

**PHYTOSANITARY PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS AND OTHER REGULATED ARTICLES INTO THE SEYCHELLES**

**PREAMBLE**

In the Republic of Seychelles, Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary responsibilities, lie with the National Biosecurity Agency (NBA) established by the government under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Plant Quarantine System in Seychelles is regulated under the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act, 2014.

National Biosecurity Agency (NBA) enforces this legislation in order to regulate the import as well as the export of plants and plant products and other articles.

The Biosecurity Act has the main objectives of preventing the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases and in so doing protect the agricultural and forestry resources and ecological environment of Seychelles.

The phytosanitary regulations state the specific conditions and control measures under which importation is permitted and in accordance with the Biosecurity Act (2014).

Seychelles is obliged as a contracting party to the IPPC within the FAO organization to adopt international standards in order to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control among all IPPC member and trading partners.

Consequently, legal responsibilities of the National Biosecurity Agency (NBA) allow the authority and authorized officers to enforce phytosanitary measures at all times to ensure that imports and exports of plants and plant products are in accordance with prescribed standards

The importation of plants, plant products and other articles are regulated under the following statutes (National Legislations) and require permit to import:

- Animals and Plants Biosecurity Act 2014;
- Food Act ;
- Trades Tax Regulations – Customs Management Act;

The phytosanitary control which is enforced and implemented by the National Biosecurity Agency (NBA) is derived from the Animals and Plants Biosecurity Act, 2014.

The act makes provision of international guidelines and standards such as international agricultural trading norms, measures and standards, as promoted by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and WTO-SPS Agreement in terms of Harmonization, Transparency and Technical Competence

## **1.0 SUBJECT TO IMPORTS PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS**

Importers/Traders of Plants and Plant products and other articles are reminded of the following requirements and/or conditions:

- i.** A **PLANT IMPORT PERMIT** is required for the importation of plants and plant products such as Flowers, Tubers, Cuttings, Seeds, Fruits, Vegetables, Timber and other materials of plant origin into our country.  
The Plant Import permit is a legal document which can only be obtained and issued by the Plant Protection Section to facilitate the importation of plants and plant products into Seychelles.
- ii.** For **Commercial Importation** the request through formal application must be made directly to the Ministry of Finance.
- iii.** After receiving the **PLANT IMPORT PERMIT** the individual, organization, importer, traders or dignitary must send the document to the supplier of the exporting country to comply with the phytosanitary requirements or specific conditions stated on this phytosanitary document.
- iv.** A Legal **PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE/ADDITIONAL TREATMENT CERTIFICATE** duly signed by the relevant agricultural authorities from the exporting country or the country of origin must be obtained and together with the original **Plant Import Permit** shall accompany all the imported consignments of plants and plant products to Seychelles.
- v.** In case a consignment is imported to another country then exported to Seychelles, the relevant agricultural authorities should issue a phytosanitary certificate for re-export.
- vi.** Re- export certification may still be done if the consignment has been stored, split up, combined with other consignments or re-packaged, provided that it has not been exposed to contamination by pests.
- vii.** In transit if the consignment is split up, combined with other consignments or repackaged, the relevant agricultural authorities should issue a phytosanitary certificate for re-export.
- viii.** Upon arrival of the consignment (s) at the point of entry, all plants and plant products shall be declare for **PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTION** and **VERIFICATION** of **PHYTOSANITARY DOCUMENTS (Plant Import Permit, Phytosanitary/Treatment Certificate)** in accordance with the phytosanitary requirements of the Plant Protection Act of Seychelles.
- ix.** The imported consignments of plants and plant products will be **RELEASED** only if it is in conformity with the phytosanitary requirements of the Plant Protection Act of Seychelles and if not it will be detained for **FURTHER ANALYSIS** or **CONFISCATED** for **DESTRUCTION** or **RESHIPED/REFUSED ENTRY** and/or fines, penalties and/or prosecution will be applied.

