

Benefits for your company

Although they may vary according to the type of operation and the type of produce covered by the ICA agreement, in general the benefits of ICA for individual businesses are considerable. They are likely to include:

- Increased flexibility of operations (since a business can plan and schedule operations without arranging for a quarantine inspector to be present)
- Improved awareness of quality issues (due to documented staff responsibilities and duties)
- Improved operational control (because procedures are well documented)
- Improved staff participation through structured and documented training
- Reduced certification costs.

Becoming ICA accredited

A business seeking to become ICA accredited must complete an application on the prescribed form and forward it to the Quality Assurance Officer, Quarantine WA. Applications can only be made by an individual, partnership, incorporated company, cooperative association or other legal entity which owns and operates the business to be covered by the arrangement. A separate application is required for each ICA arrangement being sought.

The ICA arrangement must be audited before accreditation is granted. Audits are a systematic examination of the business, its staff, equipment and facilities to verify conformance with the operational procedure covering the ICA arrangement.

Subsequent to the business gaining ICA accreditation, regular scheduled audits will be carried out, with the number and frequency of audits depending on issues such as the operational procedure and the period of operation of the facility.

Further information

For more details including criteria and application forms, contact the Quality Assurance Officer at Quarantine WA on (08) 9334 1800, email qa@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au/quarantine



Department of Agriculture and Food
Government of Western Australia



QUARANTINE WA



www.ica.gov.au

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Interstate Certification Assurance



QUARANTINE WA

Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) is a system of plant health certification based on quality management principles.

ICA provides a more convenient alternative to the traditional inspection system, which involves quarantine inspectors making individual visits to inspect produce or supervise treatments before they can issue Plant Health Certificates for the movement of produce interstate and intrastate. Under ICA, however, a business can be accredited to issue its own Plant Health Assurance Certificates.

To gain ICA accreditation a business must demonstrate that it has put into place effective in-house procedures which ensure produce consigned to intrastate or interstate markets meets the specified quarantine requirements of the State, Territory or region. Regular audits ensure the business's accreditation status is upheld, based on in-house procedures remaining rigorous.

National scheme and individual arrangements

The ICA Scheme is a national system of certification accepted by all States and Territories. It provides a harmonised approach to audit and accreditation procedures nation-wide and mutual recognition of Plant Health Assurance Certificates accompanying consignments of produce moving intrastate or interstate.

In Western Australia an ICA arrangement is an agreement between Quarantine WA and a single business under a single operational procedure at a single facility or location. Under ICA the accredited business assumes responsibility for specified inspections or treatments which previously were supervised by quarantine inspectors.

Once accredited a business can issue its own Plant Health Assurance Certificates. These are accepted by Quarantine WA and quarantine authorities in other States and Territories as evidence of conformance to the specified quarantine requirements covered by the certificate.

How ICA operates

ICA is based on documented operational procedures developed by Quarantine WA in conjunction with industry and interstate quarantine authorities. An operational procedure describes the management system, processes and process controls that must be implemented by a business in order to become accredited.

Each operational procedure details:

- Scope of the procedure (including pests, products and locations covered)
- Quarantine requirements to be met

- Responsibilities and duties of staff involved in implementing and managing the ICA system
- Principles of operation, design features and standards applying to treatment or inspection equipment
- Processes and process controls that must be implemented
- Records and documentation that must be maintained
- Completion and issuance of assurance certificates.

Available ICA procedures for Western Australia

- ICA-01: dipping with dimethoate or fenthion for Mediterranean fruit fly (in tomato, 'Kensington Pride' mango and tamarillo)
- ICA-02: flood spraying with dimethoate or fenthion for Mediterranean fruit fly (in tomato, 'Kensington Pride' mango and tamarillo)
- ICA-04: fumigation with methyl bromide
- ICA-07: cold treatment for Mediterranean fruit fly (in apples, grapes and stone fruit)
- ICA-16: mature green condition of bananas
- ICA-17: splitting consignments or reassigning original consignments of certified produce
- ICA-23: certification of area or property freedom from Mediterranean fruit fly
- ICA-25: cover spraying for green snail (in nursery stock)
- ICA-30: hard condition of avocado for Mediterranean fruit fly
- ICA-46: certification of area or property freedom (radius 2-25km) from green snail
- ICA-54: inspection of used vehicles and associated equipment