Trade Agreement – Pre-Harvest Treatment & Inspection of Blueberries for Blueberry Rust (TAS BBR02)

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Biosecurity Tasmania

Tasmanian Government

Revision No	Date of Change	Amendments	
		Section	Details
1.0	11/11/2016	All	Draft Procedure – TJ
1.1	21/11/2016	All	Final Version for Approval – AB & TJ
1.2	5/12/2016	12.2	Definition of Non-conformance – TJ
1.3	09/12/2016	6 &11.1 (e)	Removal of Pre-Harvest Treatment Declaration requirement under part A. RC/TJ
		8.4	Change Pre-Harvest Treatment & Inspection declaration to Harvest Inspection declaration. RC/TJ
1.4	15/12/2016	2.	Scope – Update name – Site Management Plan. Corrected street address
		5.	Secure Conditions – address added & product integrity reference
		6.	Addition of Training Requirements
		7.	Responsibility – Reference correct inspection form, addition of Harvest Inspection, Addition of Costa Pallet Card System.
		9.4	Addition of Harvest Supervisor responsibilities
		9.4.3	Change punnets to Kilograms
		10.4.1	Addition to Sample selection amount.
		10.4.6	Removal of Declaration Certificate Number
		12.1	Removal of Pre harvest Treatment form, added Harvest Inspection form.
1.5	30/08/2017	ALL	Document review in preparation for the 2017 / 2018 export Season. SS/TJ
		1.	Remove ‘Victoria’, replaced with ‘interstate partners’, Date Change for 2017/2018 export season. (TJ)
		4.	Addition of ‘Certificate’. (TJ)
		10.2	Removed ‘Victoria’. (TJ)
		11.1.1	Added document title – ‘Blueberry Packing Protocol, East Devonport Packing Facility – Blueberry Rust’. (TJ)
		11.2.1	Added ‘which may include…’(TJ)
		11.2.2	Removed statement of final audit on feasibility of the program. Normal Audit program remains in place. (TJ)
		11.3	Update of export season – 2017 / 2018. (TJ)
			Removed ‘Victoria’, replaced with ‘the state’. (TJ)
		12.2	Removed ‘authorised person’, replaced with ‘Biosecurity Tasmania’. (TJ)
		13.1	Addition of ‘declaration certificate’ to be supplied to BT on conclusion of export season. (TJ)

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		Section	Details
		13.2	Removed 'Victoria', replaced 'the state'. (TJ)
	30/08/2017	All	Approved V1.5 – Chief Plant Health Manger – Andrew Bishop. (TJ)
1.6	20/11/2017	10.52.	Change of Certificate – PHAC (TJ)
		11.	Update of certificate name. (TJ)
		12.	Update of Certificate name. (TJ)
1.7	11/09/2018 18/09/2018	All	General review and update. (TJ) Approved – Acting Chief Plant Health Manager – Peter Cross (TJ)
1.8	6/11/2018	9.3.1	Removal of section and update to section - All fruit to be treated at the IP – (TJ, RC, AM)
		9.3.2	Removal of section and update to section - All fruit must be treated at the IP – (TJ, RC, AM)
1.9	13/03/2019		Add TAS BBR02 – WA Admin Request
2.0	5/08/2019	All	General review
		8.0	Addition of Copper Hydroxide & Cupric Hydroxide
2.1	16/06/2020	All	General Review and reformatting (TJ, RC)
	30/07/2020	All	Approved V 2.1 – CPHM (AB)
2.2	07/08/2020	2.0	Correction of scientific names of BBR & removal of Tasmania from destination (TJ)
2.3	05/08/2021	2.0	Removed 'Victoria' (HO)
3.0	29/07/2022	All	General Update and Review – align with ICA31 & removal of WA – TJ Template/Name changed to Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) – LB/TJ
3.1	26/09/2022	ALL	Add TASBBR02 to title & document as needed - TJ
3.2	08/09/2023	All	Align terminology with BA2019 – SH & RC 12.6 Audit reports – update to 21-day timeframe (RC) 13.1 & 13.2 – Align notice of suspension with BA2019 13.4 - Addition of Charges information Update to mailing address of Market Access – Multiple Formatting changes
3.3	15/09/2023	8	8. Requirements (a) – inclusion of POLYOXIN D SALT as prescribed chemical
3.4	20/10/2023	9.3.1	Inclusion of treated and untreated blocks
3.5	3/07/2024	8 10.3 All	Removal of requirement to spray from before start of season to end of harvest. Align with ICA-31 packed product inspection – soil and debris only General formatting

Approved by: Susanna Driessen - Chief Plant Protection Officer – Tasmania **Date:** 22 Aug 2024

Controlled: ☑ Uncontrolled:

Disclaimers

The information contained in this Trade Agreement, otherwise known as the Procedure or Procedure, is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (As per most recent review on revision register). However, because of advances in knowledge, users must ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date by checking currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department or the user's independent adviser.

Some of the chemical use patterns quoted in this Procedure are approved under Permits issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). These permits are in force at the time the publication was prepared. Persons wishing to use a chemical in a manner approved under such Permits must obtain a copy of the relevant Permit from the APVMA and must read all the details, conditions, and limitations relevant to that Permit. Persons must comply with the details, conditions, and limitations prior to use.

Warning

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural (or veterinary) chemical products **must** always read the label and any Permit before using the product and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any Permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions of the label or the conditions of the Permit by reason of any statement made or omitted to be made in this Procedure.

