

HARD GREEN CONDITION OF BANANAS

VERSION REGISTER

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Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

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HARD GREEN CONDITION OF BANANAS

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to describe-

- (a) the principles of operation and standards required; and
- (b) the responsibilities and practices of personnel.

that apply to the certification of hard green condition of bananas for fruit fly under an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement.

2. SCOPE

This procedure covers all certification of hard green condition of bananas from Businesses operating under an Interstate Certification Assurance arrangement in Queensland.

Hard green condition is approved for **Cavendish type bananas only**.

Hard green condition of bananas may not be an accepted quarantine entry condition for all intrastate or interstate markets.

Some intrastate or interstate markets may require additional quarantine certification for pests and diseases other than fruit fly 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 interstate quarantine requirements can be obtained from the plant quarantine service in the destination state or territory.

3. REFERENCES

ICA-WI-02

Guidelines for Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates

4. DEFINITIONS

Accredit

means to accredit persons to give a Biosecurity Certificate in accordance with Section 430 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Accrediting Authority

means the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland (DAF Queensland).

Accredited Certifier

means the person who holds accreditation under chapter 15 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to give Biosecurity Certificates.

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Address	Physical location of property
Application for Accreditation	means an <i>Application for Accreditation of an Accredited Certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement [CAF-47]</i> .
Assurance Certificate	means a <i>Plant Health Assurance Certificate [CAF-16]</i> .
Audit	means an examination of the accredited operational system by auditors authorised by a relevant Accreditation Authority.
Authorised Signatory	means a person whose name and specimen signature is included as an Authorised Signatory on the business's application for accreditation.
Banana	means fruit of <i>Musa</i> spp.
banana fruit fly	means all stages of the species <i>Bactrocera musae</i> .
business	means the legal entity responsible for the operation of the facility and ICA arrangement detailed in the Business's Application for Accreditation.
Cavendish type	means bananas belonging to the Cavendish subgroup of the AAA genome and includes but is not limited to the cultivars Williams, Mons Mari, Grande Naine, Dwarf Cavendish, WR1, JD Dwarf and JD Special.
Certification Assurance	means a voluntary arrangement between DAF Queensland and a Business that demonstrates effective in-house quality management and provides assurance through documented procedures and records that produce meets specified requirements.
Certification Controller	means the person nominated by the accredited business with overall responsibility for the effective day to day operation of these procedures by all participating businesses.
Certified Produce /Consignment	means produce/items certified under this protocol covered by a valid Assurance Certificate or Plant Health Certificate.
DAF Queensland	means the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland.
Distorted banana	includes doubles, malformed or abnormally shaped bananas.
Facility	means the location where produce is assembled, inspected, securely stored, certified and dispatched.
Fruit fly	means Queensland fruit fly.

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Hard green

means -

- (a) the flesh is hard and not flexible, the skin is green and shows no yellow colouration except for areas towards the flower end of a fruit, in which the sun has bleached the skin to a yellow to white colour but the flesh beneath is still hard; and
- (b) no single banana, or banana on the outside whorl of a hand or cluster, (except a wing banana or distorted banana) has a diameter that exceeds 42 mm when measured at right angles to the curvature of the fruit at a point one third from its flower end.

Hard green condition

means -

- (a) hard green;
- (b) with unbroken skin; and
- (c) of the Cavendish type.

ICA

means Interstate Certification Assurance.

Inspector

means an Inspector appointed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Interstate Certification Assurance

means a system of Certification Assurance developed to meet the requirements of State and Territory governments for the certification of produce for interstate and intrastate quarantine purposes.

Non-conformance

means a non-fulfilment of a specified requirement.

Queensland fruit fly

means all stages of the species *Bactrocera tryoni* or related species *B. aquilonis* and *B. neohumeralis*.

Sun bleaching

means areas towards the flower end of a fruit in which the sun has bleached the skin to a yellow to white colour but the flesh beneath is still hard.

Unbroken skin

means the skin has no pre-harvest cracks, splits, punctures, or other breaks that penetrate through to the flesh.

wing banana

means the first and second banana from either end of each row of a complete hand of bananas, which are typically three-cornered in cross section.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

These position titles have been used to reflect the responsibilities of staff under the ICA arrangement. These positions may not be present in all Businesses, or different titles may be used for staff who carry out these responsibilities. In some Businesses 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 for an ICA arrangement under this Operational Procedure;
- training staff in their duties and responsibilities under this Operational Procedure;
- ensuring the Business and its staff comply with their responsibilities and duties under this Operational Procedure;
- ensuring all preparation of bananas for certification of hard green condition under the Business's ICA arrangement is carried out in accordance with this Operational Procedure;
- ensuring bunch maturity testing equipment is calibrated and maintained ([refer 7.2.1](#));
- maintaining records of maturity testing equipment calibration checks ([refer 7.2.2](#));
- supervising the grading and packing process ([refer 7.5](#));
- investigating and rectifying any problems following detection of a nonconformity in packed product by the Packed Product Controller ([refer 7.6.4](#)); and
- determining corrective action following rejection of packed product ([refer 7.6.5](#)).

