

ICA-13: Queensland Fruit Fly Unbroken Skin Condition

REVISION REGISTER

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to describe:

- a) the principles of operation, design features and standards required; and
- b) the responsibilities and practices of personnel;

that apply to the certification of unbroken skin condition of approved fruits under an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement.

2 Scope

This procedure covers all certification of unbroken skin condition of approved fruits from businesses operating under an ICA arrangement in Victoria.

Approved fruits means fruit of achachairu, durian, jaboticaba, jackfruit, longan, lychee, mangosteen, rambutan and pomegranate.

This procedure is applicable where the requirements, as specified in section 6, are a specified condition of entry of an interstate quarantine authority for fruit fly.

Certification of unbroken skin condition for approved fruits under this procedure may not be an accepted quarantine entry condition for all intrastate and interstate markets.

Some intrastate and interstate markets may require additional certification as a condition of entry. It is the responsibility of the business consigning the produce to ensure compliance with all applicable quarantine requirements.

Information on intrastate quarantine requirements can be obtained from a local Agriculture Victoria Inspector

Information on interstate requirements can be obtained from the plant quarantine service in the destination state or territory.

Agriculture Victoria and interstate quarantine authorities maintain the right to inspect at any time produce and to refuse to accept a certificate where produce is found not to conform to specified requirements.

3 References

Plant Biosecurity Act 2010

Standard Operating Procedure - Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates

4 Definitions

Accredit means to authorise nominated staff within a business to issue assurance certificates.

Achachairu means fruit of the species *Garcinia humilis* (previously known as *Rheedia laterifolia*).

Act	means the Plant Biosecurity Act 2010 (the Act).
Approved Fruit	means fruit of achachairu, durian, jaboticaba, jackfruit, longan, lychee, mangosteen, rambutan and pomegranate.
Assurance Certificate	means a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC).
Authorised Inspector	means an inspector authorised by the relevant State or Territory Government.
Authorised Signatory	means an employee of an ICA accredited business whose name and specimen signature is provided on the business's Authorised Signatory form.
Broken Skin	means any pre-harvest crack, puncture, pulled stem or other break of the skin that penetrates through to the flesh and has not healed with callus tissue.
Business	means the legal entity responsible for the operation of the facility and ICA arrangement detailed in the business's Application for Accreditation.
Callus Tissue	means new tissue formed to heal an earlier injury or wound.
Certification Assurance	means a voluntary arrangement between the Accrediting Authority and a business that demonstrates effective in-house quality management and provides assurance through documented procedures and records that produce meets specified requirements.
Certified/Certification	means covered by a valid Plant Health Assurance Certificate or Plant Health Certificate.
Consignment	means a discrete quantity of produce transported to a single consignee at one time.
Durian	means fruit of the species <i>Durio zibethinus</i> .
Facility	means the property where the produce is grown and where the grading and packing operations are carried out.
Flesh	means the tissues that are normally eaten, and for mangosteens, the flesh shall include the pith of the shell.
Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA)	means a system of Certification Assurance developed to meet the requirements of State and Territory governments for the plant health certification of produce for interstate and intrastate quarantine purposes.
Jaboticaba	means fruit of the species <i>Myrciaria cauliflora</i> .
Jackfruit	means fruit of the species <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> .
Longan	means fruit of the species <i>Euphoria longan</i> .
Lychee	means fruit of the species <i>Litchi chinensis</i> .
Mangosteen	means fruit of the species <i>Garcinia mangostana</i> .
Package	means the final outer covering in which certified produce is consigned and may include a box, carton, bin, bundle or other packaging unit.

Packed product	means host produce in packages following grading and packing and ready for marketing.
Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC)	means certification issued by an Authorised Signatory of an accredited business.
Pomegranate	means fruit of the species <i>Punica granatum</i> .
Queensland fruit fly	means all stages of the species <i>Bactrocera tryoni</i> .
Rambutan	means fruit of the species <i>Nephelium lappaceum</i> .
Skin	means the outer layer(s) of the fruit that encloses the flesh.