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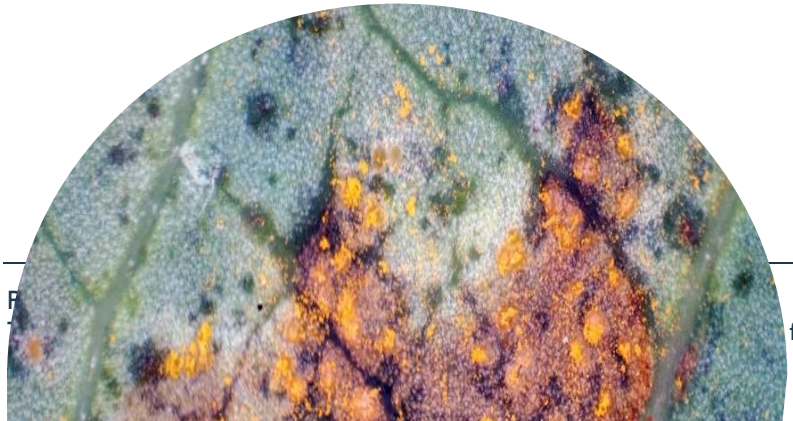

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Procedure is to describe:

(a) the operation and principles; and

(b) the responsibilities and actions of personnel

(c) that apply to the treatment, inspection, and certification of commercially produced blueberries, under this Trade Agreement with Interstate partners.

This agreement is based on the operations of the Interstate Certification Assurance Scheme 31 (ICA 31).

2. Scope

This Procedure specifies the requirements that apply to the pre harvest treatment and inspection of blueberries for blueberry rust under the Trade Agreement.

Disease: Blueberry rust *(Thekopsora minima)*

Produce: Blueberries *(Vaccinium spp.)*

Location: Tasmania

This procedure is separated into two (2) sections:

1. Part A covering grower activities; and
2. Part B covering packer activities.

Destination: Blueberry Rust sensitive market - South Australia

Blueberry fruit grown, treated, and harvested in Tasmania is only eligible for export when the business is registered under and compliant with Part A of this Trade Agreement and the produce is packed and certified by a business registered under Part B.

A business may be registered under both Part A and Part B of this procedure.

Certification under this Procedure may not fulfil all quarantine entry conditions for all produce to interstate markets. It is the responsibility of the consigning business to ensure compliance with all applicable quarantine requirements.

Information on intra- and interstate quarantine requirements can be obtained from Biosecurity Tasmania on (03) 6165 3777

3. References

Pre-harvest Treatment and Inspection of Blueberries for Blueberry Rust (ICA 31) National Protocol, Version 1.4 (14/10/2021).

Biosecurity Act 2019

4. Definitions

In this Procedure:

Act	the *Biosecurity Act 2019*
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
Authorised Signatory	a person whose name and specimen signature is provided as an Authorised Signatory on the Business's Application for Accreditation.
block	an identifiable area of land on which produce is grown and pre-harvest treated as a unit and that is detailed on the property plan.
blueberries	all commercial varieties of *Vaccinium spp.*
Blueberry rust (BBR)	all stages of the fungus *Thekopsora minima*
Business	the legal entity responsible for the operation of the packing facility and berry farm detailed in the Trade Agreement.
Certification Assurance (CA)	an arrangement approved by the Department which enables a business accredited under the arrangement to be registed as a Biosecurity Certifier to certify that certain quarantine requirements have been satisfied for the movement of host produce to interstate and/or intrastate markets. Note: An example of an approved Certification Assurance Arrangement is a Compliance Agreement (CA), or the Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Scheme.
consignment	a discrete quantity of plants or plant products transported to a single consignee at one (1) time covered by a single declaration certificate.
damaged skins	for blueberries, splits, or cracks in the skin due to causes prior to harvest, like hail, but does not include the scar and tear which often occurs when the fruit is removed from the bush.
Department	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
End-Point Inspection	means the process by which a representative sample is drawn and inspected from the consignment prior to certification
Facility	a location where produce is assembled, inspected, securely stored, certified and dispatched.
in-line inspection	means the process by which a representative sample is drawn during the processing and packaging of the goods.
Authorised Officer	an authorised Officer appointed under section 31 of the *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA)	Interstate Certification Assurance, 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.

lot	a quantify of homogenous product assembled for inspection at one (1) place and at one (1) time. A lot could consist of product from one (1) or more growers/blocks/properties.
lot identification	any coding or marking method used to identify a lot (e.g., date, date code or block code).
non-conformance	a failure to fulfil a specified requirement.
package	the complete outer covering or container used to transport and market the product (e.g. punnet, tray, coffin).
packed product	host produce in packages following grading and packing and ready for marketing.
Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC)	means a Plant Health Assurance Certificate that is issued by an Authorised Signatory in accordance with the requirements of a Certification Assurance Arrangement.
Property	one (1) or more contiguous parcels of land (lots on plan), owned or leased by a Business, that are managed as a unit and isolated from any other parcel of land owned or leased by the same Business.

5. Secure Conditions

All consignments exported to other States and Territories (including non-quarantine markets) are required to be sealed and securely packed to prevent cross contamination & maintain product integrity during transport.

6. Training

Training in the operation of the Trade Agreement in relation to the responsibilities outlined in Section 7 is the responsibility of the business.

Appropriate training must be provided to fruit pickers to ensure they are able to identify and report signs and symptoms of blueberry rust during the harvest process.

Records of individuals & training programs must be maintained indicating the specific responsibility as detailed in the Trade Agreement.

Training programs and record management will be subjected to audit or presented as requested by Biosecurity Tasmania.

7. Responsibility

Position titles have been created to reflect the responsibilities which must be met by the business under the Trade Agreement. These positions must be assigned to trained staff. One (1) person may carry out the responsibilities of more than one (1) position.

A list of authorised persons undertaking all the positions and responsibilities of this Trade Agreement must be maintained by the business and be provided to Biosecurity Tasmania upon request.

The **Certification Controller** is responsible for:

- representing the Business during audits and other matters relevant to the Trade Agreement;
- training staff in their duties and responsibilities under this Trade Agreement;
- ensuring the Business and staff comply with their responsibilities and duties; and
- ensuring all certification of produce is carried out in accordance with this Trade Agreement.

UNDER PART A

- Ensuring the Business is accredited to operate under Part A of this Trade Agreement;
- maintaining a property plan for each property/block on which the produce is to be grown for certification under this Procedure;
- ensuring all source blocks of produce to be harvested have undergone pre-harvest treatment as per this Procedure;
- ensuring treated produce is identified and segregated from untreated produce to avoid mixing; and
- instigating action following detection of blueberry rust infestation at harvest.

