

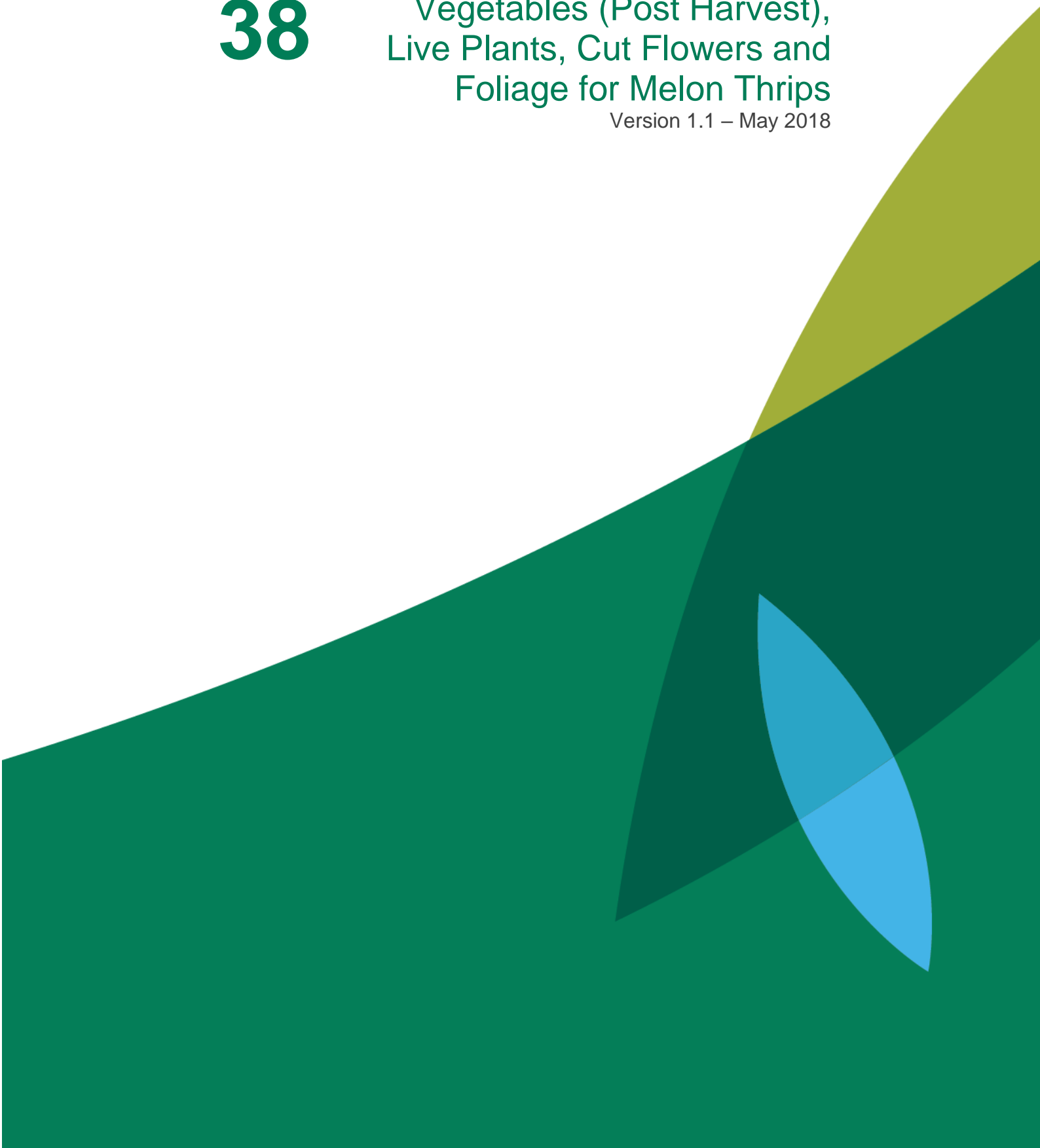


Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

38

Interstate Certification Assurance
Inspection of Fruits and
Vegetables (Post Harvest),
Live Plants, Cut Flowers and
Foliage for Melon Thrips

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Contents

1	PURPOSE	5
2	SCOPE	5
3	REFERENCES	5
4	DEFINITIONS	5
5	RESPONSIBILITY	8
6	REQUIREMENT	9
7	PROCEDURE	9
7.1	Accreditation	9
7.1.1	Application for Accreditation	9
7.1.2	Audit Process	9
7.1.3	Certificate of Accreditation.....	10
7.2	Authorised Inspection Persons	10
7.3	Inspection Facilities and Equipment	10
7.3.1	Segregation of Produce.....	11
7.4	Inspection Procedures (Live Plants)	11
7.4.1	Pre-inspection	11
7.4.2	Sampling for End-point Inspection	12
7.4.3	Sampling for In-line Inspection	12
7.4.4	Finalising Inspection Record	13
7.5	Inspection Procedure (Cut Flowers and Foliage).....	13
7.5.1	Pre-inspection	13
7.5.2	Sampling for End-point inspection	13
7.5.3	Sampling for In-line Inspection	14
7.5.4	Finalising Inspection Record	14
7.6	Inspection Procedure (Fruits and Vegetables).....	14
7.6.1	Pre-inspection	14
7.6.2	Sampling for End-point Inspection.....	15
7.6.3	Sampling for In-Line Inspection	15
7.6.4	Finalising Inspection Record	15
7.7	Action Following Detection of Suspect Melon Thrips in Inspected Produce	16
7.7.1	Detection of Suspect Melon Thrips at End Point Inspection.....	16
7.7.2	Detection of Suspect Melon Thrips at In-line Inspection	16
7.7.3	Handling Suspect Melon Thrips Specimens	17
7.8	Inspection Records.....	18
7.9	Dispatch	19
7.9.1	Package Identification	19
7.9.2	Assurance Certificates	19
7.9.3	Assurance Certificate Distribution.....	20
7.10	ICA System Records.....	20
7.11	ICA System Documentation	20

