



INSPECTION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (POST HARVEST), LIVE PLANTS, CUT FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE FOR MELON THRIPS

REVISION REGISTER

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Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to describe -

- (a) the design features for inspection facilities;
- (b) the standards required for inspection equipment; and
- (c) 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 Queensland. This procedure does not cover the inspection and certification of seeds, underground parts of plants and dried or processed plant materials.

For Western Australia only - whole plant vegetables (i.e., compact leafy vegetables or parts thereof, such as lettuces, cabbage, broccoli, broccolini, cauliflower etc.) and bitter melon, snake beans, long beans, okra and luffa are also excluded for certification under this procedure.

This procedure is applicable where the requirement specified in [6. Requirements](#) 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.

Information on intrastate and interstate quarantine requirements can be obtained from the ICA Centre Coordinator for your district.

3. REFERENCES

ICA-WI-02	<i>Guidelines for Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates</i>
ICA-WI-03	<i>Inspection of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Melon Thrips</i>
ICA-WI-04	<i>Inspection of Live Plants for Melon Thrips</i>
ICA-WI-05	<i>Inspection of Cut Flowers and Foliage for Melon Thrips</i>

4. DEFINITIONS

Accredit	means to accredit persons to give a Biosecurity Certificate in accordance with Section 430 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> .
Accrediting Authority	means the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) Queensland.
Accredited Certifier	means the person who holds accreditation under chapter 15 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> to give Biosecurity Certificates.
Application for Accreditation	means an <i>Application of Accreditation of an Accredited Certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Arrangement [CAF-47]</i> .
Authorised Inspection Person	means a person who is authorised to conduct inspections on behalf of the business by having their name and specimen signature on a register of authorised inspection persons maintained by the business.
approved training course	means an activity approved by DAF for the training and assessment of an Authorised Inspection Person.
Assurance Certificate	Means a Plant Health Assurance Certificate [CAF-16].
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 on the Business's Application for Accreditation.
Certification Assurance	means a voluntary arrangement between DAF 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 [CAF-16]</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.
DAF	means the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
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 biosecurity certificate approved by the Accrediting Authority for the ICA Scheme [CAF-16].
restricted area	means an area identified within a state or territory from which produce is to be certified for property freedom for melon thrips.
segregate	means a minimum of a 1 metre separation between produce that has passed inspection and produce that has failed inspection due to a suspect melon thrips detection or produce awaiting sample results.
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 a qualified entomologist for identification (refer [7.7](#)); and
- reporting any detection of melon thrips to the ICA Centre Coordinator for the district within 24 hours of the detection (refer [7.7](#)).

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

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'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 Agriculture and Fisheries 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

An Accredited Certifier seeking accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance arrangement 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 under the ICA arrangement.

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.

The Accredited Certifier 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 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 initial accreditation or 12 weeks of the annual renewal of accreditation of the ICA arrangement. The Accredited Certifier 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.

An additional 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.

Random audits are conducted on a selected number of ICA arrangements 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 certifiers 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 date of re-accreditation for an Accredited Certifier 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;
- the type of produce covered;
- other 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 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 accredited 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 Accredited Certifier (refer [Attachment 4](#)). Only persons currently on the register shall carry out melon thrips inspections.

7.3 Inspection Facilities and Equipment

The Accredited Certifier shall maintain the following inspection facilities and equipment: –

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

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 segregated area to produce that has passed inspection; and
- (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* [ICA-WI-04].

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 5](#)) 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* [ICA-WI-04]).

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 Western Australia, live plants are to be sampled and inspected according to the following

- Inspected at 600 units.

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 packed product.

For Western Australia only 600 units shall be inspected.

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 5](#)) 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* [ICA-WI-05].

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 5](#)) 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* [ICA-WI-05]).

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 Western Australia only 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.

For Western Australia only 600 units shall be inspected.

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 5](#)) 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* [ICA-WI-03].

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 5](#)) 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* [ICA-WI-03]).

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 Western Australia only 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.

For Western Australia only 600 units shall be inspected.

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 5](#)) 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 5](#)) or records which capture the same information.

Suspect melon thrips shall be submitted to a qualified entomologist for identification.

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;
- 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;
- 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 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 5](#)) 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;
- 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 5](#)) or records which capture the same information.

Identification of Suspect Melon Thrips

Samples of suspect thrips shall be submitted to a qualified entomologist within 24 hours of detection. 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 to 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 a qualified entomologist for identification prior to certification.

Grow Help Australia, a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries service, provides plant pest and disease diagnostic testing for horticultural businesses.

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];*
- *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 6](#)):

- the name of the Authorised Inspection Person taking the sample;
- the Interstate Produce (IP No.) number of the accredited certifier 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 qualified entomologist;
- the contact telephone number, 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 a qualified entomologist within 24 hours of taking the sample.

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.

Prior to submitting a suspect melon thrip sample for identification, the Authorised Inspection Person or Certification Controller should contact the qualified entomologist to determine the correct sample submission procedure.

Where suspect thrips is subsequently confirmed to be melon thrips by a qualified entomologist, the Certification Controller of the accredited business shall obtain written notification of the sample result from the qualified entomologist. The qualified entomologist 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 a qualified entomologist, 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 5](#)) 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; and
- 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 produce was 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.

For Western Australia only, loose plants must have the above information applied to a tag or label securely attached to each plant. Whole truck or container loads of loose plants do not require individual tags or labels provided the truck or container door is sealed at the time of dispatch from the facility and the seal is intact on arrival in Western Australia. The seal number must be included in the 'Brand Name or Identifying Marks' section of the Assurance Certificate covering the consignment (refer [Attachment 2](#)).

