

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL RESOURCES



**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES**

**PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTING SEEDS /
PLANTING MATERIALS INTO RWANDA.**

March 2016

Table of Contents

1. DOCUMENT ISSUE AND REVISION	2
2. PURPOSE	2
3. SCOPE	2
4. NORMS OF REFERENCE/LEGAL FRAMEWORK	2
4.1. National Legal references	2
4.2. International standards references.....	3
5. TERMS, DEFINITIONS, ACRONIMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	3
6. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	3
6.1. Application for Seed/planting material import permit	3
6.2. Issuance of planting material import permit	4
6.3. Arrival of imported planting material:	4
6.4. Monitoring	5

1. DOCUMENT ISSUE AND REVISION

The National Plant Protection Organisation hosted by Rwanda Agriculture and Livestock Inspection and Certification Services (RALIS), Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) is responsible for the document issue and revision.

This procedure has been developed by RALIS and its revision will be made whenever required necessary.

Whenever a revision is made and validated, it is the duty of RALIS to inform all pertinent persons about the changes.

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2. PURPOSE

To prevent the introduction, spread and establishment of alien pests, diseases and weeds into the country in compliance with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Standards and National regulations.

3. SCOPE

The scope of this procedure is to define and describe modalities for importation of planting material into Rwanda: from the submission of the application for import permit to import planting material to its release to the applicant for planting or distribution.

4. NORMS OF REFERENCE/LEGAL FRAMEWORK

4.1. National Legal references

- a. « Arrêté Présidentiel n° 252/11 du 13 novembre 1975 -. Contrôle phytosanitaire des végétaux et produits végétaux destinés à l'importation et à l'exportation et constats de qualité et d'avarie. (j.o., 1975, p. 798) ». The new Plant Health law was recently adopted by the Parliament and will be soon gazetted.
- b. Presidential Order N°28/01 OF 09/07/2012 Ratifying the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and WTO-SPS Agreement
- c. Presidential order No 147 bis/01 of 15 July 2014 ratifying the EAC Protocol on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Signed on 12 July 2013, At Arusha, Tanzania
- d. Law N° 04/2005 of 08/04/2005 Determining the modalities of protection, conservation and promotion of environment in Rwanda

4.2. International standards references

- a. ISPM No. 5 (2009) Glossary of phytosanitary terms
- b. ISPM 20: Guideline for phytosanitary import regulatory system
- c. ISPM 23: Guideline for inspection
- d. ISPM No. 21 (2004) Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests
- e. ISPM No. 36: Integrated measures for plant for planting

5. TERMS, DEFINITIONS, ACRONIMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

IPPC : International Plant Protection Convention, as deposited in 1951 with FAO in Rome and as subsequently amended [FAO, 1990; revised ICPM, 2001]

ISPM: International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures [CEPM, 1996; revised ICPM, 2001]

Living Modified Organisms: Any living organism the possesses a novel combination of Genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology (Cartegener Protocol on Biosafety to the convention on biological Diversity (CBD 2000)

IMOs: Living Modified Organisms

NPPO: National plant protection organization [FAO, 1990; ICPM, 2001]

Phytosanitary certificate: An official paper document or its official electronic equivalent, consistent with the model certificates of the IPPC, attesting that a consignment meets phytosanitary import requirements [FAO, 1990; revised CPM, 2012]

Phytosanitary import requirements: Specific phytosanitary measures established by an importing country concerning consignments moving into that country [ICPM, 2005]

Plants in vitro: Plants growing in aseptic medim in a closed container; formerly “plant in tissue culture”.

Seed/ Planting material: any plant or part of a plant which is or is intended to be used for propagation including, true seed, seedlings, corms, cuttings, bulbs, bulbils, layers marcotts, root, runners, scions, setts, splits, stems, stocks, stumps, sucker, or tubers so used;

6. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

6.1. Application for Seed/planting material import permit

- 1) The applicant submits an application for import permit to Rwanda Agriculture and Livestock Inspection and Certification Services, according to the template F001., declaring the following:

- The name of the importer
- The country of origin of the plants/planting material

- Scientific name, common Name and variety/ies of plants intended to be imported
- Intended use of plants to be imported.
- The number (quantity) of seed/planting material intended to be imported
- The form in which the planting materials will be imported (cuttings, tissue culture, leaves etc.)
- The final destination (if applicable)

Note: In case of new crop/variety; registration processes of new variety according to the seed law will apply.

- 2) When the application is received, RALIS will proceed for the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) concerning the commodity in order to make quarantine decisions.
- 3) If the results of the PRA show that the material can be imported into the country albeit some phytosanitary measures, the Directorate will proceed to issue a Plant Importation Permit specifying the phytosanitary import requirements to be fulfilled, including virus free certification, issued by an accredited laboratory/competent authority.
- 4) If the results of the PRA show that it may not be possible to import the planting material in question, then further discussions with all interested parties, will be held to arrive at a final decision.

6.2. *Issuance of planting material import permit*

- 1) After a decision to import has been made, the importer will be issued with a signed and stamped import permit.
- 2) The import permit (in two original copies) will detail any conditions/procedures to be fulfilled by the exporting country that must be carried out on the import before it arrives into the country, including a virus free certificate
- 3) The importer will be required to sign for reception of the original for record purposes.
- 4) The importer will then send a copy of the import permit to the organisation responsible in the exporting country that will then proceed to process the consignment according to the import permit.
- 5) The NPPO of the exporting country will then issue a signed and stamped Phytosanitary certificate outlining all the procedures carried out on the consignment in accordance with the import requirements stated in the import permit.

6.3. *Arrival of imported planting material:*

- 1) Before the consignment arrives, the importer is obliged to inform/submit the shipment documentation with the date and expected time of arrival of the consignment to the Directorate of Agriculture and Live Inspection and Certification Services.
- 2) On the arrival of the consignment, the importer must inform the Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock inspection and Certification Services
- 3) An inspector from the Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock inspection and Certification Services will inspect the consignment and release it if it meets all the import

requirements as stated in the import permit. If the consignment or documents accompanying it do not comply with the import regulations detailed in the import permit the consignment will be intercepted and taken into Plant Quarantine for further testing, or may be re-exported or destroyed on the expenses of the importer.

6.4. Monitoring

After release, the Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock inspection and Certification Services will monitor the final destination and use of the planting material.