



**St Helena
Government**

**Environment, Natural Resources and
Planning Portfolio**

BIOSECURITY

General guidelines for importers of food items

These general guidelines cover the importation of food items into the Island of St Helena which are not already covered by specific Import Health Standards.

St Helena has relatively few pests, weeds and diseases compared to countries such as South Africa and the UK. Imported goods are a way in which new ones can be introduced to the island. Some commodities can harbour pests and diseases which affect beneficial plants or St Helenas endemic species. Others are not themselves invasive or pests but are capable of carrying weeds seeds and disease-causing microbes and harbouring potentially harmful insects, spiders and mites or their eggs, hidden away in nooks and crannies.

They therefore pose a biosecurity risk which these guidelines are designed to minimise.

- There are no restrictions on any commercially packaged, sealed and labelled tinned, bottled, frozen, boxed, or preserved foods other than those prohibited or restricted by law (eg honey)
- You do not require an import licence to import foodstuffs to St Helena other than those which have specific Import Health Standards (eg Fresh produce, and any plant material intended for growing purposes)
- All goods must be securely sealed and sturdily packaged, all packaging should be preferably new, clean, free from dirt, debris of plant or animal origin, live insects or other invertebrates, seeds and other contaminants
- Temporary restrictions may be placed on the importation of certain foodstuffs from various countries, when necessary, if there is a need to protect St Helena from potentially harmful disease outbreaks from organisms believed to be carried in or on such imports such as, but not limited to, Avian flu in Poultry and poultry products BSE in beef and associated products.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your supplier and/or packer understands that consignments must meet these conditions.
- In the case of non-commercially prepared foodstuffs please seek further information before importing into St Helena
- Contaminated items or items not conforming to these guidelines may be refused entry into St Helena.
- Further information can be obtained from:
Julie Balchin, Biosecurity Officer
Address: ENRP, Scotland, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ
Telephone: + (290) 24724
Email: Julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh

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