



QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY (QFLY) ERADICATION PROGRAM COOLBELLUP 2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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QFLY HOST FRUIT TO BE PACKAGED, STORED AND TRANSPORTED UNDER SECURE CONDITIONS

Commercial Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) host produce [grown outside of the quarantine area](#), and moved from the wider quarantine area (the quarantine area that is not within the outbreak area) to other areas within Western Australia (WA) must be packed, stored and transported under secure conditions while moving through the quarantine area.

SECURE CONDITIONS

What is Qfly host produce?

Please refer to the [Quarantine Area Notice](#).

What does secure conditions mean?

Secure conditions means approved measures that ensure that fruit fly host produce is kept free of Qfly should it be present in the Quarantine Area.

Approved measures are:

- i. **Unvented packages;**
- ii. Vented packages with the **vents secured with mesh** with a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm;
- iii. Vented packages enclosing a **liner bag or liner sheet that obscure vent holes;**
- iv. Packages, bins or palletised units fully enclosed under **plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings** which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm;
- v. Fully enclosed or screened **buildings, cold-rooms, vehicles or other facilities free from gaps** or other entry points greater than 1.6mm;
- vi. Continuous cold storage.

Why are these measures required?

WA's commercial fruit and vegetable industries are important to WA; valued at about \$1 billion annually. If Qfly were to establish in WA, it would cost our horticultural industries an estimated \$38 million a year due to impacts on production and market access.

It's important we do all we can to keep WA's Queensland fruit fly free status – it protects our export market access and prevents us having to cold treat or fumigate fruit that moves to sensitive markets.

How long will the Quarantine Area Notice requirements be in place for?

The Quarantine Area Notice (QAN), which has been in place since 8 January 2021 and has been extended until 18 June 2021. This follows the further detection of Qfly in Coolbellup at the end of February.

The area will remain a Quarantine Area until no Qfly or Qfly larvae have been detected for at least 12 weeks. When this happens, we can declare eradication. You will be notified when the QAN is lifted.

Thank you for your co-operation with the current measures to prevent the spread of Qfly and restore Area Freedom for Western Australia. The ongoing commitment to that goal by the fruit and vegetable industries and adherence to the approved measures makes a vital contribution to its achievement.

Are there any host fruit that do not need to be kept under secure conditions?

Yes, under the approved measures, bananas, pawpaw, babaco Tahitian lime, black sapotes and hass avocado, pomegranate, jackfruit, longan, rambutan may be moved from the wider quarantine area where harvested at a specific stage of maturity or condition.

Specific details can be found on the DPIRD website <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/qfly-movement-measures>).

MANAGEMENT OF QFLY HOST PRODUCE WITHIN THE PERTH MARKETS

Why does host produce need to be kept under secure conditions at the Perth Markets?

For the purposes of the Quarantine Area Notice, the Department's Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer has approved measures for commercially produced host fruit or plants moved from the wider quarantine area to other areas within Western Australia.

As Perth Markets are located within the Quarantine Area, host produce must move through the markets under secure conditions to enable ongoing trading and the movement of host produce to outside of the wider quarantine area.

These measures prevent Qfly from being able to breed, spread and establish in WA.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is working with industry and fresh produce supply chains to ensure the successful eradication of this devastating pest from WA.

What do I need to do while handling Qfly host produce at the markets?

Ensure that the produce is stored, packed and transported under secure conditions at all times, including when on display, as per Approved measures for the intrastate movement of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) host produce

Secure conditions can be maintained for host produce on display by covering with plastic wrap, mesh, fly proof packaging or other approved measures. Displayed produce may be inspected but secured again after handling. Place sheets of intact cardboard on the top of pallets before using these to transport wrapped produce.

Does transport of Qfly host produce to the markets on enclosed trucks meet secure requirement?

Qfly host produce that is transported in enclosed trucks free from gaps greater than 1.6 mm is considered secure.

If you place produce from a secure truck directly into a cold store, will secure conditions be maintained?

Yes.

If produce is unpacked from a truck and not put directly in a cold store or secure facility, how can these be protected?

