

Review of South Australia's Plant Quarantine Standard

KEY PRACTICE CHANGES RELATING TO GRAPE PHYLLOXERA IN THE NEW VERSION 17 OF SA'S PQS

It is important that all stakeholders involved in the movement of regulated items into South Australia:

1. understand the recent changes in Version 17 of SA's PQS,
2. assess the impacts to your business,
3. communicate relevant changes to your supply chain, and
4. implement changes to ensure that you comply.

All changes have been made with the intent to maintain and strengthen South Australia's protection against the introduction of phylloxera. A risk-based approach was used to identify changes necessary, based on current peer reviewed scientific research and practical application of movement requirements.

Definitions used:

PQS	Plant Quarantine Standard (South Australia)
PEZ	Phylloxera Exclusion Zone
PRZ	Phylloxera Risk Zone
PIZ	Phylloxera Infested Zone
PIBZ	Phylloxera Interim Buffer Zone
PHC	Plant Health Certificate
PHAC	Plant Health Assurance Certificate
PHIC	Plant Health Import Certificate

OVERARCHING CHANGES

Section	Change in Version 17 of SA's PQS	What the change means for you
Information on grape phylloxera movement conditions	<p>A single Condition, Condition 7, replaces previous Conditions 7, 7A, 8 and 8A. Condition 7 is now divided into five Clauses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grapevine material (including for planting and/or propagation) 2. Machinery previously used in grape production 3. Equipment previously used in grape production 4. Grapes and grape-related materials 5. Grapevine diagnostic samples and vineyard soils 	<p>All the information you need relating to phylloxera is consolidated in one place. This means you can determine import requirements that are applicable to your business and supply chain more rapidly.</p>
Importer registration and direct inspection	<p>Addition of a table at the front of Condition 7 outlining your options for registering as an importer and options for inspection of your load at the border or registered facility inside SA. These options are outlined separately in the table for each Clause.</p>	<p>As an importer, you play a key role in adhering to importer registration and direct inspection requirements to ensure you do not inadvertently import plant pests and diseases into the SA. This table will improve your understanding of your responsibilities as an importer.</p>
Plant Health Import Certificate	<p>Unless otherwise stated in the PQS, a PHIC is a required form of importer registration documentation obtained from Biosecurity SA if you want to request the importation of any machinery previously used in grape production, or the importation of diagnostic samples from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ. PHICs for these purposes now contain some additional instructions. When a PHIC is issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for applicable machinery importation into SA, it will require the interstate biosecurity officer to issue a PHC on the provision of data logger evidence as proof of the valid sterilisation method having been undertaken in accordance with SA's time and temperature specifications. • for applicable machinery and diagnostic sample importation from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ into SA, it will require the consignment be accompanied by a permit for movement out of the origin PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ. 	<p>Read the instructions in a PHIC carefully, to ensure you understand and then meet each step to comply with SA's import requirements for your item. Make sure treatment facilities have the capability of providing data logger evidence and undertake calibration of their equipment.</p>
Machinery and equipment	<p>Information relevant to machinery and equipment is now presented as separate Clauses, with comprehensive descriptions of types of machinery or equipment provided.</p>	<p>You can now more rapidly find the importation requirements relevant to the item you want to import.</p>

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Steam as a sterilisation treatment	Steam is now prohibited as a valid sterilisation treatment method for all machinery or equipment being imported into SA. In practice, it is unlikely that steam sterilisation can be carried out effectively and also represents a work health and safety risk.	You can still use steam for cleaning machinery or equipment of soil and plant material, just not as a sterilisation method.
Dry heat as a sterilisation treatment	Reminder: based on peer-reviewed science, the required duration of dry heat treatment undertaken at 40°C has increased from 2 to 3 hours. You can also dry heat treat at 45°C for 90 minutes.	This change became active in SA PQS Version 14.1 released in March 2019.
Hot water as a sterilisation treatment	The required temperature and duration of hot water treatment to effectively sterilise used vessels that hold grapes, hand tools and machinery other than grape harvesters, has changed from 70°C for 2 minutes, to 60°C for 1½ minutes.	This change will improve your turnaround time of grape bins during a busy period such as vintage, while ensuring effectiveness against known key endemic phylloxera strains.

CHANGES IMPACTING A SINGLE CLAUSE

Section	Change in Version 17 of SA's PQS	What the change means for you
CLAUSE 1 Grapevine material (including for planting and/or propagation)	The size of bundles of lignified cuttings and dormant rootlings subject to hot water treatment has been halved. For lignified cuttings – approximately 100 per bundle. For dormant rootlings – approximately 50 per bundle.	This change means that you now need to comply with these new bundle sizes if you are conducting hot water treatment of propagation material.
	The timing of when to sterilise lignified cuttings and dormant rootlings from a PEZ by hot water treatment has changed from being 'immediately prior to dispatch to South Australia' to being 'within 24 hours prior to dispatch to South Australia'.	This change now provides a clear operational timeframe for a business conducting hot water treatment of propagation material to meet.

