



## Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio

### BIOSECURITY GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS COMING TO LIVE IN OR VISIT ST HELENA

#### BRINGING GOODS TO THE ISLAND AS PART OF THEIR PERSONAL BAGGAGE OR FREIGHT

## Welcome to St Helena!

Why are there strict controls on what we bring in to St Helena? As a remote oceanic island, St Helena is very vulnerable to the harmful impacts of introduced pests, weeds and diseases. Everyone benefits from a strong biosecurity system so everyone has a role to play. In order to protect the Island please note the following restrictions on the personal effects you can bring in.

It is against the law to import the following:

- Honey, bees, unrefined beeswax, any other bee derived substance that may have been exposed to bee diseases, used bee keeping equipment.
- Sunflower seeds from South America.
- Monkeys and psittacine birds (parrots, parakeets, etc)

Honey isn't processed and so can carry bee diseases such as American foul brood, as can many other unrefined bee related products and used bee equipment. St Helena at the moment has very few bee diseases and local bee keepers are trying to develop honey production. New bee equipment may be imported under licence. Please contact [andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh) for further information.

You need a licence to bring in the following:

- Fresh produce such as fruit and vegetables;
- Live plant material;
- Animals such as pets or livestock (except monkeys and psittacine birds);
- Any item listed under CITES Appendix I and II without the necessary export permit from the country of origin; see [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) for further information.

Only plant seeds commercially produced, labelled and sealed are allowed, seeds collected by yourself from the garden are prohibited. Fresh produce, plants and uncertified seeds can carry diseases and pests which could affect our crops or native plants. Fresh produce can be imported on application to ENRP, please contact [julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh) for further information.

These restrictions cover sachets of honey and fresh fruit brought in from either sea going vessels or plane, which are both prohibited.

Dogs and cats can be brought in from the UK if they comply with the requirements of the DEFRA (UK) agreed Export Health Certificate. Other pets will be considered on application. There is currently no access route for livestock. Please contact [andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh) for further information.



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In addition, the following items can damage the islands agriculture or environment by harbouring pests, weed seeds or diseases:

- Equipment contaminated with mud, compacted dirt or weed seeds, including:
  - Farming or gardening equipment;
  - Hiking gear such as walking boots, jackets, tents and groundsheets;
  - Sports gear, canoes, fishing rods;
  - Childrens toys used outdoors and in the garden;
  - Vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles;
  - Machinery;
  - Construction materials or equipment;
- Unprocessed wood and any wood with bark still intact;
- Raw unprocessed leather, hair, wool, bone and horn, including game trophies.

**We ask you to please make sure that all equipment is thoroughly cleaned before shipping. All vehicles should be pressure cleaned both inside and out.**

**Permitted items** include the following:

- Commercially produced and packaged food; for example biscuits, preserves, cereals, tinned goods, chocolates, spices, dried herbs, etc. Packages should be unopened and clearly from a commercial source, such as a supermarket chain;
- Commercially produced, and packaged seeds, providing they are not known to be invasive. Packets should be unopened from, for example, Stark Ayres or Johnsons Seeds;
- Wood, wooden items and handicrafts where the wood is bark-free, dried, treated or varnished;
- Processed or otherwise treated leather, hair, wool, bone and horn, unless CITES listed.

Goods and personal effects entering St Helena are inspected on arrival using a combination of detector dogs, x-ray machines and visual checks. Any prohibited or restricted goods found will be seized. If you have inadvertently brought in such goods you should hand them over to Customs or Biosecurity, or place them in the quarantine bin at the airport.

For any questions or further information please contact [julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh) or [andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Thank you for helping to protect St Helena Island.  
We trust you enjoy your stay.