5 Responsibility

The position titles used reflect the responsibilities of staff under the agreement. These positions may not be present in all businesses, or different titles may be used for staff who carry out these responsibilities. One person may carry out the responsibilities of more than one position.

The **Certification Controller** is responsible for:

- representing the business during audits and other matters relevant to ICA accreditation;
- ensuring the business has current accreditation under this procedure;
- training staff in their duties and responsibilities under this procedure;
- ensuring the business and its staff comply with their responsibilities and duties;
- ensuring all preparation of fruit for certification of unbroken skin condition is carried out in accordance with this procedure;
- overseeing and supervising the sorting and packing process;
- investigating and rectifying any problems following detection of a non-conformity; and
- instigating corrective action following rejection of packed product.

The **Sorters/Packers** are responsible for:

- ensuring non-conforming fruit are identified and segregated to prevent mixing with conforming fruit.

The Packed Product Controller is responsible for:

- sampling and inspecting packages;
- identifying all sample packages;
- taking corrective action following identification of non-conforming fruit in any sample package; and
- maintaining records of packed product inspection.

The **Authorised Dispatcher** is responsible for:

- ensuring all packages containing fruit covered by an Assurance Certificate issued by the business are identified; and
- maintaining copies of all Assurance Certificates issued by the business.

The **Authorised Signatories** are responsible for:

- ensuring that, prior to signing and issuing an Assurance Certificate, produce covered by the certificate has been prepared in accordance with this procedure and that the details on the certificate are true and correct.

6 Requirement

Fruit certified for unbroken skin condition under this procedure must comply with the following requirements:

- Unbroken skin which means the skin has no pre-harvest crack, puncture, pulled stem or other break that penetrates through to the flesh and has not healed with callus tissue; and
- For rambutan to Western Australia only, fruit must not be over-ripe.

Signs of an over-ripe rambutan include the following:

- the skin has a dull appearance and a lack of lustre;
- the skin is a dark maroon colour;
- the flesh is not firm and not translucent; and
- the flesh has a winey and over-ripe taste.

This procedure sets out the steps required for compliance with the relevant law(s) or regulatory standards.

It is the responsibility of the business consigning the produce to ensure compliance with all applicable quarantine requirements.

Agriculture Victoria will not be responsible for any damage to plant or plant product or any personal injury that may result from the application of this accreditation.

7 Sorting

The business shall implement sorting systems during the grading and packing process to ensure fruit meets specified requirements (refer 6).

Any fruit which does not conform to the specified requirements shall be regarded as non-conforming and shall be rejected for certification under this procedure.

The Certification Controller shall supervise the sorting operation to ensure that any fruit that does not conform to these specified requirements is clearly identified and segregated to prevent mixing with conforming product.

Businesses should avoid packing durians or jackfruits for certification with partial cracks or splits in the skin which may open further after packing and penetrate through to the flesh thereby exposing the fruit to infestation by fruit fly.

7.1 Identification and Control of Non-conforming Fruit

The business shall ensure that no mixing of conforming and non-conforming fruit can occur during the sorting and packing operation.

All fruit that are found to be non-conforming (i.e., do not meet the requirements listed in section 6) shall be segregated to prevent mixing with conforming product.

Examples of segregation of non-conforming fruit shall include:

- a) locating non-conforming fruit in a defined and separate area to conforming fruit and maintaining separation until the fruit is graded and packed; or
- b) placing non-conforming fruit in bins or other containers which are clearly marked or significantly different in appearance to distinguish them from conforming fruit.

Other methods may be used provided non-conforming product is segregated.

7.2 Packing

A business which packs both conforming (i.e. meets the requirements listed in section 6) and non-conforming fruit shall implement systems to identify the condition status of fruit after packing to prevent mixing of conforming and non-conforming fruit.

Achachairu shall be packed within 48 hours of harvest for certification under this procedure.