The **Harvest Supervisor** is responsible for -

- supervising the harvesting of bunches for certification of hard green condition ([refer 7.3](#));
- ensuring all bunches harvested for certification of hard green condition are:
 - of the Cavendish type;
 - are derived from healthy plants of adequate vigour; and
- ensuring nonconforming bunches are identified prior to delivery to the packing shed ([refer 7.3](#) and [7.3.1](#)).

The **Bunch Reveal Officer** is responsible for -

- ensuring all bunches accepted for certification of hard green condition meet the requirements detailed in [7.3 Harvesting](#) ([refer 7.4](#)); and
- ensuring nonconforming bunches are controlled and identified ([refer 7.4.3](#));

Graders/Packers are responsible for -

- ensuring all bananas packed for hard green condition meet the hard green condition requirements ([refer 7.5](#)); and

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- ensuring nonconforming bananas are controlled and identified ([refer 7.5.1](#)).

The **Packed Product Controller** is responsible for -

- sampling and inspecting at least one package per pallet for conformance with the hard green condition requirements ([refer 7.6](#));
- identifying all sampled packages ([refer 7.6.3](#));
- advising the Certification Controller on detection of nonconforming bananas in sample packages ([refer 7.6.4](#));
- withdrawing and isolating all packages on incomplete pallets being assembled, following detection of a nonconformity ([refer 7.6.4](#) and [7.6.5](#)); and
- maintaining Packed Product Inspection records ([refer 7.6.6](#)).

The **Authorised Dispatcher** is responsible for -

- ensuring all packages covered by an Assurance Certificate issued by the Business under this Operational Procedure are identified ([refer 7.7.1](#)); and
- maintaining copies of all Assurance Certificates issued by the Business under the ICA arrangement ([refer 7.8](#) and [7.7.3](#)).

Authorised Signatories are responsible for -

- ensuring, prior to signing and issuing an Assurance Certificate, that produce covered by the certificate has been prepared in accordance with the Business' ICA arrangement and that the details on the certificate are true and correct in every particular ([refer 7.7.2](#)).

6. REQUIREMENT

Bananas certified for hard green condition must be:

- (a) hard green;
- (b) with unbroken skin; and
- (c) of the Cavendish type.

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

7. PROCEDURE

7.1 Accreditation

7.1.1 Application for Accreditation

An Accredited Certifier seeking accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance must make application for accreditation by lodging the form Application for Accreditation of an Accredited Certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Arrangement [CAF-47] ([refer Attachment 1](#)) at least 10 working days prior to the intended date of commencement of certification of produce under the ICA arrangement.

This application may be lodged online at -

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/certification-moving-plants/accreditation>

7.1.2 Audit Process

Initial Audit

Prior to an Accredited Certifier becoming accredited, an initial audit of the Business is carried out to verify the ICA system is implemented and capable of operating in accordance with the requirements of the Operational Procedure, and the system is effective in ensuring compliance with the specified requirements of the ICA arrangement.

On completion of a successful initial audit, accreditation is granted to cover the current season, up to a maximum of twelve months from the date of initial accreditation and a Certificate of Accreditation is issued ([refer 7.1.3 Certificate of Accreditation](#)).

Compliance Audits

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

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

A compliance audit is conducted within four weeks of the initial accreditation or 12 weeks from the annual renewal of accreditation of the ICA arrangement.

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

Unscheduled compliance audits may be conducted at any time to investigate reported or suspected nonconformances.

Re-Accreditation

Accredited Certifiers are required to re-apply for accreditation each year the Accredited Certifier seeks to operate under the ICA arrangement. Accredited Certifier 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.

A compliance audit is conducted each year within twelve 12 weeks of the date of re-accreditation for a business applying for annual re-accreditation.

7.1.3 Certificate of Accreditation

An Accredited Certifier will receive a *Certificate of Accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance Arrangement* detailing the scope of the arrangement including –

- the facility location;
- the Operational Procedure covered;
- any restrictions on the accreditation; and
- the period of accreditation.

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

An Accredited Certifier 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 facility, procedure and produce type covered by the Assurance Certificate.

7.2 Maturity Testing Equipment

Measurement of bananas for maturity testing for hard green condition shall be carried out using slide callipers graduated to 1.0 mm or smaller increments or using a measuring template.

Measuring templates must be made of a solid material which is not easily bent or damaged.

Measuring templates shall be marked in a manner that the measurement size is easily identifiable.

Slide callipers or measuring templates used for maturity testing of bananas under the ICA arrangement shall be marked in a manner which clearly identifies each individual measuring device.

7.2.1 Calibration and Maintenance of Maturity Testing Equipment

Callipers or measuring templates used for maturity testing shall be checked for calibration by using a **control calibration block**, or a **control standard steel rule** or **control calliper** graduated to 1.0 mm or smaller increments at a minimum of once per week during the period bunches are being received for certification of hard green condition.

Callipers or measuring templates shall be accurate to ± 0.5 mm when measured against the **control calibration block**, **control standard steel rule** or **control calliper**.

Callipers or measuring templates shall be clean and free from damage or wear which may affect accuracy of maturity test measurements. Test equipment which is dropped or damaged during use shall be re-calibrated prior to further use.