UNDER PART B

- ensuring the Business is registered to operate under Part B of this Trade Agreement;
- ensuring all produce received for post-harvest packing, inspection and certification under PART B of this Procedure are sourced only from the registered business accredited under PART A of this Procedure and accompanied by a valid PHAC;
- providing and maintaining a facility plan;
- ensuring that treated and untreated produce are identified and controlled to prevent mixing during grading and packaging; and
- taking corrective action following detection of blueberry rust during grading and packing, or packed product inspection.

The **Authorised Signatory** is responsible for:

- ensuring that blueberries certified under the PHAC have been treated, inspected, and packed in accordance with this Trade Agreement and that the details on the PHAC are true and correct in every particular; and
- signing and issuing the PHAC.

The **Authorised Dispatcher** is responsible for:

- ensuring all blueberries covered by a PHAC issued by the registered business have been identified; and
- maintaining duplicate copies of all certificates and harvest inspection records issued by the Business under this Trade Agreement.

The **Treatment Operator** is responsible for:

- reading the label and/or permit, and Safety Data Sheet for the chemical product in use;
- preparing and applying pre-harvest chemical treatments to all source blocks certified under this procedure;

- conducting pre-harvest spray application calibration tests on pre-harvest treatment equipment;
- maintaining pre-harvest spray application calibration test records;
- maintaining pre-harvest spray equipment; and
- maintaining pre-harvest spray mixture preparation and treatment records.

The **Harvest Supervisor** is responsible for:

- undertaking produce inspection;
- all harvest activities, including identification of treated and untreated blocks and produce;
- advising of any suspected blueberry rust infestations found and segregating infested produce; and
- completion of 'Harvest Inspection Record' and PHAC.

The **Produce Receival Officer** is responsible for:

- ensuring all blueberries received for grading, packing and certification under PART B of this agreement are sourced only from a business registered under PART A of this agreement; and
- ensuring all blueberries grown by another registered business are accompanied by a PHAC.

The **Grader/Packer** is responsible for:

- ensuring all host produce packed for certification under PART B of this agreement is free from visible symptoms of blueberry rust; and
- ensuring all non-conforming produce is identified and controlled to prevent mixing with conforming produce.

The **Packed Product Controller** is responsible for:

- sampling and inspecting for freedom from visible symptoms of blueberry rust, soil, and plant debris;
- identifying all sample packages;
- taking corrective action following the identification of non-conforming produce in any sample package; and
- maintaining records of packed produce inspection.

8. Requirements

Host produce certified under this Trade Agreement must comply with the following:

(a) a program of cover sprays consisting of a combination of the chemicals applied in accordance with all the requirements of (i) to (vi) below where a minimum of two (2) cover sprays of two (2) different chemicals have been applied in succession with the second of the two (2) sprays being applied within 14 days of harvest:

(i) 32 mL of a concentrate containing 250 g/L Propiconazole or 16 mL of a concentrate containing 500 g/L Propiconazole per 100 L of water; or

(ii) 200 g of a concentrate containing 750 g/kg Mancozeb per 100 L of water or 2 kg/ha; or

(iii) a maximum of three applications of 125 - 150 g/100 L or 1.25 - 1.5 kg/ha of 252 g/kg Boscalid and 128 g/kg Pyraclostrobin; or

(iv) product containing copper hydroxide or cupric hydroxide using a minimum total volume of 800L/ha at:

- 105g/100L of 500g/kg product or 1.2kg/ha
- 130g/100L of 400g/kg product or 1.5kg/ha
- 140g/100L of 375g/kg product or 1.55kg/ha
- 150g/100L of 350g/kg product or 1.65kg/ha
- 155mL/100L of 350g/L product or 1.7L/ha

(v) 113g/kg POLYOXIN D SALT at;

- 22g or 40g/100L or
- 220g or 400g/ha

(vi) applied at a maximum of 14-day intervals as per label or APVMA Permit requirements; and

(b) harvest inspected and found free from blueberry rust, and

(c) post-harvest inspected and found free of plant debris and soil.

The Business must use products in accordance with the instructions included on the products approved Permit and label, including any first aid, safety, protection, and storage and disposal directions.

Some produce may be damaged by chemical treatments. Businesses applying chemical treatments should check with experienced persons for any available information. Testing of small quantities is recommended.

Following the treatment requirements in this Procedure does not absolve the Business from the responsibility of ensuring that any pesticide use is fully contained and managed within the property.

The Department maintains the right to, at any time, inspect certified produce and refuse to accept a certificate where the produce is found not to conform to specified requirements.

9. Procedure – Part A: Grower Activities

9.1 Property Plan

A property plan must be provided with the Business's application for accreditation for each block/land holding on which host produce is grown and pre-harvest treated for certification under this agreement.

The **PROPERTY PLAN** must include the following:

(a) location of all the blocks on which the host produce is grown; and

(b) block Reference Code or Number used to identify each block; and

(c) variety and number of plants in the block; and

(d) road access including street name/s; and

(e) internal roadways within the property; and

(f) location and identification of buildings (e.g., house, packing shed, equipment sheds etc.); and

(g) whether it is intended to certify host produce harvested from the block under this Trade Agreement.

If any changes occur to the property plan information, a new property plan must be submitted to Biosecurity Tasmania.

9.2 Treatment – Pre-harvest cover spraying

9.2.1 Cover spray equipment calibration

The Treatment Operator must carry out spray application calibration tests on pre-harvest spraying equipment prior to the commencement of the season and within 28 days of commencement of treatment. Water without concentrate added may be used in these calibration tests.

Application rate calibration tests may be carried out using the following method –

(a) Dynamic calibration

(i) Fill the spray tank with water. With pump operating at normal speed, check all nozzles. Collect and record the output of every nozzle for a given time (e.g., for one (1) minute) using an accurate measuring cylinder. Replace any nozzle with more that 10% variation from the manufacturers output specification.

(ii) Calculate the effective spraying width of the boom in metres

- for broadcast spraying, use the number of nozzles x the nozzle spacing;
- for band spraying, add the bandwidths;
- for bed spraying, add the bed widths.

