

Biosecurity - Management of Plant Health Certification Schemes for NSW Producers

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1. Purpose

This policy provides guidance to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), within the NSW Department of Industry on the development and management of plant health certification schemes. This promotes market access for plants and plant products and prevents, eliminates and minimises the biosecurity risks posed to the economy, environment and community of NSW. Plant health certification arrangements such as the Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) scheme allow accredited businesses to self-certify plants and plant products to meet specific interstate or intra state biosecurity requirements.

2. Scope

This policy applies to personnel administering the plant health certification arrangements, including NSW DPI and Local Land Services (LLS) staff implementing activities in their role as authorised officers under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

3. Outcomes

3.1 Certification schemes provide harmonised national approach to support domestic trade

- Plant health certification arrangements can be an efficient alternative to traditional government issued plant health certification
- NSW producers have the opportunity to self-certify their produce and benefit from optimised market access for their products and maximise profitability through reduced costs, red tape and regulatory burden
- The community of NSW will benefit from the opportunity to purchase plants and plant products from other jurisdictions while minimising the biosecurity risk to NSW.

3.2 NSW DPI supports the development of third party plant health certification schemes

Activities

- NSW DPI to continue working with relevant authorities to develop documented operational procedures that describe the management system, processes and process controls that must be implemented and documented by a business to allow them to become accredited to certify a specific biosecurity requirement
- NSW DPI to continue its effort in simplification of the documents and procedures with the view to make these user-friendly
- Proactively represent NSW at the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) and associated forums and contribute to the ongoing development of national and multijurisdictional market access programs, protocols and procedures

- Analyse and apply appropriate risk based decision making that is least trade restrictive and technically justified
- Comply with obligations under the Memorandum of Understanding on Interstate Certification Assurance in accordance with the Act
- Educate and encourage growers to adopt plant health certification arrangements to reduce red tape and regulatory burden and assist in accessing new markets.

3.3 Certification schemes enable interstate and intrastate trade

- a) NSW producers maintain and acquire additional markets
- b) The community of NSW benefits from the choice of plants and plant products from other jurisdictions.

Activities

- Risk based analyses to reduce regulatory conditions for imports into and exports from NSW
- Educate and encourage growers to adopt plant health certification arrangements to reduce red tape and regulatory burden and assist in accessing new markets
- Foster collaborative working arrangements with NSW DPI Agriculture and LLS to secure and enhance market access opportunities for NSW plants and plant products.

4. Related procedures

Procedure - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure of information

5. Definitions and acronyms

ICA	Interstate Certification Assurance
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
LLS	Local Land Services
SDQMA	Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access

6. Legislation

Biosecurity Act 2015

Biosecurity Regulation 2017

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

7. Other Related Documents

Biosecurity - Accreditation of biosecurity certifiers policy

Biosecurity - Audit frequency policy

Memorandum of Understanding on Interstate Certification Assurance

Policy - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure of information

Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)

Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)

Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)

Policy -Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)

8. Revision History

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Manager Plant Product Integrity and Standards

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.1	19/06/2017	Amendments to include requirements subject to Section 387 of the Act, the collection, use and disclosure of information. Amendment to authorisation date and title	Senior Policy Officer Policy Legislation Performance & Consultation

9. Contact

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