

SMALL WEIGHT SEED IMPORTS – TASMANIAN APPROVED SEED IMPORTER

What is the Small Weight Seed Imports program?

Import Requirement 36 – Seed for Sowing (IR36) of Tasmania's *Plant Biosecurity Manual* (the Manual) sets out conditions that apply to all seed imported into Tasmania under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* (BA2019). A condition in IR36 states that importers must provide a Statement of Seed Analysis, issued by an accredited seed testing laboratory, to Biosecurity Tasmania. The Statement must certify the seed as being free of species that are declared weeds in Tasmania. In some circumstances, obtaining a Statement of Seed Analysis for small quantities of seed may be difficult.

IR36 I(b) includes conditions which allow small weight seed lots of 1kg or less to be imported into Tasmania without a Seed Analysis. This is done through a business, organisation or individual applying to be listed as either a Tasmanian Approved Seed Supplier (TASS) or a Tasmanian Approved Seed Importer (TASI).

Tasmanian Approved Seed Importer (TASI)

A Tasmanian Approved Seed Importer (TASI) is recognised as having the ability and means to examine seed for identity, homogeneity, seed condition and presence of material of potential Biosecurity concern. In doing this, a TASI shares the responsibility for managing risks posed by weeds, pests and diseases that may be introduced into Tasmania via small quantities of imported seed.

Successful TASI applications will be listed on the Approved Importer List and are able to purchase from anyone, regardless of if they are a TASS.

Working in unison

The Approved Supplier List and Approved Importer List are complementary. While anyone may import seed of 1kg or less without a Statement of Seed Analysis from an Approved Supplier, importers who wish to obtain seed from other sources must become an Approved Importer. The Lists of Approved Suppliers and Approved Importers operate together to help safeguard Tasmania from declared weed, pest and disease incursions.

Who can apply to become a TASI?

Anyone who anticipates sourcing seed from suppliers not on the list of Approved Suppliers may apply to become a TASI. Some examples of importers who may be approved include specialist nurseries and seed traders who deal in rare vegetables or ornamental plants, Horticultural societies or clubs, or individual plant collectors and enthusiasts.

This program is does not cover the import of small seed lots for the purposes of research. Importers seeking to import small seed lots for research must apply for an [individual permit](#).

Prior to submitting an application to become a TASS, please consider whether you are able to source the seed locally from within Tasmania, or from a seller on the Approved Suppliers List.

Restrictions

While supplying and importing seed under this program provides alternatives to the Statement of Seed Analysis, it **does not** remove the obligation of seed lots of 1kg or less to comply with all other conditions set out in IR36 and any other IRs where applicable. Nor does it affect the need for importers to comply with Federal requirements if the seed originates from overseas.

Seeds with Specific Conditions listed in IR36 (pea, lupin, chickpea & canola) are subject to additional import requirements in the Manual. Prohibited Seeds, Declared Weeds and Restricted Plants (including seeds) listed on the Biosecurity Matter Listings are strictly prohibited from entry, or supply in, Tasmania unless authorised under a permit. These listings can be found on the [NRE Website](#). Prohibited Seeds under the Poisons Act 1971 (Indian hemp, coca leaves and alkaloid poppies) are strictly prohibited from entry to Tasmania unless a permit from the relevant authorities has been issued.

Period of approval

Registration is via a one-time application. However, Biosecurity Tasmania may cancel an importer's approval in the event of any non-compliance with conditions of approval or Tasmanian biosecurity legislation. Biosecurity Tasmania may undertake audits (announced or unannounced) of importers to ensure compliance with requirements. Penalties may apply where importers are found to be non-compliant.

Fees

There is currently no charge to become a Tasmanian Approved Seed Importer.

It is a requirement that a Notice of Intention (see the IR36) must be submitted for every consignment of seeds imported into Tasmania. A fee-for-service will be raised by Biosecurity Tasmania for documentary processing of seed imported for commercial gain.

APPLICATION FORM: TASMANIAN APPROVED SEED IMPORTER (TASI)

Once this application has been completed in full and signed, please return it and the supporting documentation to biosecurity.marketaccess@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Company/Organisation (where applicable):

ABN (where applicable):

Address:

Postal Address:

Telephone/Email:

Reason/s for application:

Professional or personal seed importation experience:

Horticultural or Agricultural Industry or Association Affiliation/Membership or Accreditation (attach copy of current membership card or statement, if applicable):

The following must be supplied along with this application and declaration:

- Proof of subscription to the Biosecurity Advisory emails (link in Section (d))
- Photo / Description of inspection area where the seed inspections in Section (l) will take place
- A copy of the logbook or spreadsheet which will be maintained for imports
- A list of intended suppliers (if applicable)

APPLICANT DECLARATION

I, _____ (full name)
of _____
_____ (address and business name)

request admission to the Register of Seed Importers, and in doing so I agree to:

KNOWLEDGE OF SEED IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

- a) Maintain an up-to-date understanding of Tasmanian requirements for seed for sowing to ensure any seed imported in quantities of 1kg or less meets all relevant state import requirements.
- b) Maintain a current copy of the Plant Biosecurity Manual Tasmania must be kept (electronic copies are permitted) and a responsible person must have read and understood Import Requirement 36 – Seed for Sowing, and any other relevant import requirements, such as those relating to Seeds with Specific Conditions, therein.
- c) Have access to the Biosecurity Compendium, [Biosecurity Matter Listings](#) which indicate the prohibited seeds, declared weeds and restricted plants.
- d) Register at <https://biosecurityadvisory.nre.tas.gov.au/Pages/Subscribe.aspx> to receive Tasmanian Biosecurity Advisories by email.

RESTRICTED SEED REQUIREMENTS

- e) Requirements for seeds that are classified as Seeds with Specific Conditions (pea, lupin, chick pea, canola) under IR36 must still be met (various IRs in the Manual).
- f) Under the BA2029 the following seeds must not be imported into Tasmania:
 - i. **Prohibited seeds** listed as Prohibited Matter on the Prohibited Matter Listing; and
 - ii. **Declared Weeds (Plant Pests)** listed as declared on the Declared Pests & Diseases Listing; and
 - iii. **Restricted Plants (including seeds)** listed on the Restricted Matter Listing; and
 - iv. **Myrtaceae Seeds**; and
 - v. **Prohibited Matter** under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* section 20; and
 - vi. **Poisons Act 1971 Prohibited Seeds** (*Indian hemp, coca leaves and alkaloid poppies*)

SEED IMPORTATION, EXAMINATION, REPORTING AND RECORD REQUIREMENTS

- g) A Notice of Intention must be submitted for each consignment;
- h) Consignments of seed must be 1kg or less per line;
- i) All consignments are to be marked in legible text “Attention Biosecurity Tasmania”;
- j) All imported seeds must be labelled with botanical name and common name, and name and address of supplier and of the consignee;
- k) Seed carried on a person or in personal baggage accompanying a person entering Tasmania must be presented for inspection to Biosecurity Tasmania at the permitted point of entry (*i.e. airport or seaport*);
- l) Maintain a designated examination area which is:
 - i) a clean, well ordered, enclosed and draught-free area for examining imported seed prior to use or further distribution, and
 - ii) equipped with a clean bench, a lamp or other adequate light source and a white tile or tray upon which seed can be spread out for examination;

SEED IMPORTATION, EXAMINATION, REPORTING AND RECORD REQUIREMENTS (continued)

- m) An examination must be conducted on the entire, or a sufficiently representative sample, of all imported seed lots for:
- i) Identity (*ie. seed must appear to be of the type ordered, so far as you know*)
 - ii) Homogeneity (*ie. the seed must appear to be of the same type*)
 - iii) Seed condition (*ie. seed must be free of mould, lesions, of regular size and shape and have no other potential signs of disease*)
 - iv) Presence of material of potential Biosecurity concern (*ie. seed must be free of insects, frass, cocoons, soil, leaf or stem material, fruit pulp, pod or capsule fragments, faeces, feathers or other animal matter etc.*)
- n) Any seed that does not satisfy any of the conditions must be immediately double bagged in plastic zip-lock bags, stored securely and the importer must contact Biosecurity Tasmania as soon as practicable.
- o) Maintain a logbook or spreadsheet of all seed imports (*must include date of arrival, supplier, type of seed, quantity and examination results. Where seed is being on-sold or distributed, a record of all other relevant documentation related to importation should also be maintained with the log*).

AUDIT

- p) I understand that I may be audited by Biosecurity Tasmania and that this may occur without prior notice.

GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY (GBD)

- q) Under the BA2019 there is a legal obligation known as the GBD which means that a person (which includes all levels of Government, individuals, and private corporate entities) has to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks. Any person dealing with plants or animals (or their derived products) who knows, or reasonably ought to know, that a biosecurity risk is posed, or is likely to be posed, has a legal duty to ensure that the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.
- r) A significant breach of the GBD that is intentional or reckless will be treated as an aggravated offence that may carry a significant penalty under the BA2019.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO PROVIDE FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

I declare that the information provided on this form to be true and correct in every regard to the best of my knowledge

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please submit the application to: biosecurity.marketaccess@nre.tas.gov.au

Office Use Only

Date Assessed: _____

Comments: _____

Application # _____

Officer: _____

Signature: _____

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Personal information on this form is collected from you for the purpose of importing / exporting produce into Tasmania under the Biosecurity ACT 2019. This information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies also involved with the enforcement of requirements under this legislation, or where necessary, for the efficient use and storage of the information. Personal information is managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to NRE. You may be charged a fee for this service.

Aug 2023