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<p>CLAUSE 2 Machinery previously used in grape production</p>	<p>More detailed steps have been added around how to clean a grape harvester of soil and plant material, including a focus on removing dismantled parts during the cleaning process, to help to improve the effectiveness of dry heat sterilisation against phylloxera.</p>	<p>Review the new requirements and ensure that you allow sufficient time and have the capability to complete. This focus on cleaning is also applicable (although not regulated) to grape harvester movements within SA and can reduce the spread of pests and weeds we already have in some vineyards in the state.</p>
	<p>To import any used machinery including grape harvesters into SA directly from a PEZ without requiring a valid form of sterilisation, you must now complete and submit a declaration that the machinery has been located continuously in a PEZ for the previous 6 month period. This duration has been increased from 2 weeks. This change reflects our improved knowledge on phylloxera survival and discourages harvester use across phylloxera management zones in the vintage period, when phylloxera pick up and spread is most likely.</p>	<p>You will need to fill out the supplied declaration template if this applies.</p>
	<p>Grape harvesters or other machinery imported directly into SA from an interstate PEZ will be subject to mandatory cleaning and a valid form of sterilisation if they have been used in a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ within the previous 6 months and proof cannot be produced of sterilisation undertaken at the time/temperature specifications required by SA, prior to exiting the PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ.</p>	<p>If you are importing a grape harvester or other machine into SA from a PEZ and that machine was used in a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ in the previous 6 months, you will need to provide data logger evidence of the sterilisation undertaken to leave the PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ. Ask for and retain copies of data logger evidence of all sterilisations performed on your machinery and equipment.</p>
	<p>New provision to allow SA machinery sent for servicing only in an interstate PEZ, to re-enter the state under specific conditions listed in a PHIC and a declaration issued by the service centre. On meeting these conditions, the machinery will not require sterilisation prior to leaving the interstate PEZ or an inspection from an interstate biosecurity officer to issue a PHC.</p>	<p>You must contact Biosecurity SA to obtain a PHIC first if you are planning this movement. This addition means a more rapid turnaround time for your machinery from SA being serviced in an interstate PEZ if the criteria are met.</p>

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CLAUSE 3 Equipment previously used in grape production	Entry into SA of used netting, trellis posts, vine guards, dripper tube, wire and clips, irrespective of the source interstate, is now prohibited. The inability to clean these items of soil and plant material poses too great a risk of them carrying plant pests and diseases into SA.	This change means that you must not import used netting, trellis posts, vine guards, dripper tube, wire or clips into SA.
	Entry requirements for equipment from a PRZ are now aligned with those tougher standards applicable to equipment from a PIZ/PIBZ. This now includes the requirements for used vessels that hold grapes (e.g. grape bins or picking buckets) to undergo cleaning of soil and plant material plus sterilisation by hot water or dry heat methods. The unknown phylloxera status of PRZs are a continuing risk to SA, highlighted by detections of phylloxera in Victorian PRZs in recent years.	This change means that if you are importing equipment into SA from an interstate PRZ, you must review the new requirements and comply.
	Specified entry conditions into SA for hand tools from a PIZ/PIBZ have been added to address the previous gap and acknowledge the risk they pose. Along with mandatory cleaning of soil and plant material, these hand tools must be sterilised using 1 of 3 valid methods – 1. dry heat, 2. hot water or 3. sodium hypochlorite; with the latter a newly described sterilisation method for phylloxera for the PQS.	Ensure that if you are moving hand tools into SA from a PIZ/PIBZ, you review the change and comply.
	Dry heat has been added as an alternative sterilisation treatment method to hot water for used vessels containing grapes (e.g. grape bins or picking buckets).	This change gives you choice and greater operational flexibility.
	When dry heat and hot water sterilisations are required to be undertaken for equipment being imported into SA, a PHC will only be issued by the interstate biosecurity officer on the provision of data logger evidence showing that SA's time/temperature specifications have been met.	Make sure heat treatment and hot water treatment facilities have the capability to provide data logger readouts and undertake calibration of their equipment. To facilitate the biosecurity officer completing the PHC, make sure you have your time and temperature specifications from your data logger readout handy.