The Business's **control calibration block**, **control standard steel rule** or **control calliper** shall be maintained under secure conditions and used solely for the purpose of calibration checks of maturity testing equipment.

7.2.2 Maturity Testing Equipment Calibration Records

The Certification Controller shall maintain results of calibration checks on maturity testing equipment. Maturity testing equipment calibration records ([refer Attachment 8](#)) shall record the following information -

- the date of calibration;
- the identification of the measuring device calibrated;
- confirmation the equipment is accurate to within ± 0.5 mm; and
- the officer responsible for conducting the calibration check.

7.3 Harvesting

The Business shall implement harvesting systems designed to ensure that all bunches harvested for certification of hard green condition are -

- (a) of the Cavendish type; and
- (b) derived from healthy plants of adequate vigour. This requirement is not applicable where plants have been directly affected by a cyclone event or other natural disaster. In these circumstances the business may harvest bunches from fallen plants for a period of up to two-weeks immediately following the cyclone event or disaster.

The Harvesting Supervisor shall supervise harvesting of bunches to ensure bunches which do not conform to these specified requirements are clearly identified prior to delivery to the packing shed.

It is advisable that the Business implement systems to measure bunch maturity at harvest or at receipt ([refer 7.4 Bunch Receipt](#)) to assist in ensuring that all bunches received for certification under this Operational Procedure are in hard green condition.

7.3.1 Identification and Control of Nonconforming Bunches at Harvest

All harvested bunches found to be nonconforming at harvest (i.e. do not meet the requirements listed in 7.3 Harvesting) shall be identified by the Harvest Crew to prevent mixing with conforming bunches.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying nonconforming bunches include -

- (a) painting the stem of the bunch, or securely attaching a ring of coloured ribbon or tape to the stem of the bunch;
- (b) securely attaching a tag or label to the bunch which clearly identifies the bunch as nonconforming; and
- (c) where an entire load of bananas is nonconforming, securely attaching a tag, label or other marker to the load which clearly identifies the load as nonconforming.

Other methods may be used provided they clearly identify nonconforming bunches from conforming bunches at receipt.

7.4 Bunch Receipt

7.4.1 Receipt of Bunches Grown by the Accredited Business

The Bunch Receipt Officer shall identify and isolate nonconforming bunches (i.e. do not meet the requirements listed in [7.3 Harvesting](#)) to prevent mixing with conforming bunches ([refer 7.4.3 Identification and Control of Nonconforming Bunches at Receipt](#)).

7.4.2 Receipt of Bunches Grown by Another Business

The Business shall advise growers supplying bunches for grading and packing for hard green condition of the requirements for harvesting bunches detailed in [7.3 Harvesting](#).

The Business shall maintain a *Grower Declaration for the Supply of Bananas for Certification for Hard Green Condition* ([refer Attachment 6](#)) for any business other than the ICA accredited Business, supplying bunches for certification of hard green condition under the ICA arrangement.

The Bunch Receipt Officer shall ensure that any bunches received, which have been grown by another business, come from a business which has a current Grower Declaration.

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Grower Declarations supplied to an ICA accredited Business remain current as long as the details supplied by the grower in the declaration are accurate and continue to be complied with.

The Bunch Receival Officer shall identify and isolate nonconforming bunches to prevent mixing with conforming bunches.

7.4.3 Identification and Control of Nonconforming Bunches at Receival

All bunches received for grading and packing for hard green condition which are found to be nonconforming (i.e. do not meet the requirements listed in [7.3 Harvesting](#)) shall be identified to prevent mixing with conforming bunches.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying nonconforming bunches shall include -

- (a) painting the stem of the bunch, or securely attaching a ring of coloured ribbon or tape to the stem of the bunch;
- (b) securely attaching a tag or label to the bunch which clearly identifies the bunch as nonconforming;
- (c) locating nonconforming bunches in a separate area to conforming bunches and maintaining separation until the bunches are graded and packed; and
- (d) dehanding the bunch by maintaining hands from nonconforming bunches are separate and identifiable from hands originating from conforming bunches.

Other methods may be used provided they clearly identify nonconforming hands/bunches from conforming hands/bunches at grading and packing.

7.5 Grading and Packing

All bananas from conforming bunches shall be inspected and sorted for hard green condition and broken skins.

Grading staff shall reject for certification under this Operational Procedure the following -

- (a) any single banana, or any hand or cluster which contains a banana whose flesh is not hard or is flexible, or which is not green or shows any yellow colouration other than sun bleaching;
- (b) any single banana, or any banana on the outside whorl of a hand or cluster (except a wing banana or distorted banana) which exceeds 42 mm in diameter when measured at right angles from the curvature of the fruit at a point one third from the flower end; and
- (c) any banana with pre-harvest cracks, splits, punctures, or other breaks of the skin which penetrate through to the flesh.

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The Certification Controller shall oversee and supervise the grading and packing process to ensure only conforming bananas are packed for certification under this Operational Procedure.

7.5.1 Identification and Control of Nonconforming Hands, Clusters or Singles

The Business shall implement procedures for the control and identification of nonconforming hands, clusters, or singles.