(iii) Divide effective spraying width into 100 for the distance in metres to travel in the calibration run (100 m^2).

(iv) Accurately mark out this distance in the field, using stakes or pegs.

(v) Re-fill the spray tank with water to the maximum mixture level mark or an incremental volume mark.

(vi) Mark the position of the tractor so that you can return to exactly the same position after the calibration run, ensuring the spray tank has the same level of alignment for accurate measurement of the spray volume used.

(vii) Spray out over the measured distance at the same pressure, same engine RPM, gear and the same ground surface as in your field spraying.

(viii) Return to the exact starting position and refill tank to the same mark, measuring the volume of water required.

(ix) Multiply the number of litres to refill the tank by 100 to give the number of litres the spray will apply per hectare.

(b) Spot checking

(i) Divide the volume of spray used (in Litres) by the area treated (in hectares) in a given application.

(ii) If the actual application rate varies by more than 10% from the calculated application rate the spray equipment must be re-calibrated.

9.2.2 Spray Equipment regular checks

The Treatment Operator must carry out regular checks of the spraying equipment to ensure it continues to operate effectively and remains free from malfunction, blockages, damages, or excessive wear.

9.2.3 Pre-harvest spray application calibration records

Records of spray equipment calibration tests must be maintained by the Treatment Operator, which records the name of the person conducting the test, the date of the test and the results.

Results of testing must include the full calculations used to determine the application rate of the spray equipment.

9.2.4 Cover spray mixture preparation

The **Treatment Operator** must prepare the chemical mixture at least daily or more frequently as required.

Using a clean graduate measuring vessel, measure the amount of concentrate required for the required volume of mixture. Suitable measuring vessels include graduate plastic or glass measuring cylinders.

Add the required amount of concentrate to the spray tank in accordance with the manufacturer's directions on the label. Fill the spray supply tank with clean water to the incremental volume mark or maximum mixture level mark.

Ensure that the chemical is completely diluted in all of the water by mixing the tank for a minimum of two (2) minutes before commencing the spray operation. Some equipment may require extended periods of mixing to fully dilute the chemical in the water.

Spray equipment must have a means of continuous mixing of the spray mixture in the spray tank throughout the spray operation to avoid settling or separation on the concentrate. Mechanical mixing devices in the spray tank can achieve this, or agitation from spray mixture returned via a by-pass from the spray pump.

Host produce from treated blocks should not be harvested until the specified withholding period has been complied with after the cover spray application.

9.2.5 Cover spray mixture preparation and treatment records

The **Treatment Operator** must record details of all cover spray mixture preparation and pre-harvest treatment using a Preparation and Treatment Record.

The Cover Spray Mixture Preparation and Treatment Record must identify:

(a) the date and time of cover spray mixture preparation and application.

(b) the trade name of the concentrate used.

(c) volume of concentrate used (millilitres) in the spray mixture.

(d) the total volume (litres) of the made-up spray mixture;

(e) any other pesticide or additives in the spray mixture;

(f) calibration details;

(g) the spray equipment used;

(h) the block/s treated;

(i) type of host produce;

(j) the number of blocks/hectares sprayed; and

(k) the identification of the Treatment Operator.

9.2.6 Cover spray application

The **Treatment Operator** must undertake pre-harvest cover spraying of all blueberries on the property as per the Label or Permit requirements.

9.3 Harvesting

The **Certification Controller** must oversee the harvest process to ensure only treated produce is harvested for certification under this procedure.

9.3.1 Treatment of blocks

A Business with blocks of treated and untreated host produce must identify the treatment status of blocks to prevent mixing of treated and untreated host produce.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying treated and untreated blocks include:

(a) signs indicating both treated and untreated blocks; or

(b) colour markers indicating treated and untreated blocks.

Other methods may be used provided they clearly identify treated and untreated blocks and are acceptable to the auditor.

9.3.2 Identification of treated and untreated produce at harvest

A Business that maintains treated and untreated blocks of host produce must identify the treatment status of harvested produce to prevent mixing of treated and untreated host produce.

Examples of acceptable methods of identifying treated and untreated host produce include:

(a) using picking trays which differ in colour for treated and untreated host produce; or

(b) using picking trays which differ significantly in appearance for treated and untreated produce.

Other methods may be used provided they clearly identify treated and untreated host produce at harvest and are acceptable to the auditor.

9.4 Harvest Inspection – Blueberry Rust

The **Harvest Supervisor** is responsible for conducting a harvest inspection for blueberry rust and a 'Harvest Inspection Record' must be completed prior to the delivery to the pack house.

9.4.1 Inspection equipment

The Business must maintain a "Symptoms of blueberry rust" chart or similar in close proximity to the Harvest inspection equipment and must maintain the following inspection equipment:

(a) adequate illumination; and

(b) a hand lens, dissection microscope or other device that provides at least X10 magnification.

9.4.2 Inspection procedure

Pickers must remain alert for evidence of blueberry rust infection in treated host produce harvested for certification under this procedure. Blueberry fruit showing signs of blueberry rust must be rejected and retained in suitably marked reject bins or other receptacles for inspection by the Harvest Supervisor.

The **Harvest Supervisor** must complete the inspection of blueberries as follows:

(a) inspect a random selection of 600 pieces of host produce from each variety, each day of harvest to look for signs of infestation; and

(b) host produce received from multiple blocks must have undergone a separate 600-piece inspection for each day of harvest.

The **Harvest Supervisor** must immediately advise the **Certification Controller** on detection of blueberry rust infection.

NOTE: It is recommended that each Business set up an inspection station consisting of a dissection microscope and adequate illumination, and that blueberries are examined in batches under the microscope for signs of rust.

9.4.3 Harvest Inspection Records

The **Harvest Supervisor** must maintain a record of harvest inspection of host produce. Harvest inspection records shall be in the form of a 'Harvest Inspection Record' or records, which capture the same information.

Harvest inspection records must include:

(a) the date of inspection; and

(b) the registered property that grew and pre-harvest treated the host produce; and

(c) the block/s from which the produce was harvested; and

(d) the number of blueberries examined; and

(e) the presence or absence of blueberry rust; and

(f) the Harvest Supervisor's name and signature.

