IMPORT REQUIREMENT 37

Prior to import, a “Notice of Intention to Import Plants or Plant Products into Tasmania” must be received by the relevant Quarantine Centre AND comply with general conditions for packages specified in Section 2.5 of this Manual.

37 Plant Material and Soil for the Purpose of Laboratory Analysis or Diagnosis

A person may not import or cause to be imported into Tasmania any plant material or soil for the purpose of laboratory analysis or diagnosis except in accordance with the conditions and restrictions described in this Import Requirement.

THIS IMPORT REQUIREMENT APPLIES TO:

- PLANT MATERIAL AND SOIL FOR LABORATORY ANALYSIS OR DIAGNOSIS NOT CONDUCTED IN THE COURSE OF AN AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY PLANT PEST RESPONSE; SEPARATE AND SPECIFIC PROVISIONS APPLY DURING SUCH A RESPONSE

PLANT MATERIAL INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, FRESH OR DRIED LEAVES, STEMS, PETIOLES, SEEDS, ROOTS, FLOWERS, OTHER REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES, or CALLUS.

THIS IMPORT REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO PLANT EXTRACTS SUCH AS SAP, OILS, DNA, REFERENCE CULTURES OR DRIED/PRESERVED SPECIMENS

SOIL IS DEFINED AS THE TOP LAYER OF THE EARTH CONSISTING OF ROCK AND MINERAL PARTICULATES THAT MAY BE MIXED WITH ORGANIC MATTER IN WHICH PLANTS GROW OR ARE GROWN.

Laboratories in Tasmania wishing to import plant and soil material for analytical and diagnostic services may do so subject to the following conditions. All aspects of this Import Requirement are subject to audit by Quarantine Tasmania.

Approval Requirements

I. Any testing laboratory intending to undertake analysis or diagnosis of plant or soil material that originates from outside Tasmania must be registered as an Approved Quarantine Place under the Plant Quarantine Act 1997 (Section 70) and are subject to additional requirements as part of that registration.

II. A record of all samples received including sample type, origin and date received must be kept and be available for inspection by Quarantine Tasmania.

III. Where required by interstate authorities, appropriate permits to collect and export plant or soil samples must be obtained by the laboratory or their client prior to import, and copies submitted to Quarantine Tasmania.
IV. If the sample has originated from outside Australia, relevant national approvals must be obtained and copies submitted to Quarantine Tasmania.

V. Material from genetically modified plants or soil containing viable genetically modified plant material must not be imported unless authorised under Tasmania’s *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act* 2004.

**Sample Size Limits**

VI. Sample sizes are limited to a maximum of 5kg/sample (plant material) and 10kg/sample (soil). Larger sample sizes will be considered subject to at least 48 hours pre-notification of Quarantine Tasmania and packaging requirements being met.

**Packing & Transport of Samples**

VII. Samples must be packed for secure transit and must be contained in suitable air tight containers and further protected by a second layer of insulation. Eg. Double bagging using zip-lock bags. The double-bagged sample must then be placed in a durable outer container.

VIII. The sample must be clearly labelled as follows: name and address of the sender (client), description of contents (eg. soil sample for analysis), name and telephone number of a contact person at the testing laboratory. Samples must be sent directly to the testing laboratory.

**Breaches**

IX. Any accidents/incidents/or breaches of these conditions must be immediately reported to Quarantine Tasmania.

X. Failure to comply with any condition above may result in the application of penalties under the *Plant Quarantine Act* 1997, and the suspension of Approved Quarantine Place registration.