7.2.1 Identification of Conforming and Non-conforming Fruit After Packing

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying the condition status of conforming and non-conforming fruit after packing include:

- a) using packaging that differs significantly in appearance; or
- b) immediately marking each package of conforming fruit in a manner that clearly identifies the fruit as conforming to the requirements specified under this procedure.

7.3 Packed Product Inspection

The Packed Product Controller shall continually monitor the grading and packing process by selecting a sample for examination from the packed product.

The Packed Product Controller shall advise the Certification Controller of any problems or potential problems detected in these samples so that corrective action can be implemented.

Packed Product Inspections may be carried out as an:

- a) in-line inspection during grading and packing; or
- b) end-point inspection following assembly of a consignment.

The Packed Product Controller shall ensure that packed product is stacked in an orderly fashion so that produce packed since the last sample package can be easily identified.

7.3.1 Sample Selection

The Packed Product Controller shall select a minimum of one package in every 50 packages or part thereof.

In-Line Inspection

Samples shall be selected at random from the final packed product as it leaves the packing line.

End-Point Inspection

Samples shall be selected at random from the consignment following consignment assembly.

7.3.2 Examination of the Sample

The Packed Product Controller shall carry out 100% inspection of the fruit from each sample package for compliance with the requirements (refer 6).

Each fruit in the sample package shall be removed. Once removed the fruit shall be examined for broken skin and, where applicable for rambutan to Western Australia, ripeness.

Broken skin includes any pre-harvest crack, puncture, pulled stem or other break of the skin that penetrates through to the flesh and has not healed with callus tissue.

Signs of an over-ripe rambutan include the following:

- the skin has a dull appearance and a lack of lustre;
- the skin is a dark maroon colour;
- the flesh is not firm and not translucent; and
- the flesh has a winey and over-ripe taste.

7.3.3 Identification of Sample Packages

Sample packages shall be sequentially numbered during the day of packing.

The Packed Product Controller shall identify each sample package with a Packed Product Sample (PPS) number by placing either a stamp or sticker bearing the lettering PPS No. (Packed Product Sample Number) on the exposed end of the package, then marking on or below the identifier the sequential sample number and their initials.

Where consignments are palletised, the sample packages examined by the Packed Product Controller shall be stacked on the pallet with the PPS No. visible on the outside of each pallet packed for certification under this procedure.

An example of a Packed Product Sample stamp or sticker is shown as Attachment 3.

7.3.4 Action Following Identification of Non-conforming Fruit

The Certification Controller shall be notified of any rejection. The Certification Controller shall advise the grading and packing staff of the non-conformance and investigate to identify the cause.

In-Line Inspection

If any sample package contains a fruit that does not meet the requirements, the Packed Product Controller shall:

- a) reject the sample package;
- b) stop the packing line; and
- c) withdraw and isolate all product packed since the previous sample package was selected.

Once problems have been identified and rectified, grading and packing may recommence.

The Packed Product Controller shall note in the "Comments" section of the Packed Product Inspection Record next to the entry for the sample package which failed inspection, the reason for failure and the number of withdrawn packages (Attachment 2).

Following resumption of grading and packing, the Packed Product Controller shall select an additional three (3) sample packages from the withdrawn packages.

The Packed Product Controller shall carry out 100% inspection of the fruit in the additional sample packages for conformance with the specified requirements (refer 6).

Additional sample packages shall be given the next three (3) Packed Product Sample (PPS) numbers after the package that initially failed inspection. The inspection results shall be entered on the Packed Product Inspection Record.

If all three additional sample packages are found to conform, the withdrawn packages and the three sample packages may be accepted and returned to the product assembly point.

If any of the additional sample packages contain non-conforming fruit, all withdrawn packages shall be rejected.

End-Point Inspection

If any sample package contains a fruit with broken skin the entire consignment shall be rejected.

The Packed Product Controller shall note in the "Comments" section of the Packed Product Inspection Record next to the entry for any sample package which failed inspection, the reason for failure and the number of packages in the rejected consignment.