8 ATTACHMENTS.....20

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to describe -

- (a) the design features for inspection facilities, the standards required for inspection equipment and
- (b) the responsibilities and practices of personnel

that apply to the inspection of fruits and vegetables (post-harvest), live plants, cut flowers and foliage for melon thrips under an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement.

2 SCOPE

This procedure covers all certification of inspection of fruits and vegetables (post-harvest), live plants, cut flowers and foliage for melon thrips from a Business operating under an ICA arrangement in Western Australia. This procedure does not cover the inspection and certification of seeds, underground parts of plants or dried or processed plant materials.

This procedure is applicable where the requirement specified in Section 6. Requirement is a specified condition of entry of an interstate quarantine authority for melon thrips.

Certification of inspection of fruits and vegetables (post-harvest), live plants, cut flowers and foliage for melon thrips under this Operational Procedure may not be an accepted entry condition for all fruits and vegetables (post-harvest), live plants, cut flowers and foliage to all intrastate and interstate markets.

Some intrastate or interstate markets may require additional quarantine certification for pests and diseases other than melon thrips as a condition of entry.

It is the responsibility of the Business consigning the fruits, vegetables, plants, cut flowers or foliage to ensure compliance with all applicable quarantine requirements.

3 REFERENCES

- | | |
|----------|--|
| WI-QA015 | Guidelines for Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates |
| WI-38-01 | Inspection of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Melon Thrips |
| WI-38-02 | Inspection of Live Plants for Melon Thrips |
| WI-38-03 | Inspection of Cut Flowers and Foliage for Melon Thrips |

4 DEFINITIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| acredit | means to accredit persons to issue Assurance Certificates under <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> . |
| Application for Accreditation | means an <i>Application for Accreditation of a Business for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Arrangement</i> |

Authorised Inspection Person	means a person who has completed approved training in the detection and recognition of melon thrips and who is authorised to conduct inspections on behalf of the Business by having their name and signature on a register of authorised inspection persons maintained by the Business.
approved training course	means an activity approved by DPIRD for the training and assessment of an Authorised Inspection Person.
approved taxonomist	means a person who is approved by DPIRD and is listed on the DPIRD Plant Health Register of Approved Taxonomists
Assurance Certificate	means <i>Plant Health Assurance Certificate</i>
Authorised Signatory	means a person whose name and specimen signature is included as an Authorised Signatory on the Business's application for accreditation.
Business	means the legal entity responsible for the operation of the facility and ICA arrangement detailed in the Business' Application for Accreditation.
Certification Assurance	means a voluntary arrangement between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 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 <i>Plant Health Assurance Certificate</i>
certified produce	means produce certified under this operational procedure.
consignment	means a quantity of packed produce described or to be described on one Plant Health Assurance Certificate by a single consignee. A consignment may contain a number of lots.
DPIRD	means the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
end-point inspection	means the process by which a representative sample is drawn and inspected from the finalised consignment prior to certification.
facility	means the location where produce is assembled, inspected, securely stored, certified and dispatched.
growing unit	means a pot, cell, tube or a number of small plants in a cell tray or other unit for growing plants.

homogeneous	means produce that is all of the same or similar kind or nature.
ICA	means Interstate Certification Assurance.
in-line inspection	means the process by which a representative sample of packed product is drawn from a lot and inspected during the processing and packing of the produce.
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.
inspection	means the act of inspecting produce to determine if the entry conditions or melon thrips freedom requirements of the importing State or Territory have been met.
lot	means a quantity of homogeneous produce assembled for inspection at one place at one time. A lot could consist of produce from one or more growers/blocks/properties.
melon thrips	means all stages of <i>Thrips palmi</i> (Karny) including egg, nymph and adult.
MT	means melon thrips.
nonconformance	means a nonfulfillment of a specified requirement.
package	means the complete outer covering or container used to transport and market the produce.
packed product	means produce that has been packed into its final package. For live plants, final packaging may mean a plant(s) in a growing unit.
produce	means living plants and parts of plants for propagation (with or without growing media), fruits and vegetables, and cut flowers and foliage but excludes seeds, underground parts and dried or processed plant materials.
Plant Health Assurance Certificate	means a certificate issued by an Authorised Signatory under an ICA arrangement stating that the plant or other thing described on the certificate meets a specified treatment, condition, pest or area freedom or other requirement.
restricted area	means an area identified within a state or territory from which produce is to be certified for property freedom for melon thrips.
thrips	means all live stages of <i>Thrips</i> spp. including egg, nymph and adult.

unit (fruit and vegetables)	means a single fruit or vegetable, bunch, head/floret, stem or bunch of leaves.
unit (live plants)	means one plant in a growing unit or a number of small plants in a growing unit or a bare rooted plant.
unit (cut flowers and foliage)	means a single cut stem with flowers and/or foliage attached.

