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| Insert the appropriate Territory or Government official symbol or logo | **UKOT [insert name of territory] Government****XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]****BIOSECURITY** |

 **Guidelines for Importers of Composts and Peat**

These guidelines accompany the Import Health Standard (IHS) for the Importation of Composts and Peat into UKOT [insert name of Territory].

Composts and peat are capable of carrying weeds seeds, disease causing microbes, and harbouring potentially harmful insects, spiders and mites. Peat is capable of carrying foot and mouth disease. They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these standards are designed to minimise.

* You do not require an import licence to import soil conditioners and peat into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
* Smaller quantities imported in sealed bags of up to 25kg per bag do not require any treatment before importation.
* Larger quantities imported loose, for example in open canvas bags, require treatment to kill any live insects or other animals in the country of origin. On arrival you will need to show proof of treatment, such as a fumigation certificate.
* As peat can carry foot and mouth disease a phytosanitary certificate may be required for peat imported from countries where the disease is known to occur. This is not normally required for peat from the UK.
* All consignments of soil conditioners and peat must meet specified import health standards.
* It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and understands that composts and peat must meet these conditions.
* It is your responsibility to ensure the consignments are free of live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal material and plant material prior to arrival in UKOT[insert name of Territory].
* On arrival they may be inspected by an authorised agent.
* If they fail to meet the import health standards, they may be refused entry, or confiscated and destroyed.
* If live insects are found treatment will be required, at your expense.
* Badly contaminated items may be refused entry to UKOT[insert name of Territory].
* Further information can be obtained from:

XXX [Provide full details (telephone number and email) of a named government official. There can be a high turnover of staff with some territories so it may be necessary to add the names of a primary and secondary contact]

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| Insert the appropriate Territory or Government official symbol or logo | **Import Health Standard****for the importation of****COMPOSTS AND PEAT****into UKOT [insert name of Territory]** |
| **BIOSECURITY** | Issued in pursuance of xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation].Version XXX |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Import Health Standard (IHS) is to set out the requirements that must be met when importing fresh fruit and vegetables for human consumption into UKOT[insert name of Territory] in order to manage the biosecurity risks associated with them.

**GUIDE FOR USERS**

The information contained in this product IHS is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of 4 parts.

**PART A: General Information:** contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for the UKOT[insert name of Territory]Import Health Standard for Composts and Peat and the general responsibilities of these items.

**PART B. Importation Procedure:** contains sections which outline the requirements be met prior to and during importation and conditions of eligibility.

**PART C: Clearance Procedure:** contains sections describing the requirements to be met at all UKOT[insert name of Territory]ports of entry and what may happen if the consignment does not meet the requirements of this Import Health Standard.

**PART D: Phytosanitary Certification:** contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certificate and must accompany the consignment to UKOT[insert name of Territory], where this requirement is specified.

**Part A: General Information**

1. **Import Health Standard and Importer´s Responsibility**
2. Pursuant to xxx [insert the relevant Territory legislation] of the Laws of UKOT[insert name of Territory], this is the Import Health Standard for the importation of composts and peat into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
3. Obtaining importation clearance for each consignment of composts and peat imported into UKOT[insert name of Territory]is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of the this Import Health Standard.
4. The following is prohibited and are therefore not included in the import health standard:

Soil, earth, mud etc.

1. It is the importer or agent´s responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the composts and peat Import Health Standard at the time of importation of these items into UKOT[insert name of Territory].
2. Where it is known to the importer or agent that a consignment of composts and peat will not arrive on the ship voyage approved on the licence to import document, notification of this change should immediately be given to the contact listed at section 6.

**2. Review of Import Health Standard**

2.1 The import health standard may be review, amended or revoked if there are changes to policy or legislation on UKOT[insert name of Territory] or the plant health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason.

**3. Definition of Terms**

* 1. **Inspector**

XXX [Add the appropriate contact]

* 1. **XXX** [add and define here any abbreviations for the government departments referred to in this Standard]

XXX is the Government Department**.**

* 1. **Equivalence**

Acceptance by the XXX [Add the appropriate authority/government department] that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

* 1. **Importation clearance**

Means that composts and peat given importation clearance is free from all restrictions.

**4. Equivalence**

* 1. It is expected that the composts and peat permitted to enter UKOT[insert name of Territory] will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the products do not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]for consideration prior to importation. Detailed information supporting the application for equivalence must also be forwarded for a decision, indicating which requirement can not be met and what measures of an equivalent nature have been taken to compensate

**5. Official Point of Contact**

* 1. The official point of contact(s) for this Import Health Standard is:

XXX [Provide full details (telephone number and email) of a named government official. There can be a high turnover of staff with some territories so it may be necessary to add the names of a primary and secondary contact]

**6. Fees and Costs**

6.1 All fees and costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining importation clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.