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CLAUSE 3 Equipment previously used in grape production (continued)	Reminder: an alternative proof document, the PHAC, has been added alongside the PHC as a valid form of proof to accompany the import of empty grape bins (used vessels that hold grapes) from an interstate PEZ into SA.	This PHAC will be issued as part of a certification arrangement organised by the state of origin to meet SA's entry requirements. If the sending business enters into this certification arrangement, it will negate the need for an interstate biosecurity inspector to issue a PHC for every load of empty grape bins entering SA for their business from an interstate PEZ. This provision became active in SA PQS Version 16.1a on 6 January 2020.
	New provision to allow SA equipment sent for servicing only in an interstate PEZ, to re-enter under a declaration issued by the service centre. If the sending and servicing meets the criteria specified in the declaration, the equipment will not require an inspection from an interstate biosecurity officer to issue a PHC.	This addition allows more efficient movement of your equipment out of and back into SA, after being serviced in an interstate PEZ.
CLAUSE 4 Grapes and grape-related materials	Update to the temperature and wording for methyl bromide fumigation of table grapes to align with the current version of ICA-04 (fumigation with methyl bromide).	This change improves clarity for operators by ensuring no discrepancies between methodology in different biosecurity documents.
	A comprehensive note relating to methyl bromide fumigation has been added, which details methodology including fumigant loading rates.	Prior to commencing methyl bromide treatment of table grapes, ensure you read the new note and comply with the details.
	A new reference relevant to table grapes imported from a PRZ has been added, which notes that sulphur pads are only a valid form of sterilisation for 'packed' table grapes.	This addition provides a clearer description of when the use of sulphur pads is applicable for phylloxera.
	Entry into SA of winegrapes grown in a PRZ is now prohibited. The unknown phylloxera status of PRZs are a continuing risk to SA, highlighted by detections of phylloxera in Victorian PRZs in recent years.	If you were directly importing winegrapes into SA from an interstate PRZ, this change means you cannot continue this practice.

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CLAUSE 4 Grapes and grape-related materials (continued)	Marc is no longer categorised as pre- and post-fermentation. Entry requirements for grape marc have now been aligned with that of winegrapes. Marc sourced from winegrapes grown in a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ is prohibited entry into SA.	If your business imports grape marc into SA and your interstate source winery receives grapes from multiple phylloxera management zones, you will need to ensure they separate out the marc sourced from grapes grown in a PEZ, if you wish to import this PEZ marc into SA. Mixed marc from grapes from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ is prohibited entry into SA.
	Entry requirements for destemmer waste from fresh grapes are now aligned with that of grape marc. This change recognises that 'stalks and stems' can sometimes be a distinct waste stream at wineries.	This change provides a clear statement of the entry requirements for a waste stream previously not addressed in the PQS.
CLAUSE 5 Grapevine diagnostic samples and vineyard soils	Diagnostic samples imported from interstate directly to SA laboratories holding a current CA-12 accreditation now no longer require a PHIC. Instead, these samples are to be accompanied by the accredited laboratory's documentation.	This change allows for an efficient process to send diagnostic samples, where the receiving lab is CA-12 accredited. If you are importing diagnostic samples from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ into either an accredited or approved laboratory in SA, you will still need to ensure the samples are sterilised according to one of the valid methods and that a permit is obtained from the source state prior to the sample leaving the PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ. For all diagnostic samples imported to a PIRSA-Biosecurity SA approved laboratory, prior written approval from the Chief Inspector via a PHIC is still required.

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CLAUSE 5 Grapevine diagnostic samples and vineyard soils (continued)	<p>A note has been added to the oven drying sterilisation option to require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of probes to monitor temperature of large samples to ensure the middle of the sample has reached the required temperature for the required time, and that bulky samples are spread out on trays prior to placing in the oven, to increase the surface area exposed to the heat. 	<p>Review the new requirements and ensure that you allow sufficient time and have the capability to complete. This change maximises the effectiveness of the dry heat treatment against phylloxera.</p>
	<p>New sterilisation requirements have been added for the importation of grape juice samples into SA from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ that in part create alignment with that of importing unfiltered grape juice into SA under ICA-22. Samples must be sterilised by either filtration, centrifugation or cold-settling to achieve a particle size rating of 50 microns or smaller, or frozen at -18°C for 24 hours, prior to packaging in an unbreakable vessel. These changes minimise the risk of importation and spread of phylloxera if a grape juice sample from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ was to break during transportation to the laboratory.</p>	<p>If you are importing grape juice diagnostic samples from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ into SA, ensure the juice samples are now sterilised prior to packaging and sending.</p>
	<p>A new sub-clause has been added to address importation requirements of diagnostic samples from a PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ, where sterilisation using any of the valid methods has been proven to compromise the particular diagnostic test being sought. This change allows you to import such diagnostic samples into SA only after obtaining prior written approval from the Chief Inspector and securely packaging the sample.</p>	<p>If importing such diagnostic samples into SA, you will require proof documentation consisting of a PHIC, PHC and a permit to leave the PRZ/PIZ/PIBZ.</p>

If you have questions about what these changes mean for you, contact Vinehealth Australia's Technical Manager Suzanne McLoughlin on 0412 859 882 or email suzanne@vinehealth.com.au.

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