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* [CAF-16].

Assurance Certificates shall include: –

- (a) in the 'Accredited Business that Prepared the Produce' section -
 - the name and address of the accredited business that **inspected** the produce;
- (b) in the 'IP No. of Acc. Business' section -
 - the IP No. of the accredited business that **inspected** the produce;
- (c) 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 3](#).

- (d) in the 'Additional Certification' section the statement -

'Inspected and found free of melon thrips.'

A completed example is shown as [Attachment 2](#).

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-02].

7.9.3 Assurance Certificate Distribution

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

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

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* [CAF-16] 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 Accreditation (refer [Attachment 1](#));
- (b) a current copy of this Operational Procedure;
- (c) a current *Certificate of Accreditation for an Interstate Certification Assurance Arrangement*;
- (d) *Work Instruction Guidelines for Completion of Plant Health Assurance Certificates* [WI-02];
- (e) Relevant Work Instruction(s) for the Inspection for Melon Thrips:
 - I. *Work Instruction for the Inspection of Fruits and Vegetables for Melon Thrips* [WI-03];
 - II. *Work Instruction for the Inspection of Live Plants for Melon Thrips* [WI-04]; or
 - III. *Work Instruction for the Inspection of Cut Flowers and Foliage for Melon Thrips* [WI-05].

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



8. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	<i>Application for Accreditation of an accredited certifier for an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Arrangement</i>	CAF-47 (FRONT 2 PAGES ONLY)
Attachment 2	<i>Plant Health Assurance Certificate</i>	CAF-16 (COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
Attachment 3	<i>Attachment Sheet</i>	(COMPLETED EXAMPLE)
Attachment 4	<i>Register of Authorised Inspection Persons</i>	(BLANK)
Attachment 5	<i>Melon Thrips Inspection Record</i>	(BLANK)
Attachment 6	<i>Sample Submission Form</i>	(BLANK)

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:
FNS 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.

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

ORIGINAL

Consignment Details (Please print)

Certificate Number **9999999**

Consignor

Consignee

Name **Joe's Tomatoes Pty Ltd**

Name **Produce Agents Pty Ltd**

Address **Tomato Road
Mareeba, Qld 4880**

Address **South Australian Produce Market
Burma Road, Poorooka, SA 5095**

Reconsigned To (Splitting consignments or recognizing whole consignments)

Method of Transport (Provide details where known)

Name

Road Truck/Trailer Registration

Address

Rail Consignment

Air Airline Flight no.

Sea Vessel Name and Voyage no.

Certification Details (Please print)

Accredited Certifier that Prepared the Produce

Grower or Packer

Name **Central Packing Co. Pty Ltd**

Name **Joe's Tomatoes Pty Ltd**

Address **Kennedy Highway
Walkamio Qld 4872**

Address **Tomato Road
Mareeba Qld 4880**

IP No. of Acc. Certifier

Brand Name or Identifying Marks (as marked on packages)

Date Code (as marked on packages)

Q 9999

Joe's Tomatoes

08/07/2017

Facility No.

Procedure Code

Expiry Date

Facility No.

Procedure Code

Expiry Date

01

ICA 38

13 / 06 / 2018

Number of Packages

Type of Packages (e.g. trays, cartons)

Type of Produce

Authorisation for Split Consignment

1000

Trays

Custard Apples

Date	Treatment	Chemical (Active Ingredient)	Concentration	Duration and Temperature
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Dipping	Olimothate	400ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> One min. <input type="checkbox"/> 10 sec. then wet for 60 sec.
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Spraying	Olimothate	400ppm	10 seconds then wet for 60 seconds
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Fumigation	Methyl Bromide	g/m ³	Two hours @ °C
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Grown and packed on a property free from red imported fire ant			
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Sourced from a property located more than 5km from a known infestation of red imported fire ant			
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Mature green condition at packing			
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Bananas in a hard green condition with unbroken skin			
08 / 07 / 17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inspected and found free of melon thrips		

Additional Certification

'Inspected and found free of melon thrips.'

Declaration

I, an Authorised Signatory of the accredited certifier that prepared the plants or plant produce described above, hereby declare that the plants or plant produce 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)

Signature

Date

Arthur John Signatory



08/07/2017

ATTACHMENT SHEET

Plant Health Assurance Certificate No. 9999999

Consignor –

Tropical Plant Nursery Pty Ltd
Plantation Rd
Atherton QLD 4883

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 -

Arthur John Signatory

Printed Name

A J Signatory 21 07 17

Signature

Date

MELON THRIPS INSPECTION RECORD

Date of Inspection			Package Identification		
Place of Inspection			IP Number		
Name of Authorised 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					
18					
Pass		Fail		Signature of Authorised Inspection Person:	
Actions resulting from a suspected detection of a quarantine pest					

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM

AUTHORISED INSPECTION PERSON DETAILS

Authorised
Inspection Person
Name

IP Number of
Accredited
Business

Name and
address of
grower/packer or
IP number of the
produce that
sample was taken

Type of produce
& quantity from
which sample
was taken

Type of produce:

Quantity of produce:

Date sample was
taken

Date sample
was submitted to
Diagnostician

Contact
Telephone No

Email/Fax No

SAMPLE DETAILS

Type of Sample: (e.g. insect, leaves, seeds)

Diagnosis request: (e.g. identify insect, disease, seed)

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.

DIAGNOSIS DETAILS - For Diagnostician Use Only

Date Sample Received

Date Sample Diagnosed

Diagnosis Result

Method of Diagnosis

Comments

Diagnostician Name

Diagnostician Position

Signature

Date