If the host produce is not in unvented packages, or vented packages with vents covered in mesh or liner, then the use of plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm will maintain secure conditions if produce needs to be left out of a coldstore or truck.

Can produce be moved from cold storage to buyer's bays?

Any host produce removed from secure conditions such as cold-rooms to buyer's bays will also need to be covered in fly-proof packaging.

Is there an allowable length of time acceptable for Secure Conditions to be maintained without the need to wrap product?

No, if the host produce is not in unvented packages, or vented packages with vents covered in mesh or liner, then it should be secured with plastic wrap, or tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings, or moved to an enclosed space.

How can Qfly host produce be secured when unpacked from the truck?

Secure conditions can be maintained by placing produce directly into cold storage or fully enclosed or screened buildings.

Alternatively, if the produce is not in unvented packages, or vents secured with mesh or liner, then the use of plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm will maintain secure conditions and are to be applied immediately after unloading.

How can secure conditions be maintained during splitting or repacking of lots?

If the host produce is not in unvented packages, or vents secured with mesh or liner, secure conditions can be maintained by splitting or repackaging of lots inside a fully enclosed or screened area. If not enclosed, the produce needs to then be immediately covered in fly-proof packaging with gaps of no greater than 1.6 mm.

Who has responsibility for the secure condition of fruit entering the markets and leaving the quarantine area, the grower, the market agent or the buyer?

The controller or owner of the produce is responsible for ensuring fruit is maintained under secure conditions while moving through the markets. Ideally, the produce should arrive at the markets in a secure condition that can be maintained throughout the entire journey from seller to buyer and onto its final destination. There is a shared benefit to all parties helping to ensure that secure conditions are met.

If a buyer opens a box, inspects the produce and closes it again, would this no longer be considered secure?

No, if the box is opened, fruit inspected then immediately secured again, this fruit would still be considered to be secure.

Does Qfly host produce need to be held in secure conditions when located in the buyer's bay prior to collection.

Yes. If the host produce is not in unvented packages, or vents secured with mesh or liner, secure conditions can be maintained by covering with plastic wrap, tarpaulins, hessian, mesh or other coverings which provide a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm.

Can produce be displayed at the markets?

Yes. However, host produce displayed will need to be covered in fly-proof packaging. This means there are no gaps >1.6 mm in the packaging.

If fruit is not maintained in a secure condition it cannot leave the Quarantine area without treatment as per an approved manner the Quarantine Area Notice.

Under the approved measures, specified fruit only, harvested at a specific stage of maturity and or skin condition would not need to be kept under secure conditions.

Is a host fruit considered secure if pulp temperature is below 16 degrees?

A specific pulp temperature is not an agreed method to keep fruit in secure conditions. The cold-room option provided in the secure measures is related to it being a secure, controlled environment.

It is not related to any cold storage treatment options accepted by WA for host produce from areas where Queensland fruit fly is established.

Does Qfly host produce treated by fumigation need to be maintained under secure conditions?

Yes, produce will need to be securely packaged post-treatment until it reaches its final destination.

Does Qfly host produce destined for retail sale within the Quarantine Area need to be transported from the market under secure conditions.

When transported from the Perth Markets, Qfly host produce does not need to be maintained under secure conditions when moving to a retail outlet within the quarantine area. As vendors may not have control of its final destination of produce leaving the markets, DPIRD advises secure packaging all Qfly host produce being transported from the markets.

Are there any maturity stages of host fruit that are not susceptible to Qfly and don't require secure conditions?

Listed fruits when at the maturity stage specified below are not considered Qfly host produce and may be moved without security:

Babaco, Pawpaw	Green mature condition with fruit not more than 1/4 yellow
Tahitian lime	Green mature condition with fruit with no yellow colouring
Banana - Cavendish, Plantain	Green, hard condition with no yellow colouring
Black sapote	Green mature condition with fruit with no black colouring
Mangosteen	Green mature condition with fruit with no purplish black colouring
Avocado - Hass and Lamb Hass varieties	Hard condition with undamaged skin
Durian, Jaboticaba, Jackfruit, Longan, Lychee, Pomegranate	Unbroken skin
Rambutan	Unbroken skin and not over ripe

Specific details can be found on the DPIRD website <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/qfly-movement-measures>).