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;
- 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;
- maintaining Certificates of Attainment and a Register of Authorised Inspection Persons (refer 7.2);
- maintaining the required inspection facilities and equipment (refer 7.3);
- advising the Authorised Inspection Person of the rate and type of inspection to be undertaken for melon thrips for each consignment or lot;
- ensuring the Business rejects and segregates produce in accordance with this Operational Procedure;
- forwarding samples of suspected melon thrips to an Approved Taxonomist for identification (refer 7.7);
- reporting any detection of melon thrips to the ICA Centre Coordinator for the district within 24 hours of the detection (refer 7.7).

The **Authorised Inspection Persons** are responsible for -

- maintaining inspection facilities and equipment (refer 7.3);
- sampling and inspecting either 600 units or 2% of packages for the presence of melon thrips prior to certification under this Operational Procedure (refer 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6);
- immediately advising the Certification Controller of any detection of melon thrips (refer 7.7);
- identifying and segregating packages following detection of suspect melon thrips;
- maintaining melon thrips inspection records (refer 7.8).

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 [7.9.1](#));
- maintaining copies of all Assurance Certificates issued by the Business under the ICA arrangement (refer [7.9.3](#)).

The **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's ICA arrangement and that the details on the certificate are true and correct in every particular (refer [7.9.2](#)).

6 REQUIREMENT

Produce certified for inspection for melon thrips under this Operational Procedure **must** meet the requirement:

'Inspected and found free of melon thrips'.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and interstate quarantine authorities maintain the right to inspect certified produce at any time and to refuse to accept an assurance certificate where produce is found not to comply with specified requirements.

7 PROCEDURE

7.1 Accreditation

7.1.1 Application for Accreditation

A Business seeking accreditation for an ICA arrangement under this Operational Procedure **shall** make application for accreditation at least 10 working days prior to the intended date of commencement of certification under the ICA arrangement.

7.1.2 Audit Process

Initial Audit

Prior to accrediting a Business, 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.

The Business **shall** demonstrate the training and competency of nominated Authorised Inspection Persons (refer [7.2 Authorised Inspection Persons](#)) in the identification of melon thrips and their produce inspection technique.

On completion of a successful initial audit, applicants will be granted provisional accreditation and posted a Certificate of Accreditation (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 commencement of certification under the ICA arrangement by the Business.

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

A compliance audit is conducted between six and nine months after the date of accreditation for an ICA arrangement that operates for more than six months of the year.

The accredited Business **shall** ensure the currency of competency of each nominated Authorised Inspection Persons. The currency of competency of each Authorised Inspection Person nominated by the accredited Business **shall** be assessed by an ICA Auditor annually in conjunction with the compliance audit.

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 nonconformance.

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.

A compliance audit is conducted within twelve weeks of the commencement of certification under the ICA arrangement by the Business each year.

A compliance audit is conducted between six and nine months after the date of re-accreditation for an ICA arrangement that operates for more than six months of the year.

7.1.3 Certificate of Accreditation

An accredited Business 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;
- the type of produce covered;
- other restrictions on the accreditation; and
- the period of accreditation.

The Business **must** maintain a current Certificate of Accreditation and make this available on request by an 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 facility, procedure and produce type covered by the Assurance Certificate.

7.2 Authorised Inspection Persons

One or more Authorised Inspection Persons **shall** be trained in the detection and recognition of melon thrips. Authorised Inspection Persons **shall** have successfully completed an approved training course in the detection and recognition of melon thrips.

The Certification Controller **shall** maintain an individual Certificate of Attainment for each Authorised Inspection Person within the Business.

The names, date of training and specimen signatures of each Authorised Inspection Person **shall** be included on a *Register of Authorised Inspection Persons* maintained by the Business (refer Attachment 3). Only persons currently on the register **shall** carry out melon thrips inspections.

7.3 Inspection Facilities and Equipment

The Business **shall** maintain the following inspection facilities and equipment: –

- (a) an inspection bench or table in an area protected from adverse weather conditions which is: -
- (b) constructed of stable, rigid and durable material i.e. steel, timber or plastic;
- (c) of a reasonable size and height;
- (d) painted in a light colour or covered in a durable light coloured material; and
- (e) placed in a well-lit and ventilated area on a flat sealed and durable surface i.e. concrete;
- (f) a hand lens, microscope or other device that provides at least X10 magnification for the observation of suspected thrips;
- (g) a white coloured tray i.e. plastic photograph tray or other surface for dislodging suspect thrips onto for further inspection;
- (h) reference illustrations and photographs for identification of melon thrips and other common thrips;
- (i) sealable plastic bags for collecting specimens of infested produce;
- (j) sealable specimen bottles for suspect thrips;
- (k) labels to uniquely number specimen bottles when multiple specimens are collected;
- (l) a fine paint brush for collecting samples of suspect thrips;
- (m) preservative material i.e. methylated spirits or 70% ethanol for preserving samples for identification; and
- (n) a pocket knife or similar item for cutting to further investigate for the presence of thrips

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** carry out regular checks of the inspection facilities and equipment to ensure it continues to operate effectively and remains free from damage or excessive wear.

