

Importation of Organic Produce

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REVISION REGISTER

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1. Purpose

This procedure describes the importing of produce into Victoria, or moving produce within Victoria, which is:

- certified as organic; and
- a host of the pest Queensland fruit fly (QFF); and
- grown in an area not free from QFF, including local outbreak areas.

Produce may not be imported under this program where:

- it is a host of the pest Mediterranean fruit fly (MFF); and
- grown in areas not free from MFF.

2. References

Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995

Plant Health and Plant Products Regulations 1996

3. Definitions

Approved Inspection Service	means a person or body approved by the Secretary to undertake organic inspections under part of the <i>Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995</i> .
DPI	means Department of Primary Industries, Victoria.
Fruit Fly	means Queensland Fruit Fly.
Host produce	Means fruits and vegetables that are hosts of QFF as declared under the <i>Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995</i> .
Inspector	means an inspector appointed under the <i>Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995</i>
Organic Association	means an organisation which accredits growers as meeting criteria for growing and selling organic produce, such as BFA (Biological Farmers Australia Co-operative).
Organic Permit	means a permit to import organic QFF host produce into Victoria.
Organic Plant Health Declaration	means a declaration issued by a grower of organic produce.
Organic Produce	means produce that is grown and processed without the use of synthetic chemicals, fertilisers or GMOs.

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) means all stages of the species *Bactrocera tryoni* and related species *B. aquilonis* and *B. neohumeralis*.

4. Responsibility

The position titles used reflect the responsibilities of staff under the agreement. These positions may not be present in all businesses, or different titles may be used for staff who carry out these responsibilities. One person may carry out the responsibilities of more than one position.

The **Importing Business** is responsible for ensuring that:

- the business is in possession of a current Organic Permit issued by DPI for each grower;
- suppliers are registered with a recognised organic organisation and are informed of importation requirements;
- every consignment of organic produce received is covered by an Organic Permit and accompanied by an original Organic Plant Health Declaration;
- staff are trained and are familiar with this procedure;
- ensuring receivals are segregated until verification by an Approved Inspection Service has been completed;
- keeping permits, declarations and receipt records on file; and
- isolating produce not meeting verification requirements and informing DPI.

5. Requirement

Organic produce may be imported into Victoria, or moved within Victoria from a local QFF outbreak area, if:

- the importer has a current Organic Permit issued by DPI for each grower;
- the conditions on the permit are complied with;
- each consignment is accompanied by an Organic Plant Health Declaration; and
- each consignment is inspected upon arrival in Victoria.

6. Organic Permit

6.1. Permit Application

The importer must apply for an Organic Permit by completing the Application to Import Fruit Fly Host Organic Produce to Victoria ([Attachment 1](#)). The importer shall:

- complete Section 1 of the permit;
- ensure Section 2 is completed by the grower;
- obtain evidence that the grower is registered with a recognised organic association ([Attachment 4](#)) (eg certificate of registration);

- return the completed permit and evidence of organic certification of the grower from a recognised organic association to DPI for approval.

Upon approval of the permit, DPI shall provide the importer with a copy of the approved Organic Permit for their records ([Attachment 2](#)). The Organic Permit is valid for a year, provided that the grower continues to hold current certification with a recognised organic association.

6.2. Permit Expiration

DPI shall advise the importer in writing approximately one month before the organic permit is due to expire.

If an organic permit expires, it is the importer's responsibility to re-apply if another permit is required.

6.3. Permit Renewal

To renew an organic permit, the importer shall submit to DPI a completed Application to Import Fruit Fly Host Organic Produce to Victoria, along with the current certificate of the organic grower issued from a recognised organic association.

If the details of the importer and organic grower have not changed, it is not necessary to complete another Application to Import Fruit Fly Host Organic Produce to Victoria.

Upon approving the renewal documentation, DPI shall provide a copy of the renewed Organic Permit to the importer for their records.

6.4. Permit Suspension

A permit to import organic produce may be suspended if:

- produce is not transported to Victoria in a secure method;
- produce infested with fruit fly larvae is detected in more than one consignment from a grower sent to Victoria during a season; and/or
- certification with a recognised organic association is lost, suspended or not renewed.

