

Import Control of Plant Pests

Introduction

- The Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance, Cap. 207 of the Laws of Hong Kong provides a legal basis for the phytosanitary control in Hong Kong. Through the control of the import of plants, soil and plant pests, Cap. 207 aims to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests so as to protect local flora and crop production.
- Cap. 207 prohibits the importation of any plant pests, except with the prior approval and authorisation in writing issued by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC).
- “Plant pest” is defined as any bacterium, fungus, virus, mycoplasma, alga or other plant or any invertebrate animal which is capable of being injurious or destructive to plants.
- Exotic plant pests may cause damage to agricultural and forestry production, leading to economic loss. Their invasion may also threaten natural vegetation, affect local species and cause disruption to ecological balance.
- Plants as pests (i.e. weeds) may affect other plants by competing for water, light and nutrients, or through parasitism.
- Not all incursions of exotic plant pests can be eradicated. Even if it is possible, the task can be very difficult and costly.
- Any person who imports plant pests without the authorisation in writing from DAFC shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months.



Guidance Notes for the Application of Authorisation for the Import of Plant Pests

Application for the import of plant pests, based on a justifiable need, should be submitted to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (this Department). This Department will conduct a pest risk assessment based on factors such as phytopathogenic characteristics, phytophagous characteristics, capability of acting as a vector for known pests and adverse effects on non-target organisms. Applicants should verify all application materials before submitting their application. The time required for assessment may vary depending on the complexity of the assessment. Early application is therefore encouraged. Please be sure to bring along a valid authorisation during the importation of plant pests.

Procedures for the Application of Authorisation for the Import of Plant Pests

- 1.** Prior to importation, an applicant should submit a written application to this Department to provide information such as species, quantity, purpose and origin of the plant pests to be imported.
- 2.** This Department will conduct a pest risk assessment on the plant pests to be imported to decide whether to approve the application.
- 3.** If an application is approved, the applicant should strictly follow the conditions stipulated on the authorisation for the importation of plant pests.
- 4.** The importer or his/her agent must present a valid authorisation for the importation of plant pests.
- 5.** Plant pests will be inspected or sampled by this Department upon arrival.



Examples of Plant Pests that Require an Authorisation

Agriculture



Carrying agent of parasitoid



Pet



Rhinoceros beetle



Stag beetle

Vermicomposting



Earthworm

Animal



Cricket



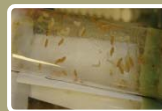
Grasshopper

Feed



Mealworm

Research



Fruit fly, nematode, fungus, bacterium, virus, weed, etc.

Exhibition



Stick insect



Enquiries

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Plant and Pesticides Regulatory Division**

**Address : 5/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,
Kowloon, Hong Kong**

Tel : 2150 7000

Fax : 2736 9904

E-mail : mailbox@afcd.gov.hk

Website : www.afcd.gov.hk