Procedures shall ensure that no mixing of conforming and nonconforming bananas can occur during grading and packing.

7.6 Packed Product Inspection

The Packed Product Controller shall continually monitor the sorting and packing process by selecting a **minimum of one package from each pallet** of packed product.

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

7.6.1 Sample Selection

Sample packages shall be selected at random from each pallet during assembly of the pallet.

Part pallets shall be regarded as full pallets for the purpose of this Operational Procedure.

7.6.2 Examination of the Sample

The Packed Product Controller shall carry out 100% inspection of the fruit in each sample package for compliance with the hard green condition requirements.

Verification of Hard Green

The Packed Product Controller shall ensure that the sample package contains -

- (a) no single banana, or any hand or cluster which contains a banana whose flesh is not hard or is flexible, or which is not green or shows any yellow colouration other than sun bleaching; and
- (b) no single banana, or banana on the outside whorl (row) of any hand or cluster (except a wing banana or distorted banana) that exceed a maximum diameter of 42 mm when measured at right angles to the curvature of the fruit one third of the length from the flower end.

A wing banana is the first and second banana from either end of each row of a complete hand of bananas. Wing bananas tend to be triangular in cross-section with pronounced ridges.

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A distorted banana includes doubles, malformed or abnormally shaped bananas.

Examples of wing and distorted bananas are shown in [Attachment 10 – Examples of Typical Cavendish Type Bananas](#).

For clusters and singles, wing bananas may be identified by the presence of a complete cushion on one side of the cluster or single. Clusters or single bananas with a broken or cut edge on both sides of the cushion shall not be regarded as wing bananas.

Measurements shall be taken using a calibrated slide calliper or measuring template ([refer 7.2 Maturity Testing Equipment](#)) as demonstrated in [Attachment 9 – Measuring Banana Diameter](#).

Verification of Freedom From Broken Skin

The Packed Product Controller shall examine all bananas in sample packages to ensure bananas are free from broken skin.

Broken skin includes pre-harvest cracks, splits, punctures or other breaks of the skin that penetrate through to the flesh.

Verification of Cavendish Type

The Packed Product Controller shall examine all bananas in sample packages to ensure bananas are of the Cavendish type.

Cavendish type includes but is not limited to the cultivars Williams, Mons Mari, Grande Naine, Dwarf Cavendish, WR1, JD Dwarf and JD Special.

Examples of typical Cavendish type bananas are shown in [Attachment 10 – Examples of Typical Cavendish Type Bananas](#).

Should the Packed Product Controller suspect that the cultivar is not of the Cavendish type, the Packed Product Controller shall in the first instance advise the Certification Controller.

The Certification Controller shall confirm with the grower or Harvest Supervisor that the bananas received are of the Cavendish type. Where necessary, the Certification Controller shall have samples examined by an officer of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for confirmation of the banana type before passing the inspection lot.

7.6.3 Identification of Sample Packages

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

The Packed Product Controller shall identify each sample package by placing a stamp or sticker with the lettering PPS No. (Packed Product Sample No.) on the exposed end of the package, and mark on or below the identifier the sequential sample number and their initials prior to returning it to the pallet.

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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 of hard green condition.

An example of a PPS No. stamp or sticker is shown as [CAF-175] [Attachment 5](#)

7.6.4 Action Following Identification of Nonconforming Packed Product

If any single fruit in a sample package is found to be past the hard green stage, has broken skin or is not of the Cavendish type, the Packed Product Controller shall -

- (a) reject the sample package;
- (b) withdraw and isolate all packed product on incomplete pallets at the time of the inspection; and
- (c) stop the packing line.

Withdrawn packed product may be limited to only those packages packed on the day the nonconformance was detected.

The Certification Controller shall be advised if any sample package is rejected. The Certification Controller shall advise the grading staff of the nonconformance and investigate to identify the cause.

Once any problems have been identified and rectified, grading and packing may **recommence onto new pallets**.

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.

Following resumption of grading and packing, the Packed Product Controller shall select another three sample packages at random from the withdrawn pallets. The Packed Product Controller shall carry out 100% inspection of these three sample packages for conformance with the requirements listed in [6. Requirement](#).

Sample packages shall be given the next three Packed Product Sample (PPS) numbers after the sample package which initially failed inspection and shall be clearly identified on Packed Product Inspection Record. The inspection results must be entered on the Packed Product Inspection Record ([refer 7.6.6](#)).

If all three sample packages are found to conform, the withdrawn pallets and the three sample packages may be passed for certification and returned to the pallet assembly point.

If any of the three sample packages contain a nonconforming banana, all packages on the withdrawn pallets and the three sample packages shall be rejected.

7.6.5 Rejected Product

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

Rejected packages shall be handled as follows -

- (a) where sample packages contain single bananas or bananas on the outside whorl of a hand or cluster (except wing bananas or distorted bananas) which are **not hard green** rejected packages must -
- (b) be treated with an approved postharvest treatment;
- or**
- be regraded and repacked;
- (c) where sample packages contain bananas **with broken skins** the rejected packages must -
- (d) be treated with an approved postharvest treatment;
- or**
- be regraded and repacked;
- (e) where sample packages contain bananas which are not **of the Cavendish type**, rejected packages must -
- (f) be treated with an approved postharvest treatment.