**Part B: Importation Procedure**

**7. Licence to Import**

* 1. Importations into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of all composts and peat listed at Section 8.1.1 to 8.1.X which meet the requirements of this health standard do notrequire a licence to import.

**8. Eligibility**

8.1 This Import Health Standard covers the importation into UKOT[insert name of Territory]of the following composts and peat:

8.1.1 **Soil conditioners and potting mixes of plant origin**: manufactured fertilisers, soil conditioners and potting mixes made from plant materials, for example, seaweed extracts and mushroom growing media;

 8.1.2 **Soil conditioners and potting mixes of terrestrial animal and avian origin**: for example, meat meals, bone meals, blood meals and by-product digests;

But excludes animal manure, hay and straw.

8.1.3 **Peat peat/peat moss/sphagnum peat moss**: defined as the dead material that accumulates in the lower levels of a peat bog. Harvesters of the horticultural peat moss remove the top few inches of the live sphagnum moss before harvesting the peat from the lower levels of the bog.

But excludes live sphagnum moss.

* 1. All **composts and peat listed at 8.1.1 to 8.1.3** above must be free of live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal material and plant material prior to arrival in Ascension.
	2. The consignment must be in unopened original bags from a commercial supplier. Bags must be clean and free from any contaminants. It is expected that the total amount of material imported at any one time is in the region of 100–500kg.
	3. Material **supplied loose**, such as in open canvas bags, can be imported provided that it is:
		1. From a commercial supplier.
		2. All consignments must be treated in the country of origin by fumigation, irradiation or heat treatment to kill live invertebrates and weed seeds. It is expected that the total amount of material imported at any one time is in excess of 1 tonne.
	4. Any packaging used with the consignment must be clean, preferably new.
	5. **Peat** **can carry foot and mouth disease of livestock**. The following additional conditions apply:
		1. Peat originating from countries where Foot and Mouth Disease occurs:
* Conditions outlined in 8.2 to 8.5 above;
* Each consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate stating that:
* ‘the product was inspected prior to export and found free of live insects, overburden, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces and undecomposed animal or plant material’.
* An additional declaration endorsed either on the Phytosanitary certificate or on a certificate issued by the relevant government animal health authority of the consignment must state:
	+ that the peat covered by the certificate comes from areas in which foot and mouth disease has not occurred within the past 12 months; or
	+ that the peat covered by the certificate was not sourced from an area within a three (3) kilometre radius of a foot and mouth disease affected property.
		1. Peat originating in the UK:
* Conditions outlined in 8.2 to 8.5, above.
* In the event of a foot and mouth outbreak in the UK please contact the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]for advice.
	1. For peat originating in any other country, please contact the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department]for advice.

**Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:**

9.1 An inspector at the port of arrival may inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment. Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of **Eligibility** the consignment will be given clearance.

* 1. If **soil, faeces, feathers, other animal related material**, or **seeds** are found on inspection the consignment may be confiscated and destroyed, at the importers expense.
	2. If **live insects** are found during the inspection the entire consignment will be treated by cold storage as follows:

Store at -18°C for 7 consecutive days starting when the core temperature of the consignment reaches -18°C. A core temperature of -18°C must be maintained over 7 consecutive days.

* 1. Treatment will be at the importers expense.

**Part D. Phytosanitary Certification**

**10. Application of Phytosanitary Measures**

* 1. A phytosanitary certificate is only required for **peat originating in South Africa** and other countries of origin if requested by the XXX [add the appropriate authority/government department], as outlined in section 8.6.
	2. The phytosanitary certificate must conform to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 12 Guidelines for Phytosanitary Certificates (2006) and any subsequent revisions.

**Part E: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Composts and Peat**

Amendments to this Standard will be given a consecutive number and will be dated in the body of the table. Brief details of the amended pages will be included.

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**List of Guidance notes and Import Health Standard Templates available:**

* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of LIVE PLANT MATERIAL
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND TYRES
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of COMPOSTS AND PEAT
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of Rock, stone, sand and pebbles
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of SAWDUST, WOOD CHIPS AND WOOD SHAVINGS
* Guidance notes and Import Health Standard for the importation of SHIPPING CONTAINERS

**List of Inspection Protocol Templates available:**

* Inspection protocol for FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
* Inspection protocol for LIVE PLANT MATERIAL
* Inspection protocol for VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND TYRES

These Guidance notes, Import Health Standards and Inspection Protocols were adapted from documents developed by *Biosecurity St Helena*