The importer shall be informed of the suspension in writing prior to suspension occurring, and of actions required to reinstate the permit or to appeal the decision.

6.4.1. Reinstatement

If the permit is suspended due to produce infested with fruit fly larvae in more than one consignment from a grower, the permit may be reinstated as long as adequate fruit fly control measures are undertaken on the property where the produce originated (under the supervision of the relevant state agriculture department).

Reinstatement of the organic permit cannot occur until proof of re-certification with a recognised organic association is provided to DPI.

7. Receiving

7.1. Organic Plant Health Declaration

Every consignment of QFF host organic produce imported into Victoria must be accompanied by an original, completed Organic Plant Health Declaration issued by the grower ([Attachment 3](#)).

7.2. Package Labelling

All packages containing QFF host organic produce entering Victoria must be labelled in such a way as to ensure the consignment's identity is unambiguous and can be verified easily against the Organic Plant Health Declaration.

Details that must be included on the packaging are:

- the type of produce;
- growers name;
- the name and postcode of the nearest city or town to where the produce was grown.

7.3. Receiving Record

A record of receiving shall be maintained for all organic produce imported under a permit, which records the details of the consignment received (produce type, quantity, grower, number of the accompanying Organic Plant Health Declaration, etc).

All Organic Permits and Organic Plant Health Declarations shall be kept with the receiving record on file.

8. Verification

8.1. Inspection

On arrival in Victoria the importer shall immediately present the complete consignment and the accompanying white original copy of the Organic Plant Health Declaration to an Approved Inspection Service for verification.

The Business must not proceed to sell the consignment until it has been inspected and verified by an Approved Inspection Service.

A Business that fails to do so is operating contrary to the Act and may be liable for prosecution.

8.2. Detection

If suspect larvae is detected, the consignment shall be:

- detained; and
- a specimen sample collected and submitted for identification.

If the larvae is confirmed as Queensland fruit fly, the produce may be:

- ordered for fumigation; or
- ordered to be sent to another market where QFF already exists (eg Sydney).

9. Records and Document Control

The Business shall maintain the following records:

- (a) copies of all Organic Permits issued by DPI for each grower;
- (b) copies of certificates of the grower registration with a recognised organic organisation;
- (c) white copy of the Organic Plant Health Declarations received with every consignment of organic produce; and
- (d) a record of organic produce receivals.

System records shall be retained for a period of at least 24 months from completion. System records shall be made available when requested by an Authorised Officer.

10. Attachments

Attachment 1	Application to Import Fruit Fly Organic Host Produce into Victoria
Attachment 2	Organic Permit
Attachment 3	Organic Plant Health Declaration
Attachment 4	List of Approved Organic Industry Organisations
Attachment 5	Fruit Fly Host List
Attachment 6	Map of Fruit Fly Areas
Attachment 7	Import Conditions for Organic Produce

APPLICATION TO IMPORT FRUIT FLY HOST ORGANIC PRODUCE TO VICTORIA

Section 1 - Importer

Name:

Address:

Phone: Fax:

Email Address:

I wish to apply to import fruit fly host organic produce into Victoria and declare to present the produce for inspection to a DPI Plant Standards Officer, or delegate, on arrival for the grower detailed below for the nominated import period.

Owner/Director Name:

Signature Date/...../.....

Section 2 - Grower

Name:

Postal Address:

Growing Property/s:

Phone: Fax:

Email:

Organic Organisation Certificate Number

Names of crops grown on property under organic certification

Trade brands or carton identification

I, declare that:

- I am a registered and certified organic grower;
- the produce has been inspected and any fruit suspected of being infested with fruit fly was rejected prior to packing;
- the produce is packed in cartons without vents, vented cartons with a mesh suitable for excluding fruit fly, or shrink wrapped palletised cartons for transport to Victoria;
- the completed yellow and white copy of the Organic Plant Health Declaration must accompany each consignment into Victoria.

Owner/Director Name:

Signature Date/...../.....

Section 3 - Authorisation by Department of Primary Industries

Plant Standards Officer:

Signature Date of Issue:

Approved copy shall be forwarded to the importer and the grower.

Note

Pursuant to Section 71(1)(d) of the Plant Health & Plant Products Act 1995, there is a maximum penalty of \$6000 for any person providing an inspector any information that is false or misleading.