Rejected packages which have been regraded and repacked must be reinspected in accordance with this section prior to certification under this Operational Procedure.

Alternatively, rejected packages may be consigned to markets that do not require certification of hard green condition.

7.6.6 Packed Product Inspection Records

The Packed Product Controller shall record the results of each packed product inspection.

Packed Product Inspection Record [CAF-174] ([Attachment 3](#)) or records which captures the same information may be used.

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Packed product inspection records **must** include -

- the Interstate Produce (IP) Number of the Business that operates the approved facility in which the bananas were packed;
- the date of inspection of the sample package;
- the sample package sequential number (PPS No.);
- the inspection result for the sample package;
- details of defects or problems detected during inspection;
- the number of any withdrawn or rejected packages; and
- the name and signature of Packed Product Controller.

An example of a completed Packed Product Inspection Record [CAF-174] is shown as [Attachment 4](#).

7.7 Dispatch

7.7.1 Package Identification

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

- the Interstate Produce (IP) number of the accredited business that packed the bananas;
- the words “MEETS ICA-06”; and
- the date or date code on which the produce was packed.

prior to the issuance of an Assurance Certificate by the Business under this Operational Procedure.

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

7.7.2 Assurance Certificates

The Authorised Dispatcher shall ensure an Assurance Certificate is completed and signed by an Authorised Signatory of the Business prior to consignment of produce to a market requiring certification of hard green condition.

Assurance Certificates shall be in the form of a *Plant Health Assurance Certificate* [CAF-16]. A completed example is shown as [Attachment 2](#).

Plant Health Assurance Certificates shall include-

- in the ‘Accredited Certifier Carrier of Biosecurity Matter’ section the name and address of the Accredited Certifier that packed the fruit;
- in the ‘Grower or Packer’ section the name and address of the Accredited Certifier that was responsible for growing the fruit;

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- in the 'IP No. of Acc. Certifier' section the IP No. of the Accredited Certifier that **packed** the fruit;
- in 'Facility No' the facility number assigned to the packing facility;
- in 'Procedure code' ICA-06;
- in 'Expiry Date' business Certificate of Accreditation expiry date; and
- in the additional information section, a tick in the option 'Bananas in a hard green condition with unbroken skin' and the date of packing.

Individual Assurance Certificates shall be issued to cover each consignment (i.e. a discreet quantity of product transported to a single consignee at one time) to avoid splitting of consignments.

Assurance Certificates shall be completed, issued and distributed in accordance with the Work Instruction *Guidelines for Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates* [WI-02].

7.7.3 Assurance Certificate Distribution

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

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

7.8 ICA System Records

The Business shall maintain the following records -

- maturity testing equipment calibration test records ([refer 7.2.2](#));
- if applicable, a current *Grower Declaration for the Supply of Bananas for Certification for Hard Green Condition* from any other Business supplying bananas for certification of hard green condition under the ICA arrangement ([refer 7.4.2](#));
- Packed Product Inspection Record ([refer 7.6.6](#)); and
- a copy of each *Plant Health Assurance Certificate* [CAF-17] issued by the Business ([refer 7.7.3](#)).

ICA system records must be retained for at least 12 months from the date of completion or until the next compliance audit of the business, whichever is the latter.

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

7.9 ICA System Documentation

The Business shall maintain the following documentation-

- (a) a copy of the Business's current Application for Accreditation ([refer Attachment 1](#));
- (b) a current copy of this Operational Procedure; and
- (c) a current *Certificate of Accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance Arrangement*.

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

HARD GREEN CONDITION OF BANANAS

8. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	<i>Application for Accreditation of an Accredited Certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Arrangement</i>	CAF-47 (FRONT TWO PAGES ONLY)
Attachment 2	<i>Plant Health Assurance Certificate</i>	CAF-16 (COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
Attachment 3	Packed Product Inspection Record	CAF-174
Attachment 4	Packed Product Inspection Record	CAF-174 (COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
Attachment 5	Identification of Packed Product Sample Packages	CAF-175
Attachment 6	Grower Declaration for the Supply of Bananas for Hard Green Condition	CAF-173
Attachment 7	Grower Declaration for the Supply of Bananas for Hard Green Condition	CAF-173 (COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
Attachment 8	Maturity Testing Equipment Calibration Records	
Attachment 9	Measuring Banana Diameter	
Attachment 10	Examples of Typical Cavendish Type Bananas	



Application for accreditation of an accredited certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement

Pursuant to section 420 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*

OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED:
PHIS NUMBER:
DATE APPROVED OR REFUSED:
FURTHER INFORMATION REQUEST DATE:
DATE FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED:
PAYMENT PROCESSED DATE:
PAYMENT AMOUNT RECEIVED:
RECEIPT NUMBER:

Important information for applicants

This form is to be used to apply as an accredited certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement.

Information requested will enable your application to be processed as prescribed by the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Your application must be assessed and granted by the chief executive before you can proceed with the proposed activity.

