice Notice.

For technical enquiries contact the Horticulture Exports Program at HorticultureExportsProgramACT@agriculture.gov.au

For AO training and assessment enquiries contact the Authorised Officer Program at PlantExportTraining@agriculture.gov.au



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www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plantexportsmanual#product-inspection