9.4.4 Detection of non-conforming produce at harvest

The **Certification Controller** must ensure that the following actions occur if any blueberry rust infected fruit is found:

(a) all host produce harvested from the source block on the day of the detection shall be rejected for certification under this Trade Agreement; and

(b) all host produce from the source block/s shall be rejected for certification under this trade agreement until:

(i) at least seven (7) days have elapsed after the source block/s had received a pre-harvest cover spray (not counting repeat spraying if rain occurs within two (2) hours of spraying) with a pesticide according to Section 8 Requirements: and

(ii) the detection shall be reported to the Market Access team within 24 hours so an investigation of the cause may be carried out and any problems rectified.

9.4.5 Rejected produce – Blueberry Rust and Plant debris

After sorting and removal of blueberry rust infected produce or the presence of plant debris, rejected produce must be isolated to avoid mixing with conforming produce. Blueberry fruit must not be certified under this Trade Agreement if the presence of blueberry rust, soil or plant debris is found.

9.4.6 Plant Health Assurance Certificate

A Business which pre-harvest treats produce that is to be packed and certified by another Business must be accredited under PART A of this agreement.

The accredited Business must provide the packing business with a completed PHAC with each delivery (lot) of produce supplied for certification under this agreement.

The Harvest Supervisor must ensure a PHAC is completed and signed by an Authorised Signatory prior to the consignment being dispatched. PHACs must be completed, issued, and distributed in accordance with this agreement.

PHACs must include:

(a) in the 'Accredited Business that Prepared the Produce' section, the name and address of the Accredited Business that packed and inspected the host produce; and

(b) in the 'Grower' section, the name and address of the property on which the host produce was grown, pre-harvest treated, and harvest inspected; and

(c) in the 'Consignment Details' section,

(i) the number and type of packages in the consignment; and

(ii) in the 'Type of Produce' column, a description of the host produce; and

(d) in the 'Treatment Details' section, the details of the last pre-harvest treatment applied to the source block or blocks in which the host produce was grown; and

(e) in the 'Additional Certification' section the statement "inspected during harvest and found free of blueberry rust."

The Business must not issue a PHAC for host produce owned by another Business. An individual PHAC must be issued to cover each consignment to avoid splitting of consignments.

A PHAC is not required where the Business that grows and pre-harvest treats and inspects the host produce is the same business that packs, inspects, certifies, and dispatches the host produce under this Procedure

10. Procedure – Part B: Packer Activities

10.1 Facility Plan

A Facility Plan must be provided to Biosecurity Tasmania as part of this Trade Agreement. The Facility Plan must outline the location and identification of building and facilities including:

(a) loading docks; and

(b) packed product receival area(s); and

(c) segregated storage area(s); and

(d) produce grader; and

(e) sorting / packing lines; and

(f) quality inspection areas; and

(g) cool rooms; and

(h) for each location identified on the plan, the name of the location or location code used to identify the location; and

(i) road access including street names; and

(j) Internal roadways.

A copy of the Facility Plan must be included with the Business's Application for Registration.

If any changes occur to the Facility Plan information, a new Facility Plan must be submitted to Biosecurity Tasmania.

10.2 Receival of produce

The **Produce Receival Officer** must ensure the following:

(a) all host produce received for certification under this agreement is supplied by a grower accredited under Part A; and

(b) where the Business receives treated and untreated produce, the treatment status of the host produce is clearly identified at receival by the packing facility to prevent mixing of treated and untreated produce; and

(c) each delivery of host produce supplied by another business is accompanied by a PHAC. A PHAC is required for each day for each block supplying produce for certification under this agreement; and

(d) host produce supplied for certification has undergone pre-harvest treatment and inspection in accordance with Part A of this agreement; and

(e) grower identification and pre-harvest treatment and inspection details are maintained for all host produce received and certified under this agreement; and

(f) host produce is segregated or secured upon arrival to ensure host produce does not mix with untreated produce; and

(g) a 'Record of Receipt' or similar record which captures the same information, is maintained by the Business. The record must include the following information:

(i) name and IP number of the Business; and

(ii) receipt record number; and

(iii) PHAC number; and

(iv) PHAC received (Y/N); and

(v) date of receipt; and

(vi) produce type; and

(vii) quantity; and

(viii) Produce Receival Officer's name and signature.

Any host produce received that is not clearly identified as treated and inspected must be regarded as untreated and rejected and managed as untreated host produce for the purpose of this agreement. The Business must maintain copies of all declarations received from growers whose host produce is packed and certified under this agreement.

10.3 Grading and Packing

All blueberries graded and packed for certification under this Trade Agreement must be inspected for evidence of soil and plant debris during the normal grading and packing process.

The **Certification Controller** must oversee the grading and packing process to ensure only conforming fruit is packed for certification under this Trade Agreement.

10.4 Packed product inspection

The **Packed Product Controller** must continually monitor the grading and packing process by selecting a sample for examination from the packed product.

The **Packed Product Controller** shall advise the **Certification Controller** of any problems or potential problems detected in these samples so that corrective action can be implemented.

Packed Product Inspection must be carried out as an:

(a) in-line inspection during grading and packing; or

(b) end-point inspection following assembly of a consignment.

The **Packed Product Controller** shall ensure that the packed product is assembled in an orderly fashion, so product packed since the last sample can be easily identified.

10.4.1 Sample selection

The **Packed Product Controller** shall select a minimum of 2% of packages (one (1) in every 50 packages) or part thereof from randomly selected packages from each load of certified produce consigned from the facility each day. Samples selected for inspection must be round up in quantity per consignment.

In-Line Inspection

Samples must be selected at random from the final packed product as it leaves the packing line;

or

End-Point Inspection

Samples must be selected at random from the consignment following consignment assembly but prior to certification and dispatch.

10.4.2 Examination of the sample

The **Packed Product Controller** shall carry out an inspection of the package for evidence of soil, and plant debris. The inspection is to be undertaken in an adequately lit area with the use of a magnifying device of minimum X10 magnification.

10.4.3 Identification of sample packages

Sample packages must be sequentially numbered during the day of packing.