### 1.1 CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTED SEEDS

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Vacuum packed and/or hermetically sealed treated seeds, e.g. in tin cans and aluminum foil containers	A plant import permit is required to provide guidance to importers.  Phytosanitary Certificate is optional provided that the seed is originated from a reputed source, the packaging is of high standard, and the container has not been opened or damaged.
Seeds packed in paper envelopes, paper bags, cloth bags, plastic bags, jute bags and similar containers that are not air-tight	Strict enforcement of the legislation is necessary.  Plant import permit, proof of treatment and phytosanitary certificate is required.
Poor quality, infested, contaminated, diseased seeds or seeds harvested by amateur collectors; seed packages that have been damaged or have already been opened and partially used	Complete ban. Confiscation and destruction

### 1.2 PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY AND QUARNTINE/REGULATES PESTS

The purpose of the requirement/condition is to ensure quality importation of plants and plant products that are free from quarantine and regulated pests after harvesting, preparation, packing, storing and shipment to Seychelles.

The provisions are subjected to import requirements/conditions for compliance by the exporting country. The following requirements/conditions must be met prior to imports being landed in the Seychelles. The commodities of plants and plant products must be:

- fresh in appearance, clean and trimmed
- practically free from insect pests and diseases
- practically free from secondary insect pests and diseases injury
- free from damage caused by pests and diseases affecting the flesh
- free of bruising and/or extensive healed overcuts that can caused secondary insect pests and diseases injury
- intact, undamaged, sound clean and practically free of any visible foreign matter
- free of abnormal external moisture and any foreign smell and/or taste
- the goods must be clean and free of prohibited/restricted seeds, soil, animal and plant debris and other biosecurity risk material
- practically free from all earth or other growing medium
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is exclude

The development and the condition must be such as to enable the exported plants and plant products:

- to withstand transportation and handling, and
- to arrive in satisfactory condition in Seychelles

### **1.3 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Prior to the importation of plants, plant products and other regulated articles into Seychelles, a valid import permit issued by the National Plant protection Office (NPPO) is required.

Prior to export, the plants, plant products or other regulated articles must be inspected or tested by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) according to appropriate procedures and be considered free from biosecurity insect pests and diseases.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement the importer must present the following on a Phytosanitary certificate: The declaration "*This is to certify that the plants, plant products or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.*"

The competent authority of Seychelles (NPPO) makes no warranties or representations with respect to the accuracy and or completeness of that information and will bear no liability with respect to that information. Importers must satisfy quarantine concerns and comply with quarantine conditions applicable at the time of entry.

It is the importer's responsibility to verify the accuracy and completeness of the information at the time of importation. It is the importer's responsibility to identify and to ensure it has complied with, all requirements/conditions of any other regulatory and advisory bodies prior to and after importation.

All consignments are subject to inspection and verification of phytosanitary documents upon arrival of the goods at the point of entry in Seychelles.

Details of any mandatory preshipment treatments must be included and certified on the phytosanitary certificate, unless otherwise specified. Information relating to any other treatment/s applied to the commodity at the exporter's discretion must be provided on a commercial treatment certificate.

If live insects (Pests) are found during inspection, the consignment will be **(i) held pending identification and treated using an appropriate method, (ii) re-exported at the importer's expense (iii) and/or destroyed at the importer's expense.**