***Permit for the Importation of Fruit Fly Host
Organic Produce into Victoria***

I, (*Name*), Plant Standards Officer, being an inspector under the Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995, hereby grant permission for the import of organic produce from (*Name of grower, Postage Address*), of Production Address: (*Production Address*) to (*Name of Importing Business, Postal Address*), of Receiving Address: (*Receiving Address*).

Grower Registered under:

(*Organic Organisation*)

(*Certificate Number*)

Type of Organic Produce covered by Organic Certification:

(*Type of produce*)

NOTE:

- A copy of this **Permit** shall be kept on file by the importer.
- It is the **responsibility of the Importer** to ensure that they are operating under a current permit.
- Consignments must be **inspected for QFF and shrink wrapped** prior to export into Victoria.
- An **Organic Plant Health Declaration** must accompany the consignment into Victoria.
- Consignments must be **presented to an Approved Inspection Service for verification upon arrival** into Victoria.
- This permit is valid until (**Date**).

(*Name & Signature*)

Plant Standards Officer

(*Date*)

Prepared By:

Signature:

ORGANIC PLANT HEALTH DECLARATION

A 00000

CONSIGNOR:.....
 name and address of exporter

CONSIGNEE:.....
 name and address of importer/receiver

PRODUCE DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PACKAGE TYPE	PACKED DATE

ORGANIC ORGANISATION:.....

CERTIFICATION NUMBER:..... EXPIRY DATE: .../.../...

I, the below signatory, declare that:

1. I am a certified grower with the above mentioned organic organisation and that the produce listed above is grown on a property covered by the organic certification; and
2. all produce has been inspected and any fruit suspected of being infested with Queensland fruit fly was rejected prior to packing; and
3. produce is packed in a manner so as to exclude Queensland fruit fly, such as in cartons without vents, vented cartons with suitable mesh or cartons which are palletised and shrink wrapped for transport to, or within, Victoria.

Printed Name	Signature	Date/...../.....

There are penalties under the Plant Health & Plant Products Act 1995, for any person providing an inspector any information that is false or misleading.

List of Approved Organic Industry Organisations

ACO

Australian Certified Organic
PO Box 530
L1/766 Gympie Rd
CHERMSIDE QLD 4032

Ph: 07 3350 5716
Fax: 07 3350 5996

BDRI

Bio-Dynamic Research Institute
POWELLTOWN VIC 3797

Ph: 03 5966 7333
Fax: 03 5966 7433

BFA

Biological Farmers of Australia Co-Operative Ltd
PO Box 3404
Village Fair
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Ph: 07 4639 3299
Fax: 07 4639 3755

NASAA

National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia Ltd
PO Box 768
STIRLING SA 5152

Ph: 08 8370 8455
Fax: 08 8370 8381

OGA

Organic Growers of Australia Inc
PO Box 6171
SOUTH LISMORE NSW 2480

Ph: 02 6629 1057
Fax: 02 6629 1057

OVAA

Organic Vignerons Association of Australia Inc
1 Gawler Street
PO Box 503
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