7.3.5 Rejected Product

All rejected packages shall be isolated and clearly identified to prevent mixing with conforming packages.

Packages rejected for broken skins must be either:

- regraded, repacked and reinspected in accordance with this section prior to certification under this procedure;
- treated and certified in accordance with an alternative quarantine entry condition; or
- consigned to markets for which there are no quarantine restrictions concerning fruit fly.

Packages rejected for live fruit fly larvae must be either:

- treated and certified in accordance with an alternative quarantine entry condition; or
- consigned to markets for which there are no quarantine restrictions concerning fruit fly.

7.3.6 Packed Product Inspection Records

The Packed Product Controller shall maintain records of the results of product inspection.

Packed product inspection records shall be in the form of an Unbroken Skin Condition Packed Product Inspection Record (Attachment 3) or a record which captures the same information.

7.4 Post Treatment Security

Packing shall commence as soon as practicable after grading and post-harvest inspection.

Conforming packed product shall be held for the minimum practical period after grading before securing against infestation.

Certified produce must be stored and transported under secure conditions which prevent infestation by fruit fly.

Secure conditions include:

- (a) unvented packages;
- (b) vented packages with the vents secured with gauze/mesh with a maximum aperture of 1.6mm;
- (c) fully enclosed under tarpaulins, hessian, shade cloth, mesh or other covering which provides a maximum aperture of 1.6mm;
- (d) shrink-wrapped and sealed as a palletised unit; and
- (e) fully enclosed or screened buildings, cool rooms, vehicles or other facilities free from gaps or other entry points greater than 1.6mm.

Produce consigned to Tasmania must be transported in full container lots sealed prior to transport, or as lesser container lots in accordance with the requirements of 8.3 (a), (b) or (d) above.

Where consignments are transported to Tasmania as full container lots, the seal number must be included in the 'Brand Name or Identifying Marks' section of the PHAC covering the consignment.

Where consignments are transported in vented packages that are sealed as a palletised unit in accordance with 8.3 (d) above, the business must secure the top layer of the pallet by applying a continuous band of tape over the shrink-wrap and have applied to the tape in waterproof ink the signature of an Authorised Signatory, the number of the PHAC covering the consignment and the date.

7.5 Dispatch

7.5.1 Package Identification

The Authorised Dispatcher shall ensure that, after inspection and packing, each package is marked in indelible and legible characters of at least 5 mm, with:

- the Interstate Produce (IP) number of the business that operates the facility in which the produce was packed;
- the words "MEETS ICA-13"; and
- the date (or date code) on which the fruit was packed.

Where the packer uses a different identifier to the IP number of the grower, the packer must maintain a Grower Identifier Record that matches the grower identifiers used with the grower's name or IP number so the grower can be easily identified if required.

Any packages containing fruit that has not been inspected in accordance with the requirements of this procedure shall not be marked as stated above.

7.5.2 Assurance Certificate

The Authorised Dispatcher shall ensure an Assurance Certificate is completed and signed by an Authorised Signatory of the business prior to consigning to a market requiring certification of unbroken skin condition for fruit fly.

Assurance Certificates shall be in the form of a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (Attachment 1).

Assurance Certificates shall include:

- a) in the "Accredited Business that Prepared the Produce" section:
 - the name and address of the Accredited Business that packed the fruit;
- b) in the "Grower or Packer" section:
 - the name and address of the Accredited Business that packed the fruit;
- c) in the "IP No. of Acc. Business" section:
 - the IP No. of the Accredited Business that packed the fruit;
- d) in the "Additional Certification" section:
 - the additional certification "

All approved fruit (except rambutans to Western Australia) -

"Inspected and found free from broken skins."

Rambutans to Western Australia -

"Inspected and found free from broken skins and not over-ripe."

Individual Assurance Certificates shall be issued to cover each consignment to avoid splitting of consignments.

