

Importing Used Machinery and Agricultural Equipment

Tasmania has import requirements that apply to any equipment or vehicle that has been used in the culture, harvesting, packing or processing of any plant or plant product.

The definition of “equipment” includes tools, storage and even protective gear used in agriculture, horticulture, nurseries, gardens, forests etc.



Why is imported used machinery/equipment a biosecurity risk for Tasmania?

Machines and equipment that have been working in agriculture, horticulture, nurseries or forestry on the mainland are a significant biosecurity risk. There are many pests, diseases and weeds that could be introduced into Tasmania if machinery/ equipment is not properly and thoroughly cleaned before it gets here.

What pests or diseases could hitch a ride into Tasmania on a piece of machinery/equipment?

The list is very long, but the most significant biosecurity risks are Grape Phylloxera, Potato Cyst Nematode, Fire Blight, Lupin Anthracnose, Blueberry Rust, Brown Rot/Bacterial Wilt, Chickpea Blight, Green Snail, Onion Smut, Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid, Red Imported Fire Ant and, in addition, any of the declared weed species.

What does “clean” mean, in relation to machinery/equipment?

An external blast with a water pressure cleaner or an airgun is not sufficient ! The machinery / equipment must be completely clean of any soil, plants, plant material, trash, bark or anything else that might harbour a pest or disease. Machinery like harvesters, balers, seeders, storage bins etc must be thoroughly cleaned inside and out.

Do you need a permit to import machinery/equipment into Tasmania from the mainland?

No. But this is currently being reviewed and may change during 2010.

Do you need to provide Quarantine Tasmania with a Notice of Intention (NoI) to import machinery/equipment?

No. NoIs are required for imports of grain/seed, plants and plant products and produce, but not machinery/equipment .

Do you need to arrange, beforehand, any other documentation to import machinery /equipment?

In most cases, no. You simply present the machinery/equipment to the Quarantine Tasmania staff at the point of entry for inspection.

However, in the following cases, you will need some certification signed by “an approved person” and that must accompany the machinery/ equipment when it arrives at the Tasmanian quarantine barrier. An “approved person” is an officer of the DPI in the state where the machinery/equipment is coming from or someone authorised to sign on their behalf.

Grape Phylloxera. If the machinery/equipment is coming from an area that has, or has ever had, Phylloxera, you’ll need a certificate that the machine has been steam cleaned, heat treated or has not been in a Phylloxera area for at least the last two weeks of its use.

Onion smut. If the machine/equipment is coming from an overseas country with onion smut (all Australian states are currently free of onion smut), you’ll need a certificate that it hasn’t been used within 3kms of an outbreak.

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA). If the machinery /equipment is coming from an area with RIFA, you’ll need a certificate that it has been cleaned, inspected and found to be free of RIFA before being shipped to Tasmania.

Lupin Anthracnose. If the machinery/ equipment has been used for lupins in a state with lupin anthracnose, you’ll need a certificate that it has been cleaned under DPI supervision and is free of all lupin materials.

Chickpea Blight. If the machinery /equipment has been used or stored anywhere within 50 kms of Chickpea Blight fungus, you’ll need a certificate that it has been cleaned under DPI supervision and is free of all chickpea materials.

Blueberry Rust. If the machinery/equipment has been used for any of the host plants (ie not just blueberries but also cranberries and a few ornamental plants) and in any state that has blueberry rust, you’ll need a certificate that it has been steam cleaned or treated with a chlorine spray rinse.

What happens if the machine/equipment doesn’t pass the Quarantine Tasmania inspection or doesn’t have the necessary certification?

If practical, it will be cleaned at a quarantine wash bay at the importer’s expense. If that is not practical, it will be sent back to the mainland state it came from, again at the importer’s expense.

Where can you find more information about importing agricultural and forestry machinery/ equipment?

All the import requirements are detailed in the Plant Quarantine Manual Tasmania, available on the web at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plantimports

If you cannot find the information you need there or if you are still unsure about what you need to do to import machinery, please contact Quarantine Tasmania’s Devonport office on (03) 6421 7622 or email Quarantine.Devonport@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

PLEASE NOTE: Tasmania is currently reviewing the import requirements for agricultural and forestry machinery/equipment coming into the state. So, some changes are likely during 2010. The review process does ensure plenty of opportunity for industry and public comment. This fact sheet will be updated if/as necessary, so please check our website for the latest edition.

Keep yourself updated

To ensure you are kept advised of any new import requirement proposals, opportunities for comment and any changes that happen as a result, you are invited to subscribe to our Biosecurity Advisories. Just go to our website www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity and hit the green button. How easy is that?