



Guidelines to assist the importation of industrial hemp seed into Western Australia

Suitable seed sources

The Registrar of the *Industrial Hemp Act 2004* must approve industrial hemp seed sources for sowing. We highly recommend you contact the Registrar prior to import to discuss the suitability of a variety or seed source for sowing.

Seed quality

Importers should not only consider which varieties are suitable for their circumstances but also the quality of the seed and what impurities might appear in the seed lot. Seeking clean seed sources with a high germination percentage will give the best likelihood of successful import and seed performance.

Extraneous material in seed sources such as weed seeds, diseases and soil, will influence whether a seed lot will meet Commonwealth and State quarantine requirements and will enable growers to make informed decisions prior to planting.

Germination rates for hemp seed can fall rapidly over time depending on storage conditions and other factors. Seeking a recent germination result (recommend within 6 months) will be important to determine seed quality.

Importation

Licensees are responsible for arranging the importation of seed into Australia or Western Australia and should thoroughly investigate import requirements.

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) are responsible for issuing import permits into Australia. Licensees must have a valid import permit prior to the seed consignment arriving in Australia. Import permits will stipulate conditions that seed will need to meet prior and post import. A phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country **MUST** be worded exactly to meet import permit requirements.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development through its Invasive Species program is responsible for issuing Import Permits into Western Australia. It is important to note that even if you have an import permit for entry into Australia, you still require a State import permit.

Importers should be aware that Australia and Western Australia have systems in place to restrict the import of weed seeds. Imported seed lots will be officially sampled by DAWR and/or Quarantine WA (QWA) inspectors and tested for the presence of weed seeds and soil. Any weed seeds present must be checked for their presence on the DAWR and QWA Permitted Seeds Lists.

Customs brokers

Customs brokers may assist prospective importers in navigating the import requirements. If you are unsure about the process, it is recommended to employ the services of a customs broker.

Table 1 Requirements for import of hemp seed

Requirement	Organisation	From overseas	From interstate
Commonwealth import permit	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR)	Yes	No
WA import permit	Invasive species (DPIRD)	Yes	Yes
Advise of import and arrange inspection on arrival	Quarantine Western Australia (QWA)	Yes	Yes
Discuss variety eligibility and provide paperwork / evidence	Industrial Hemp Registrar (DPIRD)	Yes	Yes

Contact directory

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Telephone: +61 (0)2 6272 3933
 General enquiries: www.agriculture.gov.au/about/contactus
 Permit application: www.agriculture.gov.au/import/online-services/bicon/bicon-permit
 Import conditions: www.agriculture.gov.au/import/online-services/bicon

Invasive Species Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

Telephone: +61 (0)8 9368 3202
 Email: ISpermit@agric.wa.gov.au
 Website: www.agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-species-permits-applications-and-fees
 Permit application: www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Application%20for%20import%20permit.pdf

Quarantine Western Australia

Telephone: +61 (0)8 9334 1800
 Email: QWA_seedsofficer@agric.wa.gov.au
 Website: www.agric.wa.gov.au/western-australia%E2%80%99s-seed-import-requirements?nopaging=1
 WA Organisms List: www.agric.wa.gov.au/bam/western-australian-organism-list-waol

Industrial Hemp Registrar Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Telephone: +61 (0)8 9368 3271
 Email: hempregistrar@dpiird.wa.gov.au
 Website: www.agric.wa.gov.au/industrial-hemp