Assurance Certificates shall be completed, issued and distributed in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure - Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates.

7.5.3 Assurance Certificate Distribution

The **original** (yellow copy) must accompany the consignment.

The **duplicate** (white copy) must be retained by the business.

8 Accreditation

8.1 Application for Accreditation

A business seeking accreditation for an ICA arrangement under this Operational Procedure shall make application for accreditation at least ten (10) working days prior to the intended date of commencement of operation under the ICA arrangement.

8.2 Audit Process

8.2.1 Initial Audit

Prior to accrediting a business, an Authorised Inspector carries out an initial audit to verify the ICA system is implemented and capable of operating in accordance with the requirements of the procedure, and the system is effective in ensuring compliance with the specified requirements of the ICA arrangement.

On completion of a successful initial audit, applicants will be granted provisional accreditation and issued a Certificate of Accreditation.

8.2.2 Compliance Audits

Compliance audits are conducted to verify that the ICA system continues to operate in accordance with the requirements of this procedure.

Compliance audits are, wherever practical, conducted when the ICA system is operating.

A compliance audit is conducted:

- within four (4) weeks of the initial audit and accreditation;
- within twelve (12) weeks of the business applying for re-accreditation; and
- in the case of a business operating for more than six (6) months of a year, between six (6) and nine (9) months after accreditation or re-accreditation.

On completion of a successful audit, annual accreditation is granted to cover the current season, to a maximum of twelve months from the date of provisional accreditation (refer 8.3).

Random audits are conducted on a number of businesses each year. Random audits may take the form of a full compliance audit, or audits of limited scope to sample certified produce, ICA system records or ICA system documentation.

Unscheduled compliance audits may be conducted at any time to investigate reported or suspected non-conformances.

8.2.3 Re-Accreditation

Accredited businesses are required to re-apply for accreditation each year the business seeks to operate under the ICA arrangement. Businesses seeking re-accreditation must lodge a renewal application prior to accreditation lapsing, or if accreditation has lapsed, prior to commencing further certification of produce under the ICA arrangement.

8.3 Certificate of Accreditation

An accredited business will receive a Certificate of Accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance Arrangement detailing the facility location, Operational Procedure, scope (type of produce covered) and period of accreditation.

The business must maintain a current Certificate of Accreditation and make this available on request by an Authorised Inspector.

A business may not commence or continue certification of produce under the ICA arrangement unless it is in possession of a valid and current Certificate of Accreditation for the procedure and produce type.

8.4 Non-conformances and Sanctions

8.4.1 Non-conformances

Audits are regularly undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of ICA requirements. If, in the opinion of the auditor, there is evidence indicating that there has been a failure to meet one or more accreditation requirements, the auditor may raise a Non-conformance Report (NCR). Actions required to address the non-conformance shall be discussed and recorded on the NCR.

If the integrity of the accreditation has been significantly compromised, the non-conformance may provide grounds for the suspension or cancellation of the accreditation, and prosecution.

8.4.2 Incident Reports

Incident Reports may be raised by interstate quarantine authorities to report the detection of a non-conformance in produce certified under this ICA arrangement. An investigation into the incident shall be conducted and findings reported back to the originator.

If the integrity of the accreditation has been significantly compromised, the incident may provide grounds for the suspension or cancellation of the accreditation, and prosecution.

8.4.3 Suspension and Cancellation

Agriculture Victoria may suspend or cancel an accreditation when an accredited business is found, for example, to have:

- obtained accreditation through the provision of false or misleading information;
- not paid fees owing to the Agriculture Victoria;
- contravened an accreditation requirement that compromises the integrity of the arrangement; and/or
- not rectified a non-conformance.

Any action taken by Agriculture Victoria to suspend or cancel an accreditation shall be provided in writing to the business. This shall also provide guidance on the lodgement of a written appeal requesting that the decision be reviewed.

8.4.4 Prosecution

Businesses found to be operating contrary to the Act may be liable for prosecution.

