



Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore

Plant Regulatory Branch - Plant Health
Sembawang Research Station, Lorong Chencharu, Singapore 769194.
Tel: (65) 67519843 Fax: (65) 67582979

Ref: PR 5.1

22 March 2005

Messrs

Amendment of the Control of Plants (Plant Importation) Rules 2005

1. We wish to inform you that the Control of Plants (Plant Importation) Rules will be amended and the changes will come into effect on 25 April 2005. The changes in the Rules will ensure plant import requirements are transparent and are science-based. The amended Rules have also expanded the list of plants and associated materials used for plant production to be regulated. Genetically modified and invasive plants and organisms which are a threat to the environment have also been included for regulation. Under the amended Rules, any person who imports plants, plant products and materials listed in the Rules must obtain a permit from the Director-General of Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA). The permit will be issued only when the applicant has complied with the import health requirements including having the necessary phytosanitary certificate or equivalent documents issued by the authorized government agency.

2. The amended Rules also extends to regulating the import of plants from West Malaysia. AVA has worked out an accreditation arrangement with the Department of Agriculture, Malaysia to facilitate the import of plants to Singapore. Under bilateral arrangements, Malaysian nurseries are inspected to ensure compliance with Singapore's requirements before they are accredited. Plants exported by such accredited nurseries in West Malaysia will be accorded fast track clearance. However, the imported plants are still subject to inspection for pests and diseases by AVA on arrival.

3. The list of Import Health Requirements for the import of the regulated plants and materials associated with plant production and the list of accredited nurseries in West Malaysia are available from Plant Regulatory Branch, Import & Export Division, Sembawang Research Station, Lorong Chencharu, Singapore 769193. Telephone no: 67519842 & Fax no: 67520170. The information can also be accessed from AVA's website: (www.ava.gov.sg/javascript/module3/web-prb-2003.htm).

4. The normal online electronic permit via TradeNet for approval of import of regulated plants, plant products and materials is available only during normal office operation hours, the following documents will be required to be faxed to Plant Regulatory Branch:

- 4.1 Phytosanitary certificate
- 4.2 Other certificates as listed under the Import Health Requirements
- 4.3 Invoice issued by the overseas exporter

Once approval is given, the electronic permit will be issued via the Cargo Clearance Permit (CCP). Applicants need to follow all the terms and conditions as stipulated in the CCP. The electronic permit costs \$11 per consignment.

5. For those applicants who import regulated plants from accredited nurseries in Malaysia, an auto electronic permit will be granted. Please use the Establishment Codes, which are assigned to each nursery, to make your import declaration in the TradeNet. The electronic permit is also \$11 per consignment. Applicants however need to submit the following documents to Plant Regulatory Branch for verification after arrival of the plants and follow all the terms and conditions as stipulated in the CCP:

5.1 Export Declaration Packing List issued by the authorized personnel from the accredited nursery

5.2 Invoice issued by the exporter in Malaysia

6. Please note that any person who makes false declaration, submits documents that are false or fails to comply with the terms and conditions issued to him under the CCP shall be guilty of an offence.

7. The following quantity of plants, seeds and regulated materials may be bought in from Peninsula Malaysia through Woodlands & Tuas Checkpoints without permit and phytosanitary certificate. Customs Officers would detain any excess quantity on arrival.

7.1 Plants - 3 numbers per person or private car

7.2 Foliages – 10 numbers per person or private car

7.3 Seeds - 250 grams per person or private car

8. Should there be any further enquiries, please contact Ms Ong Ai Khim or Dr. Mohd Ali at 67519842 and 67519843. Our office is open from 8.30 AM to 5.30 PM (weekdays) and 8.30 AM to 12.30 PM (Saturdays). We are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Yong Taik Chai
Deputy Head/ Plant Regulatory Branch
for Chief Executive Officer
Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore

(no signature required if via electronic means)