7.3.1 Segregation of Produce

The Business **shall** maintain an area within the facility for produce which has 'passed' inspection. The Business **shall** also identify an area within the facility for segregating produce which has 'failed' an inspection for freedom from melon thrips.

Produce that has failed inspection due to suspect melon thrips and that is awaiting sample results **must** be segregated from all other melon thrips host produce until the sample result has been returned to the Business.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying the status of produce include -

- (a) locating melon thrips host produce (including produce that is awaiting sample results or has failed inspection) in a clearly identified and separate area to produce that has passed inspection; or
- (b) marking each package of inspected and 'passed' produce in a manner that clearly identifies the produce as conforming to the requirements specified under this Operational Procedure.

7.4 Inspection Procedures (Live Plants)

All produce examinations **shall** be carried out by an Authorised Inspection Person. Live plants **shall** be inspected in accordance with ICA Work Instruction *Inspection of Live Plants for Melon Thrips* [WI-38-02].

7.4.1 Pre-inspection

Prior to the commencement of an inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ascertain from the Certification Controller the type and rate of inspection. The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** then partially complete the Melon Thrips Inspection Record to capture the following details: -

- produce type;
- date of inspection;

- place of inspection;
- type of inspection (end-point or in-line);
- rate of inspection (sampling rate);
- name of Authorised Inspection Person;
- for end point inspection – the total number of packages in the consignment;
- for in-line inspections – the time the initial sample was taken (for live plants sampled in cartons only); and
- any unique details on the packages within the consignment which identifies the consignment inspected i.e. name and address of grower and or packer.

Inspection records **shall** be in the form of a *Melon Thrips Inspection Record* (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information (refer [7.8 Inspection Records](#)).

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ensure live plants are inspected for melon thrips as close as practicable and not more than 48 hours prior to the time of dispatch from the facility. Live plants **shall** be inspected individually.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ensure that the samples taken for inspection are representative samples of the whole consignment or lot as described on the Melon Thrips Inspection Record. Additionally, the Authorised Inspection Person **must** consider additional factors when selecting a sample from a mixed consignment or lot (refer ICA Work Instruction *Inspection of Live Plants for Melon Thrips* [WI-38-02]).

All live plants in a consignment of certified produce **shall** be sampled in accordance with Section [7.4.2 Sampling for End-point Inspection](#) or Section [7.4.3 Sampling for In-line Inspection](#).

7.4.2 Sampling for End-point Inspection

Prior to selecting a sample for an end-point inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person will ensure that the entire amount of produce within the consignment or lot is available for inspection. Each consignment of live plants to be certified **shall** be sampled at the rate of: -

- A minimum of 2% of the carton count (one in every fifty packages) or part thereof; or
- 600 units.

Packages **shall** be selected at random from within the consignment. A minimum of 3 packages **shall** be selected for inspection.

For Tasmania 600 units **shall** be inspected.

7.4.3 Sampling for In-line Inspection

In-line inspections can only be performed at facilities where live plants are being packed.

For in-line inspections, the Authorised Inspection Person **must** inspect all live plants within a defined inspection area. Examples of acceptable methods of identifying an inspection area include: -

- (a) signage on the outer perimeter clearly identifying the inspection area; or
- (b) a barrier system using tape or similar that clearly identifies the inspection area.

A designated inspection area can be portable and move to different areas within the accredited Business' facility.

The in-line inspection **shall** involve selection of a sample of product from a lot, packed on the one day for certification under this procedure. Live plants **shall** be sampled at the rate of a minimum of 2% of the carton count (one in every fifty packages or part thereof) or 2% of the total growing units; or 600 units, and be selected at random from the final packed product.

7.4.4 Finalising Inspection Record

Following the inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person **shall** record the following details on the *Melon Thrips Inspection Record* (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information: -

- the number of packages sampled;
- the number of units sampled in each package;
- total number of units sampled;
- the inspection result (pass or fail);
- the signature of the Authorised Inspection Person; and
- actions taken resulting from a detection of suspect thrips.

7.5 Inspection Procedure (Cut Flowers and Foliage)

All produce examinations **shall** be carried out by an Authorised Inspection Person. Samples **shall** be inspected in accordance with ICA Work Instruction *Inspection of Cut Flowers and Foliage for Melon Thrips* [WI-38-03].

7.5.1 Pre-inspection

Prior to the commencement of an inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ascertain from the Certification Controller the type and rate of inspection. The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** then partially complete the Melon Thrips Inspection Record to capture the following details: -

- produce type;
- date of inspection;
- place of inspection;
- type of inspection (end-point or in-line);
- rate of inspection (sampling rate);
- name of Authorised Inspection Person;
- for end point inspection – the total number of packages in the consignment;
- for in-line inspections – the time the initial sample was taken; and
- any unique details on the packages within the consignment which identifies the consignment i.e. name and address of grower and or packer.

Inspection records **shall** be in the form of a *Melon Thrips Inspection Record* (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ensure cut flowers and foliage are inspected as close as practicable and not more than 48 hours prior to the time of dispatch from the facility. Individual cut flowers and pieces of foliage **shall** be inspected as a single unit.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ensure that the samples taken for inspection are a representative sample of the whole consignment or lot. Additionally, the Authorised Inspection Person **must** consider additional factors when selecting a sample from a mixed consignment or lot (refer ICA Work Instruction *Inspection of Cut Flowers and Foliage for Melon Thrips* [WI-38-03]).

