

ROLE & FUNCTION

The mandate of the Plant Quarantine /Produce Inspection (PQ/PI) Branch is to:

1. Protect Jamaica from the introduction of harmful plant pests and diseases.
2. Ensure that only the highest quality, pest free produce is imported into and exported from Jamaica.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The laws governing the activities of the PQ/PI Branch are:

1. The Plant Quarantine Act, 1993 and its regulations
2. The Agriculture Produce Act, 1926 and its regulations

QUICK TIP

Contact the importing country to ascertain their market's phytosanitary and food safety requirements.

EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

1. Obtain requirements for packing facility from Plant Quarantine office in Jamaica.
2. Make an appointment for the inspection of the packing facility.
3. The following information must be provided:
 - Name and address of company
 - Location of the packing facility
 - Name, address and telephone number of contact person
4. If the packing facility is approved, the Chief Plant Quarantine Officer will prepare a letter to the exporter indicating approval.
5. All produce for export must be prepared and packed in an approved packing facility.
6. All produce must be appropriately packaged in new, clean, properly labelled bags or boxes.
7. Labelling on packages must coincide with the information on the export documents.
8. A Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspector must inspect all shipments.
9. All appointments for inspection must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

PLANT QUARANTINE OFFICES

Main Office

193 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6, Jamaica

Tel: (876) 977-0637/6401

Fax: (876) 977-6992

Website: www.moa.gov.jm

Email: ppq@moa.gov.jm

Norman Manley International Airport Office

Agricultural Export Complex

Norman Manley International Airport

Kingston, Jamaica

Tel: (876) 924-8906/8865

Fax: (876) 924-8907

Email: pqkingston@moa.gov.jm

Sangster International Airport Office

Agricultural Export Complex

Sangster International Airport
Montego Bay

St. James, Jamaica

Tel: (876) 940-4146

Fax: (876) 940-1038

Email: pqmobay@moa.gov.jm

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACKING FACILITY

1. Building must be separate from a dwelling house.
2. Building must be of sound construction and easily sanitized.
3. Floor must be of concrete to facilitate washing after packing.
4. Floor space should be adequate to accommodate all required activities.
5. Suitable fixtures and equipment for grading and handling of the produce must be in place, such as:
Tables for sorting and grading;
Tanks for washing and chemical treatment and drying racks (food grade).
6. Building should have adequate lighting, drainage, ventilation, sanitary facilities, storage space (for packaging material and chemicals).
7. Packing facility must be separate from any activity that could be considered incompatible with the handling of fresh produce.
8. There must be adequate space for loading and unloading of produce to achieve a unidirectional flow.



9. Building must be protected against the entry of insects, birds, rodents and other vermin, likely to contaminate the produce.
10. There should be adequate provisions in the packing facility to ensure proper inspection of produce by Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspectors.
11. All operations must take place within the confines of the approved packing facility.

Refer to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Manual for further guidelines.



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Mining
PLANT QUARANTINE/PRODUCE INSPECTION BRANCH

THE EXPORT PROCESS