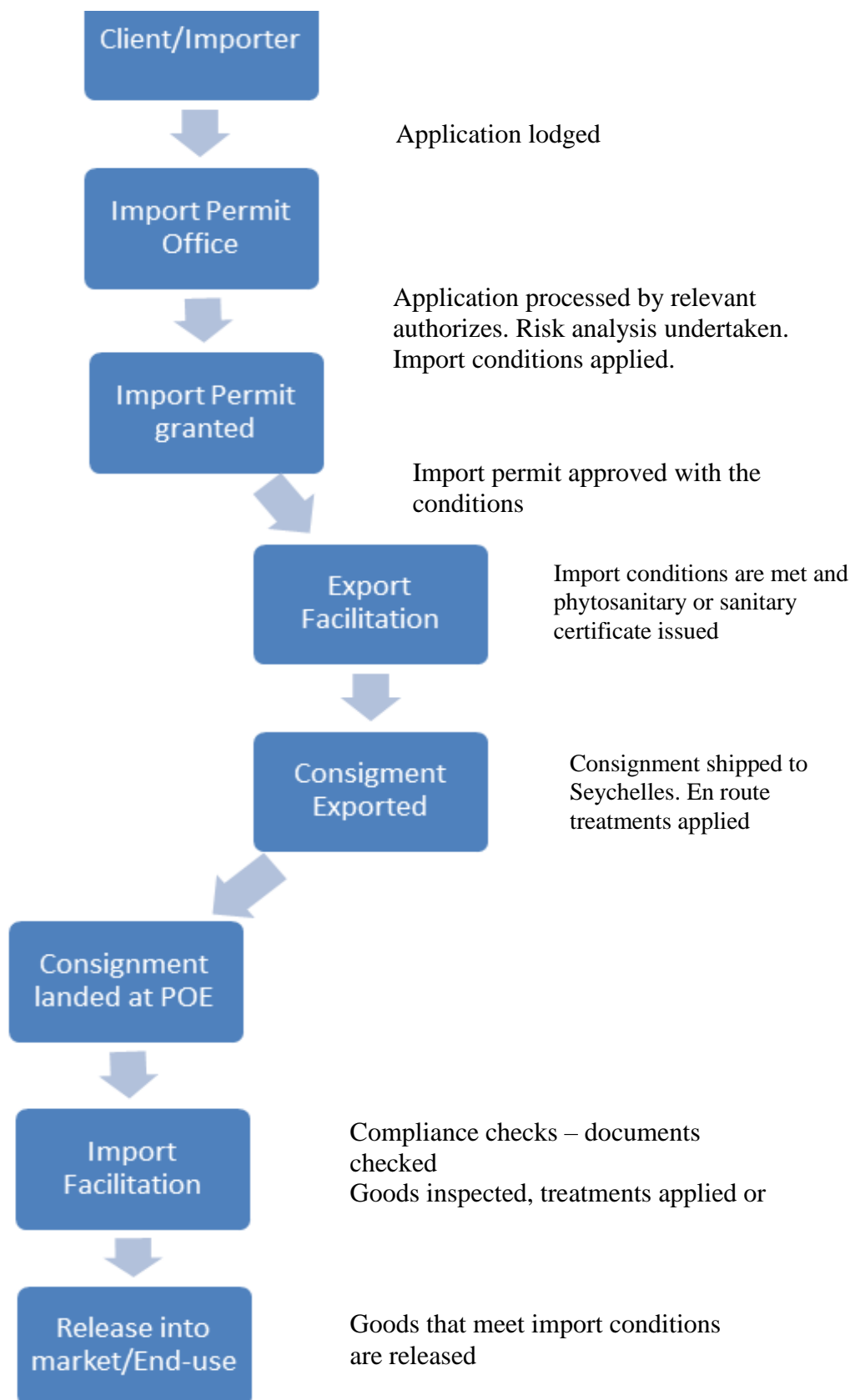
If disease symptoms are detected, the consignment will be **(i) held pending the assessment of the biosecurity risk will be made by a biosecurity officers to determine the options that may be available to the importer (ii) options may include further identification and (iii) treatment, re-export or destruction at the importer's expense**

If contaminants (e.g. seeds, trash, soil, feathers) are detected and determined to be of quarantine concern, the consignment will require remedial action to remove or treat the contaminants.

If the contaminants cannot be effectively removed or treated the consignment must be exported or destroyed at the importer's expense