All cut flowers and foliage in a consignment of certified produce **shall** be sampled in accordance with Section [7.5.2 Sampling for End-point Inspection](#) or Section [7.5.3 Sampling for In-line Inspection](#).

7.5.2 Sampling for End-point inspection

Prior to selecting a sample for an end-point inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person will ensure that the entire amount of produce within the consignment or lot is available for inspection. Each consignment of cut flowers or foliage to be certified **shall** be sampled at the rate of: -

- A minimum of 2% of the carton count (one in every fifty packages) or part thereof; or
- 600 units.

Packages **shall** be selected at random from within the consignment. A minimum of 3 packages **shall** be selected for inspection.

For Tasmania 600 units **shall** be inspected.

7.5.3 Sampling for In-line Inspection

In-line inspections can only be performed at facilities where the cut flowers and foliage are being packed. For in-line inspections, the Authorised Inspection Person **must** be able to identify when the packed product was packed to adequately determine what product has been packed since the last inspection.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying the time when product was packed include -

- (a) locating packed product in clearly identified and separate areas that represent the inspection interval; or
- (b) marking each package or pallet of product in a manner that clearly identifies when the product was packed.

The in-line inspection **shall** involve selection of a sample of packed product from a lot, packed on the one day for certification under this procedure. Packed produce **shall** be sampled at the rate of a minimum of 2% of the carton count (one in every fifty packages) or part thereof or 600 unit and be selected at random from the final packed product as it leaves the packing line in the facility.

7.5.4 Finalising Inspection Record

Following the inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person **shall** record the following details on the *Melon Thrips Inspection Record* (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information: -

- the number of packages sampled;
- the number of units sampled in each package;
- total number of units sampled;
- the time when the samples were taken (in-line only);
- total number of packages (in-line inspection only) in the lot;
- the inspection results (pass or fail);
- the signature of the Authorised Inspection Person; and
- actions taken resulting from the detection of suspect thrips.

7.6 Inspection Procedure (Fruits and Vegetables)

All produce examinations **shall** be carried out by an Authorised Inspection Person. Fruits and vegetables **shall** be inspected in accordance with ICA Work Instruction *Inspection of Fruits and Vegetables for Melon Thrips* [WI-38-01].

7.6.1 Pre-inspection

Prior to the commencement of an inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ascertain from the Certification Controller the type and rate of inspection and partially complete the Melon Thrips Inspection Record to capture the following details:

- produce type;
- date of inspection;
- place of inspection;
- type of inspection (end point or in line);
- rate of inspection (sampling rate);
- name of Authorised Inspection Person;
- for end point inspection – the total number of packages in the consignment;
- for in-line inspections - the time the initial sample was taken; and

- any unique details on the packages within the consignment which identifies the consignment i.e. name and address of grower and or packer.

Inspection records **shall** be in the form of a *Melon Thrips Inspection Record* (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ensure fruits and vegetables are inspected as close as practicable and not more than 48 hours prior to the time of dispatch from the facility. Fruits and vegetables **shall** be inspected individually (as a unit) after packing as packed product.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** ensure that the samples taken for inspection are a representative sample of the whole consignment or lot. Additionally, the Authorised Inspection Person **must** consider additional factors when selecting a sample from a mixed consignment or lot (refer ICA Work Instruction *Inspection of Fruits and Vegetables for Melon Thrips* [WI-38-01]).

All fruits and vegetables in a consignment of certified produce **shall** be sampled in accordance with Section [7.6.2 Sampling for End-point Inspection](#) or Section [7.6.3 Sampling for In-line Inspection](#).

7.6.2 Sampling for End-point Inspection

Prior to selecting a sample for an end-point inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person will ensure that the entire amount of produce within the consignment or lot is available for inspection. Each consignment of fruits and vegetables to be certified **shall** be sampled at the rate of:

- A minimum of 2% of the carton count (one in every fifty packages) or part thereof; or
- 600 units.

Packages **shall** be selected at random from within the consignment. A minimum of 3 packages **shall** be selected for inspection.

For Tasmania 600 units **shall** be inspected.

7.6.3 Sampling for In-Line Inspection

In-line inspections can only be performed at facilities where the fruits and vegetables are being packed. For in-line inspections, the Authorised Inspection Person **must** be able to identify when the packed product was packed to adequately determine what product has been packed since the last inspection.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying when product was packed include -

- (a) locating packed product in clearly identified and separate areas that represent the inspection interval; or
- (b) marking each package or pallet of product in a manner that clearly identifies when the product was packed.

The in-line inspection **shall** involve selection of a sample of packed product from a lot, packed on the one day for certification under this protocol. Packed produce **shall** be sampled at the rate of a minimum of 2% of the carton count (one in every fifty packages) or part thereof or 600 units and be selected at random from the final packed product as it leaves the packing line in the packing shed for consolidation.

7.6.4 Finalising Inspection Record

Following the inspection, the Authorised Inspection Person **shall** record the following details on the Melon Thrips Inspection Record (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information:

- the number of packages sampled;
- the number of units sampled in each package;
- total number of units sampled;
- the time when the samples were taken (in-line only);

- total number of packages (in-line inspection only) in the lot;
- the inspection result (pass or fail);
- the signature of the Authorised Inspection Person; and
- actions taken resulting from the detection of suspect thrips.