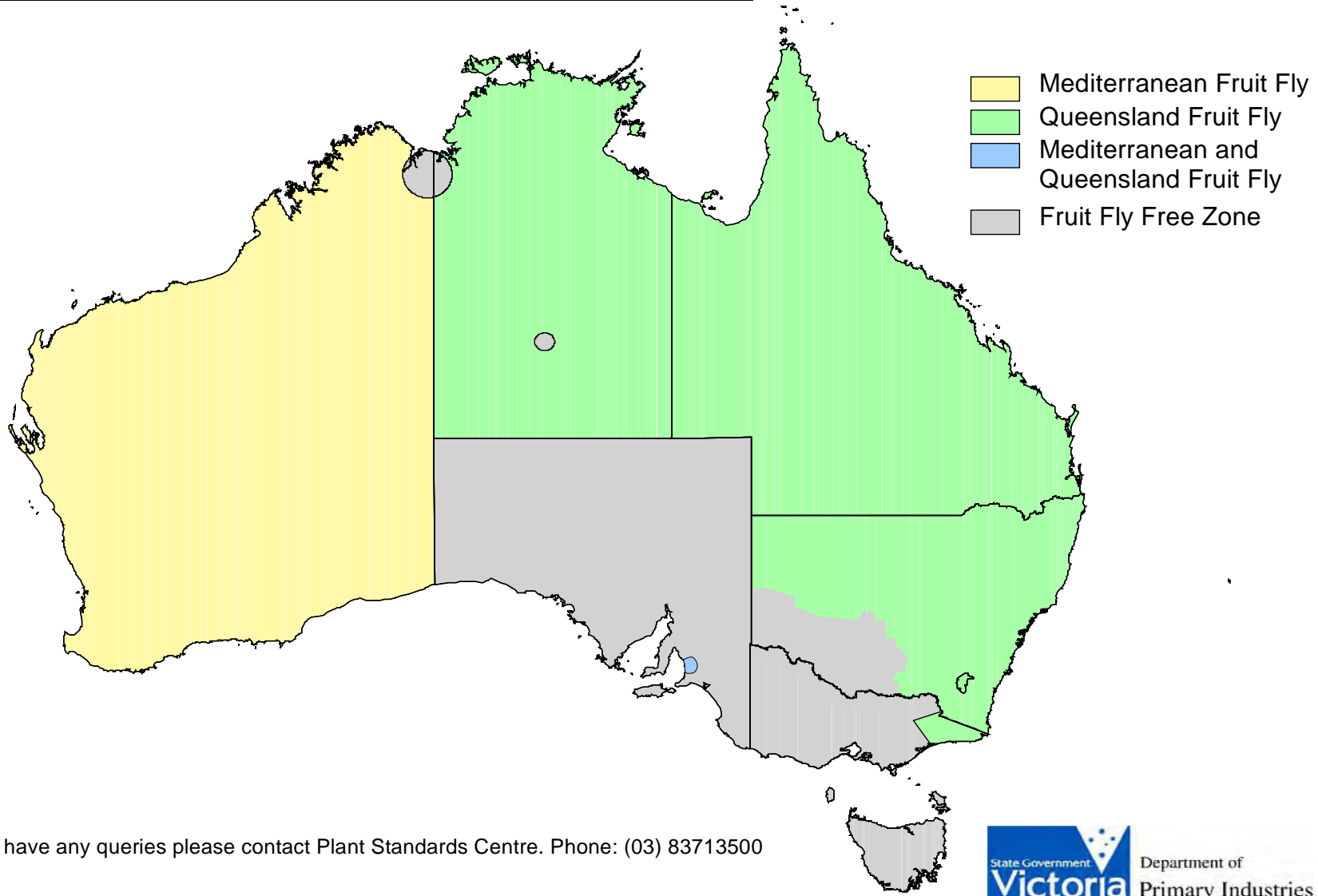
Ph: 08 8562 2122
Fax: 08 8562 3034

Mediterranean and Queensland Fruit Fly Host List

For Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly only, please check the relevant non-host lists for Papaya fruit fly and Philippines fruit fly. For any unlisted produce, please check with Plant Standards.