> Example for multiple pallets packed in one day: pallet one would be PPS 1 through 6, pallet 2 would be PPS 7 through 12 and so on.

The **Packed Product Controller** must identify each sample package with a Packed Product Sample (PPS) number by placing either a stamp or sticker bearing the lettering PPS No. (Packed Product Sample No.) on the exposed end of the package, then marking on or below the identifier the sequential sample number and their initials.

Where consignments are palletised, the sample packages examined by the **Certification Controller** must be stacked on the pallet with the PPS No. visible on the outside of each pallet packed for certification under this Trade Agreement.

The **Certification Controller** must be notified of any rejection. The Certification Controller shall advise the grading and packing staff of the non-conformance and investigate to identify the cause.

10.4.4 Detection of soil or plant debris

If any sample package contains soil or plant debris, the **Packed Product Controller** must:

(a) In –Line Inspection -

(i) reject the sample package; and

(ii) withdraw and isolate all packed product on incomplete pallets at the time of inspection; and

(iii) stop the packing line.

Once any problems have been identified and rectified, grading and packing may re-commence on to new pallets.

The **Packed Product Controller** must note in the “Comments” section of the ‘Packed Product Inspection Record’ next to the entry for the sample package which failed inspection, the reason for failure and the number of withdrawn packages.

Following resumption of grading and packing, the **Packed Product Controller** shall select an additional one (1) sample package in every 50 packages from the withdrawn pallets. The **Packed Product Controller** shall examine the sample packages for soil.

Sample packages shall be given the next Packed Product Sample (PPS) numbers after the sample package which initially failed inspection. The inspection results shall be entered on the 'Packed Product Inspection Record'.

If all sample packages are found to conform, the withdrawn pallets and the sample packages may be passed for certification and returned to the pallet assembly point.

If any of the sample packages contain soil or plant debris, the withdrawn pallets and the sample packages must be rejected.

(b) End-Point Inspection -

If any soil is found in a sample package, the entire pallet must be rejected.

The **Packed Product Controller** must note in the "Comments" section of the 'Packed Product Inspection Record' next to the entry for any sample package which failed inspection, the reason for failure and the number of packages on the rejected pallet.

10.4.5 Detection of Blueberry Rust

The **Packed Product Controller** must immediately advise the **Certification Controller** if any produce is found to be infested with blueberry rust.

The **Certification Controller** shall take the following actions:

(a) all produce harvested from the source block(s) on the day of the detection, including any produce which has been packed for certification, but which remains on the premises, shall be rejected for certification under this procedure; and

(b) all produce from the source block(s) shall be rejected for certification under this procedure until at least seven days have elapsed after the source block(s) have been pre-harvest cover sprayed; and

(c) the detection must be reported to Biosecurity Tasmania immediately so an investigation of the cause may be carried out and any problems rectified.

10.4.6 Rejected Product – Blueberry Rust

Any produce rejected on the grounds of blueberry rust infection must not be exported under this agreement.

10.4.7 Packed Product Inspection Records

The **Packed Product Controller** shall maintain records of the results of packed product inspection.

Packed product inspection records shall be in the form of a 'Packed Product Inspection Record' or a record which captures the same information.

Packed Product Inspection Records **must** include:

(a) the registration number of the Business that operates the registered facility in which the blueberries were packed; and

(b) the date of inspection of the sample package; and

(c) the sample package sequential number (PPS No.); and

(d) the type of inspection undertaken (In-line or End-point); and

(e) the inspection result for the sample package; and

(f) details of any soil or plant debris detected during inspection; and

(g) the number of any withdrawn or rejected packages; and

(h) the inspection results and follow-up action by the Certification Controller following withdrawal; and

(i) the Packed Product Controller's name and signature

10.5 Dispatch

10.5.1 Package identification

The **Authorised Dispatcher** must ensure that, prior to a Plant Health Assurance Certificate being issued; each package intended for certification under this Procedure is marked in indelible and legible characters of at least **5 mm** with:

(a) the Interstate Produce Number (IP) of the Business that operates the approved facility in which the host produce was packed; and

(b) the words **"Meets TAS BBR02";** and

(c) the **date (or date code**) on which the host produce was packed.

Any packages containing host produce that has not been prepared in accordance with the requirements of this Procedure must not be marked as stated above. Any such packages are not to be approved for export under this Trade Agreement

10.5.2 Plant Health Assurance Certificate

The **Authorised Dispatcher** must ensure a Plant Health Assurance Certificate is completed and signed by an Authorised Signatory prior to the consignment being dispatched.

Plant Health Assurance Certificates must include:

(a) in the '*Accredited Business that Prepared the Produce'* section, the name and address of the registered business that treated and inspected the blueberries; and

(b) in the *'Grower'* section, the name and address of the property on which the blueberries were grown. Where the consignment contains blueberries from a number of growers the word "VARIOUS" must be used; and

(c) in the *'Consignment Details'* section,

  (i) the number and type of packages in the consignment; and

  (ii) in the *'Produce Type'* column, a description of the blueberries.

(d) The Business must only issue Plant Health Assurance Certificates for blueberries produced under this Trade Agreement.

10.5.3 PHAC Distribution

The **original** must accompany the consignment

A **duplicate** copy must be retained by the accredited business.

11. Records and Document Control

11.1 Required Documents

(a) proof of business registration

(b) Complete property and/or facility plan

(c) Blueberry packing protocol (where applicable)

11.2 Trade Agreement Records

The Business must maintain the following records, or similar, which record the same information:

Under PART A

(a) a current 'Property Plan' (Attachment 2); and

(b) 'Equipment Application Calibration Test Record' (Attachment 3); and

(c) 'Cover Spray Mixture Preparation and Treatment Record' (Attachment 4); and

(d) 'Harvest Inspection Record' (Attachment 5); and

(e) the duplicate copy of each PHAC issued under this Procedure (Attachment 9).