7.7 Action Following Detection of Suspect Melon Thrips in Inspected Produce

7.7.1 Detection of Suspect Melon Thrips at End Point Inspection

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** immediately advise the Certification Controller of any detection of suspect thrips identified during the melon thrips inspection. The Certification Controller **shall** then reject and segregate all produce in the consignment that has been presented for inspection.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** record the detection of suspect melon thrips on the Melon Thrips Inspection Record (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information.

Suspect melon thrips **shall** be submitted to an approved taxonomist. Taxonomists **shall** be registered on DPIRD's Plant Health Register of Approved Taxonomists and **must** meet the following criteria –

- (a) A tertiary qualification in entomology, agricultural science, applied science, or a field relevant to insect taxonomy; and
- (b) Demonstrated experience in thrips taxonomy.

Produce that is rejected and segregated from certification is to be either:

- Held in an identified area until sample analysis of the suspect melon thrips is conducted and results provided; or
- Consigned to a market that does not require certification of freedom from melon thrips; or
- Treated in accordance with an alternative quarantine entry requirement for the control of melon thrips (i.e. fumigation).

If the suspect thrips sample is returned confirming the sample is not melon thrips, all rejected product that is segregated may be reconsidered for certification under this Operational Procedure provided all requirements have been met.

If melon thrips is confirmed by diagnosis of the sample, all produce in the consignment **shall** be rejected for certification under the Operational Procedure. A positive melon thrips sample diagnosis **must** be reported to the ICA Centre Coordinator for the district within 24 hours by the accredited Business.

7.7.2 Detection of Suspect Melon Thrips at In-line Inspection

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** immediately advise the Certification Controller of any detection of thrips or thrips-like insects identified during the melon thrips inspection.

2 % In-line Inspection

If suspect melon thrips are detected during a 2% in-line inspection the Certification Controller **shall** reject and segregate all packed produce that has been consolidated since the last inspection interval.

Produce that has been consolidated and found free of suspect melon thrips prior to the last inspection interval may be considered for certification provided all requirements of the Operational Procedure have been met.

Packed product that is rejected for certification is to be either:

- Held in an identified area until sample analysis of the suspect melon thrips is conducted and results provided; or
- Consigned to a market that does not require certification of freedom from melon thrips; or

- Treated in accordance with an alternative quarantine entry requirement for the control of melon thrips.

For live plants, if suspect melon thrips are detected during a 2% in-line inspection the Certification Controller **shall** reject and segregate all products that has been consolidated in the defined inspection area.

The Authorised Inspection Person shall record the detection of suspect melon thrips on the Melon Thrips Inspection Record (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information.

600 unit In-line Inspection

If suspect melon thrips are detected during a 600 unit in-line inspection the Certification Controller **shall** reject the entire lot represented by the sample including all packed product that has been consolidated from that lot and uninspected product still on the packing line.

Packed product that is rejected for certification is to be either:

- Held in an identified area until sample analysis of the suspect melon thrips is conducted and results provided; or
- Consigned to a market that does not require certification of freedom from melon thrips; or
- Treated in accordance with an alternative quarantine entry requirement for the control of melon thrips.

For live plants, if suspect melon thrips are detected during a 600 unit in-line inspection the Certification Controller **shall** reject and segregate all product that has been consolidated in the defined inspection area.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** record the detection of suspect melon thrips on the Melon Thrips Inspection Record (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information.

Identification of Suspect Melon Thrips

Samples of suspect thrips **shall** be submitted to an approved taxonomist. Taxonomists **shall** be registered on the DPIRD's Plant Health Register of Approved Taxonomists and **must** meet the following criteria –

- (a) A tertiary qualification in entomology, agricultural science, applied science, or a field relevant to insect taxonomy; and
- (b) Demonstrated experience in thrips taxonomy.

If the suspect thrips is subsequently confirmed not to be melon thrips, all segregated and rejected product in the lot may be reconsidered for certification provided all requirements of this Operational Procedure have been met.

If melon thrips is confirmed, all produce consolidated since the last in line inspection interval **shall** be rejected for certification under the Operational Procedure.

As soon as practical and not more than twenty-four (24) working hours from the time of the receipt of the positive sample result, the result **shall** be reported to the ICA Centre Coordinator for the district so an investigation may be carried out to determine the cause and rectify any problems

Thrips are very small and difficult to distinguish between species. Thrips require specialist identification and therefore any suspect thrips **must** be submitted to an Approved Taxonomist for identification prior to certification.

7.7.3 Handling Suspect Melon Thrips Specimens

Suspect melon thrips samples **shall** be handled, stored and dispatched in accordance with: -

- Work Instruction for the Inspection of Fruits and Vegetables for Melon Thrips [WI-03]; or

- Work Instruction for the Inspection of Live Plants for Melon Thrips [WI-04]; or
- Work Instruction for the Inspection of Cut Flowers and Foliage for Melon Thrips [WI-05].

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** record the following details on the Sample Submission Form (refer Attachment 5):

- the name of the Authorised Inspection Person taking the sample;
- the Interstate Produce (IP No.) number of the accredited Business inspecting the produce;
- the name and address of the grower and packer or Interstate Produce (IP No.) number of the source property;
- the type of produce and quantity of produce from which the sample was taken;
- the date the sample was taken;
- the date the sample was submitted to an approved taxonomist;
- the contact telephone number and e-mail and fax contact of the Authorised Inspection Person; and
- the type of sample, diagnosis request and sample details.