Before lodging this application you should be familiar with the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* available on the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

How to complete form for a new application

- Must complete entire form.

How to complete form for an amendment or renewal

- Update any areas that require amendments,
- Must complete part A section 1, part B sections 2-4 and part C.

How to submit this form

- In person to:
Any [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regional office](#); or
- Via post to:
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
PO Box 5083
Nambour Qld 4560

Prescribed fee

- For the current fees visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity-fees
- Fees are applicable until the end of the financial year.
- The prescribed fee must be paid at the time the application is submitted for it to be processed.

Term of accreditation

The term of this accreditation shall be one (1) year unless sooner cancelled or suspended from the date of your application being approved.

Notification

The applicant will be notified of the outcome within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application. The applicant will be notified by post to the applicant's postal address.

The application is deemed to have been received when the [District Co-ordinator \(Certification and Accreditation Services\)](#) in your district is in receipt of an accurate and complete application and payment of the prescribed fee has been received, processed and cleared.

Contact us

For more information please contact the District Co-ordinator (Certification and Accreditation Services), Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in your district or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.

Attachment 1: Application for Accreditation, second page

Type of application (select one only)

☐ New application ☐ Amendment ☐ Renewal

Part A – Accredited certifier application

1. Applicant details

Please supply ACN or ARBN (if applicable)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please supply Interstate Produce Number (IPN) (if known)

Q					
---	--	--	--	--	--

Applicant is: (select one only)

☐ an individual ☐ a partnership ☐ an incorporated company ☐ a co-operative association

☐ other (please specify)

--

If applicant is an individual, please complete the following Supply full legal name including first name, surname and any other name/s. First name

--

Last name

--

Other name/s

--

If applicant is a partnership, please complete the following Supply the full legal name of each partner in their normal order.

First name

--

Last name

--

First name

--

Last name

--

First name

--

Last name

--

If applicant is an incorporated company, co-operative association or other type of legal entity, please complete the following Supply the full legal name.

--

Trading name/s of the applicant Supply any business names or brand names used by the applicant on packages of certified items.

--

2. Address details

Street address

--

Suburb/Town/Locality

--

Country

--

State

--

Postcode

--

Postal address (if different to street address)

--

Suburb/Town/Locality

--

Country

--

State

--

Postcode

--

3. Contact details

Phone

--

Fax (if applicable)

--

Mobile (if applicable)

--

E-mail address

--

Preferred method of contact

☐ Any ☐ E-mail ☐ Phone ☐ Mail

Attachment 2: Plant Health Assurance Certificate completed example



**Queensland
Government**

Plant Health Assurance Certificate

Pursuant to Sections 412 and 413 of the Biosecurity Act 2014

(Means a biosecurity certificate issued in accordance with Chapter 15 of the Biosecurity Act 2014.)

Consignment Details (Please print)

Certificate Number **9999999**

Consignor

Name **Joel Bananas**
Address **Tully Road**
Tully QLD 4854

Consignee

Name **Banana Agents**
Address **Adelaide Markets**
Burton SA 5110

Reconsigned To (Splitting consignments or reconsigning whole consignments)

Name
Address

Method of Transport (Provide details where known)

☒ Road	Truck/Trailer Registration
☐ Rail	Consignment
☐ Air	Airline/Flight no.
☐ Sea	Vessel Name & Voyage no.

Certification Details (Please print)

Accredited Certifier Carrier of Biosecurity Matter

Name **Joel Bananas**
Address **Tully Road**
Tully QLD 4854

Grower or Producer

Name **Joel Bananas**
Address **Tully Road**
Tully QLD 4854

IP No. of Acc. Certifier

Q 9999

Brand Name or Identifying Marks (as marked on packages)

Joel Bananas

Date Code (as marked on packages)

220222

Facility No.	Procedure Code	Expiry Date	Facility No.	Procedure Code	Expiry Date
01	ICA-06	30/03/22			/ /

Number of Packages	Type of Packages (e.g. trays, cartons)	Type of Carrier of Biosecurity Matter	Authorisation for Split Consignment
144	Cartons	bananas	

Date	Treatment	Chemical (Active Ingredient)	Concentration	Duration and Temperature
/ /	☐ Dipping	Dimethoate	400ppm	☐ One min. ☐ 10 sec. then wet for 60 sec.
/ /	☐ Flood Spraying	Dimethoate	400ppm	10 seconds then wet for 60 seconds
/ /	☐ Fumigation	Methyl Bromide	g/m ³	Two hours @ °C
/ /	☐ Grown and packed on a property free from red imported fire ant			
/ /	☐ Sourced from a property located more than 5km from a known infestation of red imported fire ant			
/ /	☐ Mature green condition at packing			
22/02/22	☒ Bananas in a hard green condition with unbroken skin			
/ /	☐ Inspected and found free of melon thrips			

Additional Certification

Declaration

I, an Authorised Signatory of the accredited certifier that prepared the Carrier of Biosecurity Matter described above, hereby declare that the Carrier of Biosecurity Matter have been prepared in the accredited certifier's approved facilities in accordance with the accreditation(s) granted to the accredited certifier under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and that the details shown above are true and correct in every particular.