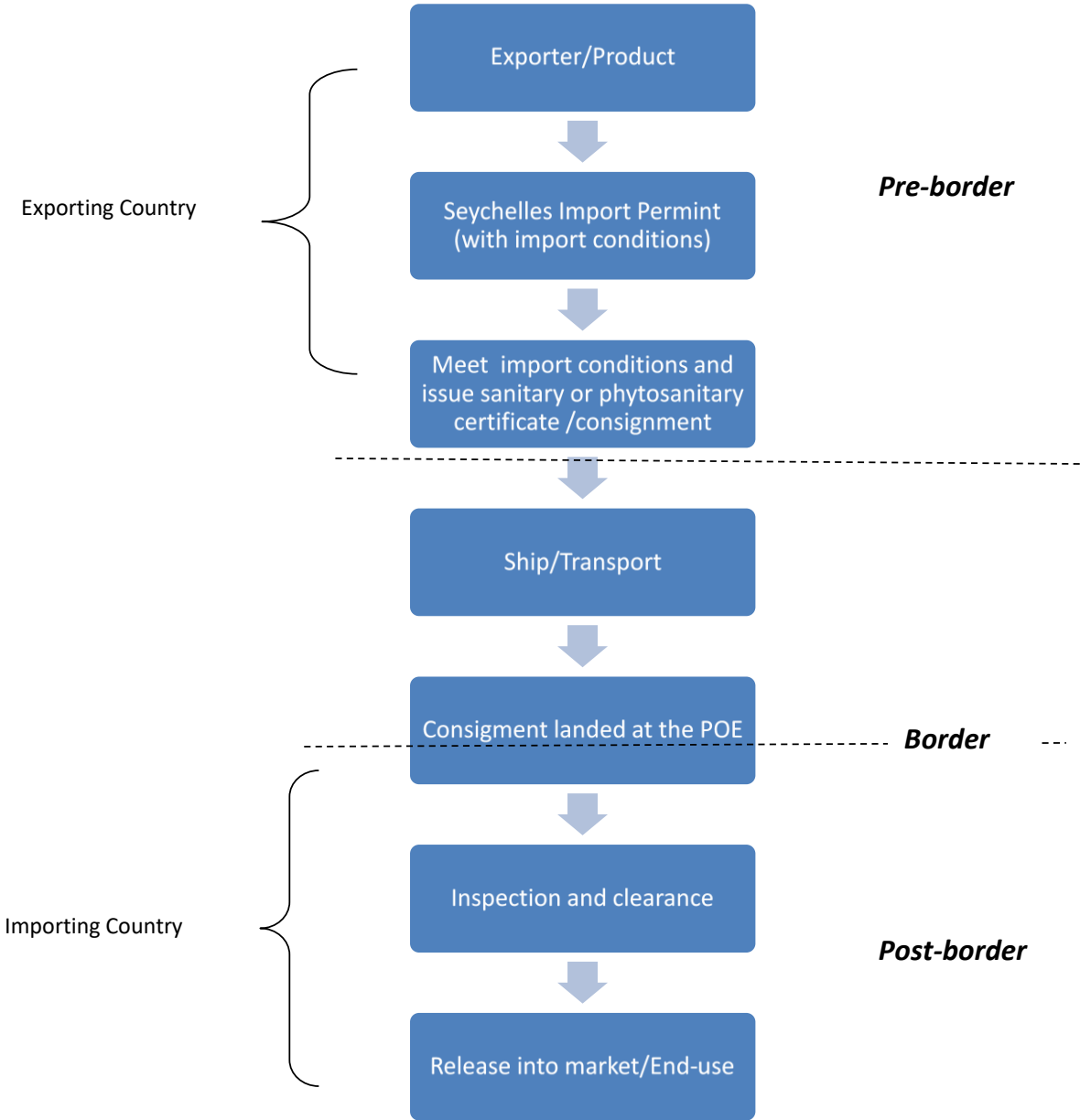
It is the responsibility of the importer to meet and comply with the import conditions/requirements as stipulated under the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act, 2014

## 1.4 IMPORT PERMITTING PROCESS



1.5 IMPORT PROCESS

Standard Import Process



## **1.6 NOTES**

### **1.6.1 Packaging**

The exported plants and plant products must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly. The materials used inside the package must be clean and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce.

Packages must be free of all foreign matter.

### **1.6.2 Storing**

No imported Plants and Plant products should be moved and/or transported onto a cultivated farm

### **1.6.3 Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)**

The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Seychelles has the obligation under the law to conduct an intensive Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for **New Products, New Market Access** and **whenever it require** depending on the type of commodities, country of origin and pest of concern before issuing any Plant Import Permit for the purpose of preparing phytosanitary regulations and conditions for importation of Plants, Plant product and/or Other Plant Related Articles into Seychelles.

This might take some time before approval is granted for Import Permit depending on the availability of information and cooperation of all parties concern to facilitate safe trade of plants, plant products and other regulated articles.

### **1.6.4 New Market Access**

The Government of any country from which any plant, plant product or any other regulated article is sought to be exported to Seychelles may apply in writing to the Director of the National Biosecurity Agency (NBA), through the Ministry Foreign Affairs and Transport, P.O. Box 656, Maison Queau de Quinssy, Mont Fleuri, Mahe, Republic of Seychelles or Ministry responsible for Trade

## 1.7 CONTACT DETAILS

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THANK YOU

Yours Sincerely

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I Love *Seychelles*  
Mon Kontan *Sesel*  
J'aime *les Seychelles*