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** seal the specimen bottle into a sealable plastic bag with the sample submission form, then forward, the sample by secured means to an Approved Taxonomist within 24 hours of taking the sample.

Please note that alcohol such as methylated spirits is considered a hazardous material and is illegal to mail or courier without proper packaging and certification.

Where a suspect melon thrips is captured and contained on produce, the produce or part of the produce with the suspect pest **must** be wrapped in damp paper towel and placed into a plastic bag without a preservative material i.e. methylated spirits.

Where suspect thrips is subsequently confirmed to be melon thrips by an Approved Taxonomist, the Certification Controller of the accredited Business **shall** obtain written notification of the sample result from the Approved Taxonomist. The Approved Taxonomist **shall** complete the Diagnosis Details Section of the Sample Submission Form and return it to the Certification Controller of the accredited Business.

Where suspect thrips cannot be positively identified by an Approved Taxonomist, the produce will be rejected for certification under the Operational Procedure.

7.8 Inspection Records

The Authorised Inspection Person **shall** maintain records of all melon thrips inspections. Inspection records **shall** be in the form of a *Melon Thrips Inspection Record* (refer Attachment 4) or records which capture the same information.

Inspection records **shall** include: –

- produce type;
- date of inspection;
- place of inspection;
- type of inspection (inspection method);
- rate of inspection (inspection rate);
- details of each lot and consignment inspected i.e. package identification (IP No., name and address of grower and packer);
- number of packages sampled;
- number of units sampled in each package;
- total number of units sampled;
- if applicable, the time the sample was taken;

- total number of packages in the consignment or lot;
- the inspection results including absence or presence of thrips;
- actions taken resulting from suspected detection of thrips;
- the number of the Assurance Certificate to which the inspection relates;
- the name and signature of the Authorised Inspection Person.

7.9 Dispatch

7.9.1 Package Identification

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

- the Interstate Produce number of the Business that operates the approved facility in which the plants were inspected;
- the words 'MEETS ICA-38'; and
- the date (or date code) on which the produce was inspected;

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

Where live plants are consigned loose in pots and not in packages, the above information **shall** be marked on the consignment note or the invoice accompanying the plants and signed and dated by an Authorised Signatory of the Business.

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

7.9.2 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 inspection and freedom from melon thrips.

Assurance Certificates **shall** be in the form of a *Plant Health Assurance Certificate*

Assurance Certificates **shall** include –

- (a) in the 'Accredited Business that Prepared the Produce' section -
- (b) the name and address of the accredited Business that **inspected** the produce;
- (c) in the 'IP No. of Acc. Business' section -
 - the IP No. of the accredited Business that **inspected** the produce;
- (d) in the 'Type of Plant Material' section -
 - the number and description of each type of produce in the consignment;

NOTE: Where there is insufficient room to list each produce category the words "See Attachment" are to be used and an Attachment Sheet securely attached to each copy of the assurance certificate.

The Attachment Sheet **must** include the words 'ATTACHMENT SHEET', the name and address of the consignor, the assurance certificate number, the signature of the Authorised Signatory that signed the certificate and the date.

An example Attachment Sheet is shown as Attachment 2.

- (e) in the 'Additional Certification' section the statement -
'Inspected and found free of melon thrips.'

A completed example is shown as Attachment 1.

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

Prior to issuing an Assurance Certificate, the Authorised Signatory **shall** reconcile the produce to be certified with the relevant Melon Thrips Inspection Record and record the Assurance Certificate number(s) on the corresponding Melon Thrips Inspection Record.

Assurance Certificates **shall** be completed, issued and distributed in accordance with the Work Instruction *Guidelines for Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates* [WI-QA015].

7.9.3 Assurance Certificate Distribution

The original (yellow copy) must accompany the consignment.

The duplicate (blue copy) is to be sent to the below address not less than monthly.

- Quality Assurance Officer
Quarantine WA
Locked Bag 69
WELSHPOOL DC, WA 6986

The **triplicate** (white copy) **must** be retained by the QA accredited Business that issued the certificate.

7.10 ICA System Records

The Business **shall** maintain the following records -

- (a) Register of Authorised Inspection Persons (refer 7.2);
- (b) Authorised Inspection Person Certificate of Attainment;
- (c) Melon Thrips Inspection Records (refer 7.8); and
- (d) the duplicate copy of each Plant Health Assurance Certificate
- (e) issued by the Business (refer 7.9.3).

ICA system records **shall** be retained for a period of not less than 12 months from completion or until the next compliance audit of the Business, whichever is the later.

An accredited Business **must** hold a minimum of 12 months ICA system records at the time of any compliance audit. If the compliance audit is conducted more than 12 months from the last compliance audit, the Business **must** maintain all records completed since the previous compliance audit.

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

7.11 ICA System Documentation

The Business **shall** maintain the following documentation -

- (a) a copy of the Business's current Application for;
- (b) a current copy of this Operational Procedure;
- (c) a current Certificate of Accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance Arrangement.