Under PART B

(a) a copy of the 'Facility Plan'; and

(b) a copy of each PHAC received; and

(c) 'Record of Receipt'; and

(d) 'Packed Product Inspection Record' (Attachment 7); and

(e) Packed Product Sample Number (Attachment 8 example); and

(f) the duplicate copy of each PHAC issued under this Procedure (Attachment 9).

Records must be retained for at least 12 months from completion.

Records shall be made available on request to an Authorised Person.

11.3 Submission of Documents

- All documents must be submitted to:

  Market Access

  Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Branch

  Biosecurity Tasmania

  PO Box 303, Devonport TAS 7310

  Email biosecurity.marketaccess@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

12. Audit Process

12.1 Initial Audit

Prior to the Business being registered, an authorised person will carry out an initial audit of the Business to verify the Trade Agreement is implemented and capable of operating in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Agreement, and the system is effective in ensuring compliance with the specified requirements of the Trade Agreement.

Registration of the Trade Agreement will be undertaken as soon as practicable. An initial audit will be conducted by Biosecurity Tasmania to ensure compliance with this Trade Agreement.

A decision may be made to refuse registration under certain circumstances, which may include:

- incomplete knowledge of the Trade Agreement;
- insufficient management or control to operate the Trade Agreement;
- staff had poor awareness and knowledge of the Trade Agreement; and
- record keeping was deficient.

Where registration is refused, the applicant will be given verbal notice stating the reasons for the decision in the first instance. A written notice will be forwarded soon after.

The business will be required to work directly with Biosecurity Tasmania immediately to rectify the issues found at audit. If the business is unable to comply with the non-compliance, then this Trade Agreement will cease immediately.

12.2 Compliance Audit

Compliance audits are conducted to verify that the Trade Agreement continues to operate in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Agreement.

Compliance audits will be, wherever practical, conducted when the Trade Agreement is in operation.

A compliance audit is conducted:

(a) within four (4) weeks of the initial audit and registration or issue of the first declaration certificate; and

(b) within 12 weeks of the business operating under this agreement; and

(c) at the discretion of Biosecurity Tasmania

(d) Unscheduled compliance audits may be conducted at any time to investigate reported or suspected non-conformances

12.3 Trade Agreement Audits

The Department reserves the right to audit an accredited business on all or part of the Procedure. At each audit, the auditor will at minimum check the following:

(a) the Business has current copies of the Trade Agreement procedure; and

(b) the **Certification Controller** and staff understand their responsibilities and have a good knowledge of certification specifications; and

(c) the **Authorised Inspection Person** holds current accreditation by the Department and has completed the required training; and

(d) the current signatories have been authorised by the Department; and

(e) all records associated with this Trade Agreement have been kept; and

(f) the Trade Agreement is being operated effectively.

12.4 Non-conformances and Corrective Action Requests

Audits will be regularly undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of the Trade Agreement requirements. If, in the opinion of the auditor, there is evidence indicating that there has been a failure to meet one (1) or more registration requirements, the auditor may raise a Non-Conformance Report (NCR).

Actions required to address the non-conformance shall be discussed and recorded on the NCR.

If the integrity of the accreditation has been significantly compromised, the non-conformance may provide grounds for the suspension or cancellation of the accreditation and prosecution.

If a non-conformance is detected during an audit one (1) of the following actions will be taken:

(a) If a **critical non-conformance** is detected at audit the Trade Agreement can be immediately suspended and the state will be informed of this action.

(b) If a **major non-conformance** is detected a written NCR will be issued and a follow-up audit will be re-scheduled. The Trade Agreement may be suspended if the problem is not rectified.

(c) If a **minor non-conformance** is detected, the Business will be issued with a written NCR which must be rectified by the next scheduled audit.

Separate from this audit process the Department can, under certain other circumstances, issue to a Business a notice of suspension, cancellation, or amendment of the trade agreement. (Refer Section 16 – Sanctions Policy and Charging).

12.5 Types of Non-conformances

Minor – A minor non-conformance is a non-conformance, which threatens neither the effectiveness nor the assurance provided by the Trade Agreement but is a non-conformance with the requirements of the operational Procedure. Minor non-conformance is essentially administrative or technical in nature.

Major – A major non-conformance is a non-conformance where there is a breach in the system of treatment, inspection, or other activity, which threatens the assurance provided by the Trade Agreement, but where there is no evidence of failure to comply with the specified quarantine requirements of the operational procedure.

Critical – A critical non-conformance is a non-conformance which, in the opinion of Biosecurity Tasmania or the importing state, seriously threatens the effectiveness of the Trade Agreement and has or will mean regulated articles certified under this Trade Agreement do not comply with the specified requirements i.e., a Plant Health Assurance Certificate has been issued by the business certifying a treatment had not been undertaken.

Non-Conformance Reports shall be provided to the business.

12.6 Audit reports

The Business will be provided with an audit report for all audits performed within 21 working days of the audits completion. This report will summarise the audit findings and will include any non-conformities detected. Reference to appropriate NCRs will also be included in this report.

13. Sanction policy and charging

13.1 Notice of Suspension or Cancellation of Registration

The Department may suspend or cancel the registration when the Business is found, for example, to have:

- obtained registration through the provision of false or misleading information.
- not paid fees owing to the Department.
- contravened a requirement that compromises the integrity of the Trade Agreement; or
- not rectified a non-conformance.

If the Department decides action needs to be taken it will write to the Business at its postal address:

(a) stating the proposed action and grounds for the proposed action; and

(b) outlining the facts and circumstances forming the basis for the grounds; and

(c) if the proposed action is to suspend or cancel the accreditation; and

(d) the date or time from which the suspension or cancellation takes effect; and

(e) the period of suspension (if applicable); and

(f) any actions (if any), for the suspension to be lifted; and

(g) invite the Business to show, within 30 days, why the proposed action should not be taken.

If following consideration of all representations the Department decides to suspend or cancel the Trade Agreement the Business will receive a written notice stating:

(a) the decision; and

(b) the reason for the decision; and

(c) the period of suspension (if applicable); and

(d) any actions (if any), for the suspension to be lifted; and

(e) that the Business may provide in writing the reasons why the decision should be reconsidered, to:

Market Access
Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Branch
Biosecurity Tasmania
PO Box 303, Devonport TAS 7310; or
03 6478 4138; or
Email: biosecurity.marketaccess@nre.tas.gov.au

13.2 Immediate Suspension

An immediate suspension of the Trade Agreement is normally only issued where a critical non-conformance is judged to have occurred. The relevant decision-makers has the right to suspend without notice in certain circumstances, such as detection of a critical non-conformance.