Authorised Signatory's Name (Please print)

Arthur John Signatory

Signature

A.J. Signatory

Date

22/02/22

Yellow copy: Consignment copy (original) White copy: Accredited Certifier's copy (duplicate copy)

CAF-16 (02/19) V4

PACKED PRODUCT INSPECTION RECORD

IP NUMBER:		DATE: / /		PAGE OF PAGES			
PPS No.	HARD GREEN		UNBROKEN SKINS		CAVENDISH TYPE		COMMENTS (Note any defects or problems detected during inspection and the number of any withdrawn or rejected packages)
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
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45							
46							
47							
48							
49							
50							

Packed Product Controller:

Printed Name

Signature

/ /

Date

PACKED PRODUCT INSPECTION RECORD

IP NUMBER: 09999		DATE: 22/02/2022		PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES			
PPS No.	HARD GREEN		UNBROKEN SKINS		CAVENDISH TYPE		COMMENTS (Note any defects or problems detected during inspection and the number of any withdrawn or rejected packages)
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
1	✓		✓		✓		
2	✓		✓		✓		
3	✓		✓		✓		
4	✓		✓		✓		
5	✓		✓		✓		
6	✓		✓		✓		
7	✓		✓		✓		
8	✓		✓		✓		
9	✓		✓		✓		
10	✓		✓		✓		
11	✓		✓		✓		
12	✓		✓		✓		
13	✓		✓		✓		
14	✓		✓		✓		Some bird damage evident but OK
15	✓		✓		✓		
16	✓		✓		✓		
17	✓		✓		✓		
18	✓		✓		✓		
19	✓		✓		✓		
20	✓		✓		✓		
21		✓	✓		✓		2 fruit > 42mm. Package rejected
22	✓		✓		✓		157 packages X 2 pallets withdrawn
23	✓		✓		✓		Sample packages passed OK
24	✓		✓		✓		and 2 pallets returned.
25	✓		✓		✓		Graders & Bunch Receiving Officer
26	✓		✓		✓		advised bananas going oversize.
27	✓		✓		✓		PPS No. 21 regraded & repacked.
28	✓		✓		✓		
29	✓		✓		✓		
30	✓		✓		✓		
31	✓		✓		✓		
32	✓		✓		✓		
33	✓		✓		✓		Split through to flesh (reject).
34	✓		✓		✓		120 packages X 2 pallets withdrawn.
35	✓		✓		✓		Sample package failed for
36	✓		✓		✓		bird damage through to flesh.
37	✓		✓		✓		121 packages rejected & regraded.
38	✓		✓		✓		Grading carefully monitored.
39	✓		✓		✓		
40	✓		✓		✓		
41	✓		✓		✓		
42	✓		✓		✓		
43	✓		✓		✓		
44	✓		✓		✓		
45	✓		✓		✓		
46	✓		✓		✓		
47	✓		✓		✓		
48	✓		✓		✓		
49	✓		✓		✓		
50	✓		✓		✓		

Packed Product Controller:

P Controller

Printed Name

P Controller

Signature

22/02/22

Date

IDENTIFICATION OF PACKED PRODUCT SAMPLE PACKAGES

Marking Sample Packages After Packed Product Inspection

Following inspection, the Packed Product Controller must-

- 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;
- 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)



GROWER DECLARATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF BANANAS FOR HARD GREEN CONDITION

A 'Grower Declaration for the Supply of Bananas for Hard Green Condition' must be provided by the business that grows and harvests bananas to the accredited business that packs the bananas for certification under the Operational Procedure Hard Green Condition of Bananas ICA-06.

I _____ (full printed name)

of _____ (address)
hereby declare to-

_____ (name of business)

at _____ (facility address)

Interstate Produce Number **Q** _____, that any bunches of bananas supplied by me for grading and packing for certification of hard green condition will only -

- (a) be of the Cavendish variety; and
- (b) be derived from healthy plants of adequate vigour.

Any bunches supplied by me to the above business which do not meet these requirements will be clearly identified in the following manner-

- ☐ painting the stem of each bunch _____ (insert colour)
- ☐ securely attaching a ring of _____ (insert colour), coloured ribbon or tape to the stem of each bunch
- ☐ securely attaching a tag or label to each bunch containing the words-

- ☐ when an entire load of bunches is delivered, securely attaching to the load-
 - ☐ a tag containing the words-

 - ☐ a label containing the words-

- ☐ other (specify) _____

Signature

/ /
Date

GROWER DECLARATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF BANANAS FOR HARD GREEN CONDITION

A 'Grower Declaration for the Supply of Bananas for Hard Green Condition' must be provided by the business that grows and harvests bananas to the accredited business that packs the bananas for certification under the Operational Procedure Hard Green Condition of Bananas ICA-06.