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

8 ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Plant Health Assurance Certificate	(COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
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Attachment 2	Attachment Sheet	(COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
Attachment 3	Register of Authorised Inspection Persons	(BLANK)
Attachment 4	Melon Thrips Inspection Record	(BLANK)
Attachment 5	Sample Submission Form	(BLANK)



Certificate Number: XXXXXX

ORIGINAL (Yellow) – Consignment Copy
DUPLICATE (Blue) – Quarantine WA Copy
TRIPLICATE (White) – Business (Book) Copy

Business Specific Information*	
Dispatch Date: ___ / ___ / ___	Ref No: _____
Arrival Date: ___ / ___ / ___	PO No: _____
* These items display business specific information entered at the discretion of the consignor. They do not represent any part of the certifying conditions of the produce.	

Plant Health Assurance Certificate

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Quality Assurance and Accreditation) Regulations 2013

All accreditation details must be completed. Please print clearly and initial any alterations

Consignment Details

Consignor

Name	ABC Pty Ltd
Address	Block Road Perth WA 6000

Consignee

Name	Plant Agents
Address	Somewhere Road Somewhere SA

Re-consigned To

(Splitting consignments or re-consigning whole consignments).

Name	
Address	

Certification Details

IP Number	Facility Number	Procedure
W 9999	01	ICA38

Accredited Business That Prepared The Produce

Name	ABC Pty Ltd
Address	Block Road Perth WA 6000

Grower or Packer

Name	ABC Pty Ltd
Address	Block Road Perth WA 6000

Other Facilities Supplying Produce

Name	
Address	

Number of Packages	Type of Packages (e.g. trays, cartons)	Type of Produce	Brand Name or identifying marks (As marked on packages)	Date Code (As marked on packages)	Authorisation for Split Consignment
144	Cartons	Plants	ABC Plants	230416	Affix Authorisation Stamp to Split / Re-consignee here
			(see attachment)		

Treatment Details

Treatment	Chemical (Active Ingredient)	Treatment Date	Concentration / Duration and Temperature

Additional Certification / Codes

Inspected and found free from melon thrips
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Declaration

I, an authorised Signatory of the accredited business that prepared the plants or plant produce described above, hereby declare that the plants or plant produce have been prepared in the business's approved facilities in accordance with the business's 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 *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Quality Assurance and Accreditation) Regulations 2013* to issue assurance certificates without being accredited and/ or making false statements in certificates and declarations.

Authorised Signatory's Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date

Joe Bloggs	<i>J.A. Bloggs</i>	23/04/2016
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ATTACHMENT SHEET

Plant Health Assurance Certificate No. XXXX

Consignor –

ABC Pty Ltd
Block Rd
Perth WA

Carton No.	No. and Size of Items	Type of Plant Material
1	10 X 75 mm pots	Small Leaf Lillypilly (<i>Syzygium luehmannii</i>)
1	10 X 75 mm pots	Lemon Scented Myrtle (<i>Backhousia citriodora</i>)
2	30 X stems	Heliconia flowers (<i>Heliconia spp.</i>)
2	30 X stems	Anthurium flowers (<i>Anthurium andraeanum</i>)
3	10 X bunches	Cycad foliage (<i>Cycas revoluta</i>)

Authorised Signatory –

Joe Bloggs

Printed Name

J.A. Bloggs

Signature

23/04/2016

Date

REGISTER OF APPROVED INSPECTION PERSONS

Accredited Business Name			IP Number	W				
Date of Training	Approved Inspection Person		Authorisation by Certification Controller					
	Printed Name	Signature	Printed Name	Signature				

Note: Place a line through any entry for any person who is no longer Approved to carry out melon trips inspections under the Business’s Interstate Certification Assurance arrangement.

MELON THRIPS INSPECTION RECORD

Date of Inspection				Package Identification	
Place of Inspection				IP Number	
Name of Approved Inspection Person				Name & Address of Grower and or Packer (if multiple, list in comments/findings column)	
Inspection Type <input type="checkbox"/> End-point <input type="checkbox"/> In-line				Produce Type (if multiple, list in comments/findings column)	
Inspection Rate <input type="checkbox"/> 600 Unit <input type="checkbox"/> 2%				Total Number of Packages in Consignment/Lot (list separately if multiple commodities)	
Notes:				PHAC No(s)	
Package No.	Time sample taken (in-line only)	Number of Units	Total Number of Units	Comments/Findings	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
Pass		Fail		Signature of Approved Inspection Person:	
Actions resulting from a suspected detection of a quarantine pest					

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM

APPROVED INSPECTION PERSON DETAILS

Approved Inspection Person Name	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	IP Number of Accredited Business	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="W"/>
Name and address of grower/packer or IP number of the produce that sample was taken	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Type of produce & quantity from which sample was taken	Type of produce:
			Quantity of produce:
Date sample was taken	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date sample was submitted to Diagnostician	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Contact Telephone No	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Email/Fax No	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>

SAMPLE DETAILS

Type of Sample: <small>(e.g. insect, leaves, seeds)</small>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Diagnosis request: <small>(e.g. identify insect, disease, seed)</small>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Sample details: Describe where, when and how the sample was taken. Include the type produce or crop the sample was taken from, who took the sample and why diagnosis is required.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 80px;" type="text"/>

DIAGNOSIS DETAILS - For Diagnostician Use Only

Date Sample Received	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date Sample Diagnosed	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Diagnosis Result	<input style="width: 95%; height: 60px;" type="text"/>		
Method of Diagnosis	<input style="width: 95%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>		
Comments	<input style="width: 95%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>		
Diagnostician Name	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Diagnostician Position	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Signature	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>