A critical non-conformance is one, which has, or will compromise the effectiveness of the Trade Agreement.

The auditor, at the exit meeting, will verbally inform the Business that a critical non-conformance has been detected and consequently an immediate suspension will be recommended. The decision to suspend will be made by the relevant decision-maker within the Department based on the finding in the audit. A written notice of immediate suspension will given to the Business and will cover:

a) the grounds for the suspension; and

b) the actions required, if any, for the suspension to be lifted; and

c) invitation for the Business to show, within 30 days, why the proposed action should not be taken if they desire to do so.

Immediate suspension requires the Business to immediately cease consigning produce under the Trade Agreement. If suspended, the business must continue to chemically treat produce as per this Trade Agreement unless otherwise advised.

The Business may appeal this decision by stating the reasons the Business believes are relevant for the reinstatement of accreditation in writing to:

Market Access
Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Branch
Biosecurity Tasmania
PO Box 303, Devonport TAS 7310

13.3 Notice of Suspension, Cancellation and Amendment of the Trade Agreement

If the Department suspends, cancels, or amends the Trade Agreement, the Business will receive a written notice to that effect.

Notice of suspension, cancellation and amendment of the Trade Agreement will also be provided to all other affected states.

13.4 Charging Policy

Currently there is no prescribed fee for an application for accreditation as biosecurity certifier. The Act does, however, provide for the accreditation authority (Secretary) to prescribe a fee at any time.

A fee will be charged for all audits, including desk audits of applications and compliance audits, and investigation activities involved in the management and operation of this Trade Agreement.

These charges are based on the fee-for-service rates that are applied by Biosecurity Tasmania for other regulatory services.

Further information on costs is available from the Market Access Team -

(03) 6478 4138 or biosecurity.marketaccess@nre.tas.gov.au

14. Registration Period

This Trade Agreement will be operational for the 2024/2025 export season only. Biosecurity Tasmania will regularly review the operation of this Trade Agreement.

Biosecurity Tasmania has the right to suspend or revoke this agreement at any point during its operation.

Attachments

Attachment 1	Equipment Application Calibration Test Record
Attachment 2	Harvest Inspection Record
Attachment 3	Packed Product Inspection Record
Attachment 4	Cover Spray Mixture Preparation and Treatment Record
Attachment 5	Property Plan
Attachment 6	Identification of Packed Product Sample Packages
Attachment 7	Plant Health Assurance Certificate

Equipment Application Calibration Test Record

Date of test	No. of nozzles	Output for individual nozzles (litres/minute/nozzle)	Effective SPRAY WIDTH (metres)	Calibration run (metres)	Litres used in run (L/run)	Application rate (L/ha)	Testing Officer's name

Harvest Inspection Record

Date	Grower registration number	Source block	Variety	Number inspected	Rust present Y/N	Details	Harvest Supervisor	
							Name	Signature

Packed Product Inspection Record

Business Name:		Registration Number:	
Host produce type:			

Date of Inspection	PPS No	Comments	Free of soil and debris		Packed Product Controller	
		(Note any problems detected during inspection and the number of any withdrawn or rejected packages)	Yes	No	Printed Name	Signature
Inspection type: In Line ☐ End Point ☐						

Cover Spray Mixture Preparation and Treatment Record

Mixture Preparation						Treatment Application				
Date and time of preparation and application	Volume/Weight of concentrate (mL of g)	Total volume of mixture (L)	Trade name of concentrate	Other adjuvant	Calibrated (Y/N)	Treatment equipment used	Type of host produce	Number of blocks treated	Treatment Operator's name	Signature

Property Plan


Indicate North

IDENTIFICATION OF PACKED PRODUCT SAMPLE PACKAGES

Marking Sample Packages after Packed Product Inspection

Following inspection, the Packed Product Controller must -

(a) Mark one end of each sample package by applying a stamp or sticker with the PPS No. (Packed Product Sample No.) and their initials as shown below; and

(b) Ensure that the PPS No. stamp or sticker is visible on the exposed end of the package when the package is assembled on the pallet.

Stamp or Sticker Design (Example Only)

Completed Stamp or Sticker (Example Only)

Tasmanian Government

Plant Health Assurance Certificate

Certificate number
T 00XX – 2X2XXX

Consignment details (please print)

Consignor
Name: Berry Grower Pty Ltd
Address: 123 Street Road, Devonport TAS 7316

Consignee
Name: Produce Receiver
Address: 321 Court Road, Adelaide, SA 5000

Reconsigned to (splitting consignments or reconsigning whole consignments)
Name:
Address:

Certificate details (please print)

IP Number	Facility number	Procedure
T9999	01	TAS BBR 02

Accredited business that prepared the produce
Name: Berry Grower Pty Ltd
Address: 123 Street Road, Devonport TAS 7316

Grower or Packer
Name: Berry Grower Pty Ltd
Address: 123 Street Road, Devonport TAS 7316

Other facilities supplying produce

Brand name OR identifying marks (as marked on packages)	Date OR date code (as marked on packages)
Berry Grower Produce	3/07/2024

Number of packages	Type of packages (e.g. trays, cartons)	Type of produce	Authorisation for split consignment
60	Trays	Blueberries	

Treatment details

Treatment date	Treatment	Chemical (active ingredient)	Concentration / duration and temperature

Additional certification / Codes

Declaration: I, an Authorised Signatory of the accredited business that prepared the plants or plant products described above, hereby declare that the plants or plant products have been prepared in the business' approved facility in accordance with the business' Certification Assurance arrangement and that the details shown above are true and correct in every particular.

Authorised Signatory (print name)	Signature	Date
A.Signature	Asign	3/7/2024

Document 3.
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Biosecurity Tasmania
Version 2 (September 2023)

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