8.5 Charging Policy

The business will be charged an annual accreditation fee.

A fee will be charged for all scheduled audits conducted. Unannounced audits will not be charged. Agriculture Victoria can be contacted for a schedule of fees.

9 Records and document control

9.1 ICA System Records

The business shall maintain the following records:

- Unbroken Skin Condition Packed Product Inspection Record; and
- a copy of each Plant Health Assurance Certificate issued by the business.

ICA system records shall be retained for a period of at least 24 months from completion, or until the next compliance audit of the ICA arrangement, whichever is the later.

ICA system records shall be made available on request by an Authorised Inspector.

9.2 ICA System Documentation

The business shall maintain the following documentation:

- a copy of the business's current endorsed Application for Accreditation;
- a copy of the business's current endorsed Authorised Signatory forms;
- a current copy of this Operational Procedure; and
- a current Certificate of Accreditation.

ICA system documentation shall be made available on request by an Authorised Inspector.

10 Attachments

Attachment 1	Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PSE-044)
Attachment 2	Unbroken Skin Condition Packed Product Inspection Records (PSF-357)
Attachment 3	Identification of Packed Product Sample Packages (PSF-015)

Plant Health Assurance Certificate

Certificate number
XXXXXXXX

Consignment details (please print)

Consignor	
Name	ABC PTY LTD
Address	STREET ROAD, WANGARATTA VIC 3677

Consignee	
Name	PRODUCE PEOPLE
Address	SOMEWHERE ROAD, ADELAIDE SA

Reconsigned to (splitting consignments or reconsigning whole consignments)	
Name	
Address	

Certificate details (please print)

IP Number	Facility number	Procedure
V9999	01	ICA-13

Accredited business that prepared the produce	
Name	ABC PTY LTD
Address	STREET ROAD, WANGARATTA VIC 3677

Grower or Packer	
Name	ABC PTY LTD
Address	STREET ROAD, WANGARATTA VIC 3677

Other facilities supplying produce	

Brand name OR identifying marks (as marked on packages)	Date OR date code (as marked on packages)
ABC PRODUCE	25/08/2020

Number of packages	Type of packages (e.g. trays, cartons)	Type of produce	Authorisation for split consignment
20	Boxes	Pomegranate	

Treatment details

Treatment date	Treatment	Chemical (active ingredient)	Concentration / duration and temperature

Additional certification / Codes	

Declaration: I, an Authorised Signatory of the accredited business that prepared the plants, plant products, used equipment, used packages or earth materials described above, hereby declare that the plants, plant products, used equipment, used packages or earth materials have been prepared in the business' approved facility in accordance with the business' Certification Assurance arrangement and that the details shown above are true and correct in every particular. I acknowledge that it is an offence under the *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* to issue assurance certificates without being accredited and/or to make false statements in certificates and declarations.

Authorised Signatory (print name)	Signature	Date
A.Signature	A.Sign	25 / 08 / 2020

UNBROKEN SKIN CONDITION PACKED PRODUCT INSPECTION RECORD

Fruit Type:								Business Interstate Produce (IP) Number:			V			
Date of Inspection:	PPS No:	Free of Live Fruit Fly:		Free From Broken Skin:		Not Overripe:		Comments: <small>(Note any defects or problems detected during inspection and the number of any withdrawn or rejected packages)</small>	Packed Product Controller:					
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		Printed Name:	Signature:				
Tick applicable columns →														



IDENTIFICATION OF PACKED PRODUCT SAMPLE PACKAGES

Marking Sample Packages After Packed Product Inspection

Following inspection, the Packed Product Controller must -

- (a) mark one end of each sample package by applying a stamp or sticker with the PPS No. (Packed Product Sample No.) and their initials as shown below;
- (b) ensure that the PPS No. stamp or sticker is visible on the exposed end of the package when the package is assembled on the pallet.

Stamp or Sticker Design (Example Only)



Completed Stamp or Sticker (Example Only)