What happens if host produce is not maintained in a secure condition when arriving and moving through the markets?

Host produce that is not maintained in a secure condition may be directed by an Inspector for treatment prior to being moved from the wider quarantine area or may be sold within a retail outlet within the quarantine area in order to comply with the Quarantine Area Notice.

Approved treatments include fumigation or cold treatment (website link <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/qfly-movement-measures>).

What should I do with returned Qfly host produce?

All Qfly host produce must be maintained in secure conditions at the markets. If you need to return Qfly host produce ensure that the returned Qfly host produce is left in a secure condition

What should I do with waste of Qfly host produce?

All Qfly host waste should be managed to minimise the risk of infestation by Qfly.

Place produce waste in the organic waste bins provided by Perth Markets Group Ltd. Alternately, Qfly produce waste can be treated in a manner that kills Qfly larvae or eggs prior to disposal. Refer to the Quarantine Area Notice for approved treatment options.

COMPLYING WITH THE DIRECTIONS OF AN AUTHORISED OFFICER

I have received a written warning, what does that mean?

A written warning is notice to an individual or business that has failed to comply with the Quarantine Area Notice or direction from a DPIRD officer. The written warning advises of the nature of the breach or non-compliance, appropriate remedial action and the potential consequences of further non-compliance. The incident is recorded and may be referred to in the event of further breaches. A written warning may be appropriate when a minor or technical breach has occurred if the matter can quickly and simply be resolved.

What is a Pest Exclusion Notice (PEN)?

A PEN is a formal notification issued under section 27(1) of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. It prescribes conditions that must be met to exclude a pest from a location or host material,

The PEN notice:

- must identify the declared pest in respect of which the notice is given; and
- may direct the person to whom it is given to comply with a code of practice specified in the notice, or to take the measures set out in the notice or prescribed by the regulations specified in the notice, for the purpose of keeping the place or agricultural product free from the declared pest; and
- must specify the period within which, or for the duration of which, the person to whom it is given must comply with the notice; and
- must inform the person to whom it is given that failure to comply with the notice could result in a fine, the Director General taking remedial action under section 38, or both.

A person aggrieved by a direction in a pest exclusion notice under section 27 may apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for a review of the direction.

Is it legal for DPIRD staff to ask for ID/identification cards at the Markets? Under what legislation/regulation is this permitted? Do they have to show ID?

An authorised Inspector appointed (s162) under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* for the purposes of undertaking an inspection may s67(1)(a)(i) for inspection purposes, direct a person who is on or in a place, or who is or appears to be in possession or control of a place or thing, to state his or her full name and residential address and telephone number, and a local address and telephone number if the person is away from home and the inspector thinks it may be necessary to contact the person before he or she returns home; and (ii) produce evidence of the person's identity.

What happens if I refuse to provide identification and/or follow the direction of an authorised inspector?

Under section 92 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* an offence is committed if a person

- a. without lawful excuse, wilfully obstructs, hinders or resists an inspector who is carrying out a function under this Act; or
- b. without lawful excuse, wilfully obstructs, hinders or resists a person assisting an inspector who is carrying out a function under this Act; or
- c. without lawful excuse, does not comply with a direction under this Part; or
- d. without lawful excuse, does not comply with any other lawful requirement (however described) of an inspector under this Act; or
- e. wilfully makes a false statement to, or misleads, an inspector who is carrying out a function under this Act.

Penalty: a fine of \$20,000.

ASSISTANCE OFFERED

What assistance will be offered in managing costs of compliance?

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will provide assistance with compliance through education for members to meet the requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Are traps located at the Perth Markets?

Yes, traps are installed around the markets in suitable vegetation which is the most appropriate habitat for trapping Qfly. This is where flies will roost for mating and feeding prior to searching for suitable host fruit in which to lay eggs.

Where can I get further information?

For the latest information on Qfly visit the website agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate. Enquiries can also be directed to DPIRD Industry Liaison Officer on 0429 530 378.

Important Disclaimer

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