I Johnathon Grower (full printed name)

of Innisfail Road, Mena Creek NQ (address)

hereby declare to-

Joe's Bananas Pty Ltd (name of business)

at Tully Road, Tully NQ (facility address)

Interstate Produce Number **Q** 9999, that any bunches of bananas supplied by me for grading and packing for certification of hard green condition will only -

- (a) be of the Cavendish variety; and
- (b) be derived from healthy plants of adequate vigour

Any bunches supplied by me to the above business which do not meet these requirements will be clearly identified in the following manner-

☐ painting the stem of each bunch _____ (insert colour)

☒ securely attaching a ring of Red (insert colour), coloured ribbon or tape to the stem of each bunch

☐ securely attaching a tag or label to each bunch containing the words-

☐ when an entire load of bunches is delivered, securely attaching to the load-

☐ a tag containing the words-

☐ a label containing the words-

☐ other (specify) _____

Johnathon Grower

Signature

22/02/2022

Date

MATURITY TESTING EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION RECORDS

**Gauges must be calibrated weekly
and recorded on this sheet**

Business IP (Q) NUMBER.....

[illegible]

Attachment 9: Measuring banana diameter

Measuring Hand, Cluster or Single Banana Maturity



No single banana or banana on the outside whorl (except a wing banana or distorted banana) may have a diameter that exceeds 42 mm when measured at right angles to the curvature of the fruit at a point one third of the length from its flower end.



The flesh of the banana must be hard and not flexible and the skin must be green and show no yellow colouration.

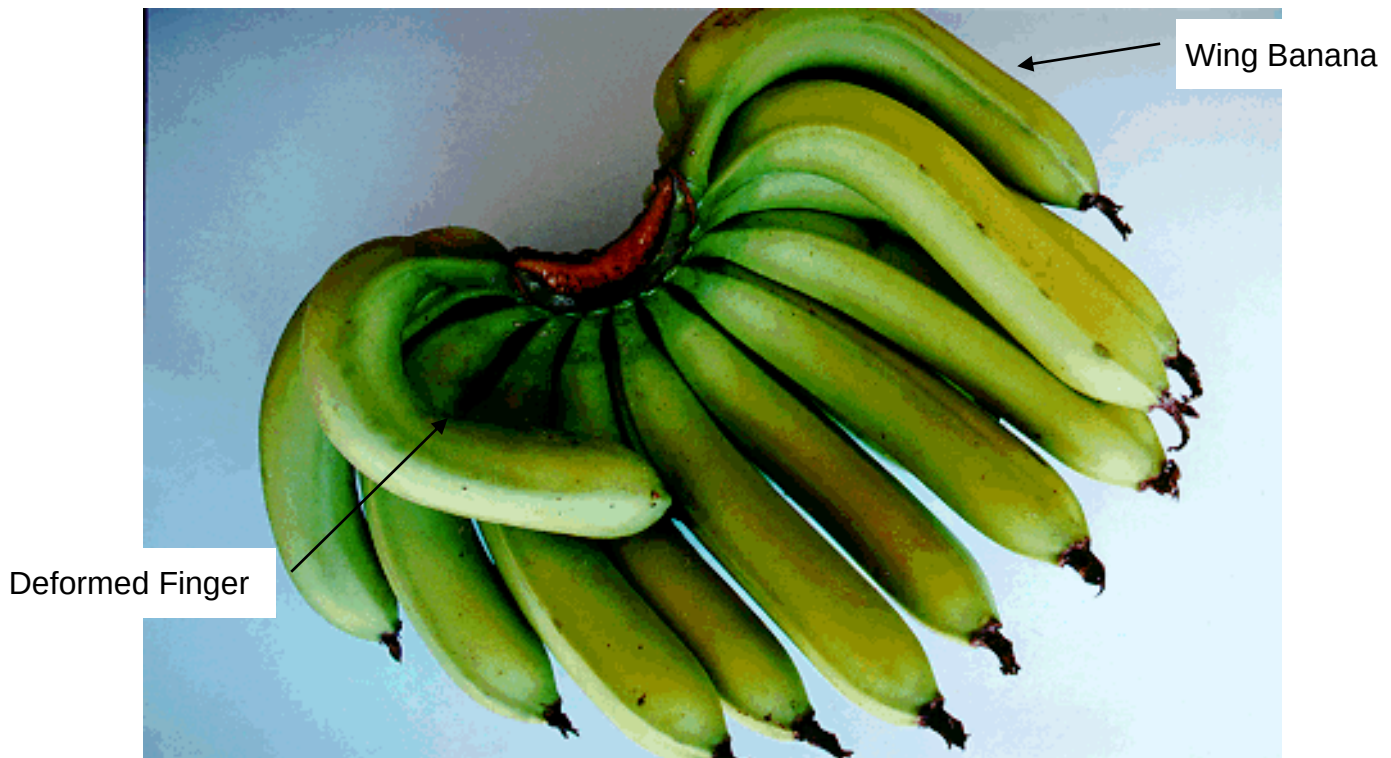
Attachment 10: Examples of typical Cavendish type bananas

Typical Bunch of Cavendish Banana



Attachment 10: Examples of typical Cavendish type bananas

Typical Hand of Cavendish Bananas



Cross Section of Wing Banana

Wing bananas are the first and second banana from either end of each whorl (row) of a complete hand of bananas, and are typically three-cornered in cross section.

Wing bananas may be identified by the presence of a complete cushion on one side of



a single or cluster. Bananas with a broken or cut edge on both sides of the cushion are not regarded as wing bananas.