CROP TYPE	QFF	MFF	CROP TYPE	QFF	MFF
Abiu	YES	YES	Lychee	YES	YES
Acerola	YES	YES	Mandarin	YES	YES
Apple	YES	YES	Mango	YES	YES
Apricot	YES	YES	Mangosteen	YES	YES
Avocado	YES	YES	Monstera	NO	YES
Babaco	YES	YES	Mulberry	YES	YES
Banana	YES	YES	Nashi	YES	YES
Black Sapote	YES	YES	Nectarine	YES	YES
Blackberry	YES	YES	Olive	NO	YES
Blueberry	YES	YES	Orange	YES	YES
Brazil cherry	YES	YES	Papaya (Pawpaw)	YES	YES
Breadfruit	NO	YES	Passionfruit	YES	YES
Caimito (Star apple)	YES	YES	Peach	YES	YES
Cape gooseberry	YES	YES	Peacharine	YES	YES
Capsicum	YES	YES	Pear	YES	YES
Carambola (Star fruit)	YES	YES	Pepino	YES	YES
Cashew apple	YES	YES	Persimmon	YES	YES
Casimiroa (White sapote)	YES	YES	Plum	YES	YES
Cherimoya	YES	YES	Plumcot	YES	YES
Cherry	YES	YES	Pomegranate	YES	YES
Chilli	YES	YES	Prickly Pear	YES	YES
Choko	NO	YES	Pummelo	YES	YES
Citron	YES	YES	Quince	YES	YES
Coffee Berry	NO	YES	Rambutan	YES	YES
Custard Apple	YES	YES	Raspberry	YES	YES
Date (dried)	NO	YES	Rollinia	YES	YES
Date (fresh)	YES	YES	Rose apple (Wax Jambu)	YES	YES
Dragonfruit	YES	YES	Santol	YES	YES
Durian	YES	YES	Sapodilla	YES	YES
Eggplant	NO	YES	Soursop	YES	YES
Feijoa	YES	YES	Star apple (Caimito)	YES	YES
Fig	YES	YES	Star fruit (Carambola)	YES	YES
Granadilla	YES	YES	Strawberry	YES	NO
Grape	NO	YES	Sugar apple (Sweetsop)	YES	YES
Grapefruit	YES	YES	Sweetsop (Sugar apple)	YES	YES
Grumichama	YES	YES	Tahitian Lime	YES	YES
Guava	YES	YES	Tamarillo	YES	YES
Hog plum (Vai apple)	YES	YES	Tangelo	YES	YES
Jaboticaba	YES	YES	Tomato	YES	YES
Jackfruit	YES	YES	Vai apple (Hog plum)	YES	YES
Kiwifruit	YES	YES	Wax Jambu (Rose apple)	YES	YES
Kumquat	YES	YES	White sapote (Casimiroa)	YES	YES
Lemon	YES	YES			
Lime	YES	YES	QFF = Queensland Fruit Fly		
Loganberry	YES	YES	MFF = Mediterranean Fruit Fly		
Longan	YES	YES	NO = does not require certification YES = requires certification		
Loquat	YES	YES			

Permanent Fruit Fly Status of Australia



Import Conditions for Organic Produce

(A) Conditions for the Import of Queensland Fruit Fly Host Organic Produce to Victoria

Produce	Import conditions
Apples, Pears, Nashi and Kiwi and Quince and other cold tolerant fruits	Cold storage (PHC or PHAC) or permit & inspection on arrival
Bananas	Mature green (PHC or PHAC)
Babaco, Black Sapote, Mangosteen, Passionfruit (purple and yellow types), Breadfruit and Tahitian lime	Mature green (PHC or PHAC) or permit & inspection on arrival
Pawpaw, Tomato and Babaco	Mature green (PHC or PHAC) or permit & inspection on arrival
Durian, Jackfruit, Jaboticaba, Longan, Lychee, Pomegranate and Rambutan	Harvested with unbroken skin and flesh not exposed (PHC or PHAC) or permit & inspection on arrival
Mangoes	Hot water or vapour heat treatment (PHC or PHAC) or permit & inspection on arrival
Strawberry, Raspberry, Blueberry, Blackberry, Cherries and Carambola (Star fruit)	Permit & inspection on arrival
Capsicums, Chillies, Custard apple, Peaches, Nectarines, Plums, Apricots, Citrus and Avocado	Permit & inspection on arrival
Eggplant, Grapes and other non hosts of Queensland fruit fly	No certification required for entry into Victoria

(B) Conditions for the Import of Mediterranean Fruit Fly Host Organic Produce to Victoria

Produce	Import conditions
Apple, Grape Fruit and other cold tolerant fruits	Cold storage (PHC or PHAC)
Banana and Tomato	Mature green (PHC or PHAC)
Avocado (Hass, fuerte, sharwill)	Hard green (PHC or PHAC)
All other host produce	Prohibited

Other Conditions:

- Organic produce must be grown by a certified organic grower.

Definitions:

Inspection means declared for inspection to an Approved Inspection Service on arrival.

Permit means a permit to import is required from DPI.

PHC means a Plant Health Certificate issued by a State Department of Agriculture.

PHAC means a Plant Health Assurance Certificate issued by a grower accredited for an applicable ICA procedure.

The list of produce shown above is not exhaustive.

If you have any queries about any commodity not appearing in the tables above, please contact the Plant Standards Centre for information on:

Ph: 03 8371 3500

Fax: 03 9687 6746