



Government of Samoa
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

PUBLIC NOTICE- IMPORTATION OF CUT FLOWERS FROM AMERICAN SAMOA

1. The public is advised that surveillance notification from the relevant Authorities in American Samoa on the presence and spread of Little Fire Ants (LFA) (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) has been contained and controlled through treatment measures.
2. The temporary suspension of import permits for cut flowers from American Samoa has been lifted subject to precautionary conditions. The suspension of import permits for nursery stock i.e. planting materials from American Samoa remains. Further, the suspension of import permits for Hawaii and other countries with the presence of LFA remains in effect.
3. It is important that all importers adhere to the following precautionary conditions to prevent the LFA from entering Samoa's borders.
 - a. Apply for a permit to import cut flowers from the Quarantine Division.
 - b. Each consignment to be treated, inspected and certified by the American Samoa Department of Agriculture-Plant & Quarantine Service prior to import.
 - c. Each consignment must be secured (i.e. made insect-proof) prior to shipment by one of the following methods:
 - i. Enclosed cartons (goods must be packed in fully enclosed cartons that no ventilation holes and lids tightly fixed to the base).
 - ii. Cartons with covered ventilation holes covered (ventilation holes must be covered with mesh/screen with an aperture no greater than 1.6mm or ventilation holes must be taped over).
 - d. All consignments will be subjected to Quarantine procedural inspection upon arrival into Samoa.
 - e. If live insects of quarantine concern are detected, the consignment will require treatment, re-exported or disposed of at the importer's expense.
4. This public notice is made pursuant to section 33 and 58 of the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 and the Ministry's efforts in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to monitor and prevent the introduction of the Little Fire Ants into Samoa.
5. For more information, please contact the Ministry's Quarantine Division on telephone number (685) 20924 or 22171 and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on 67200.

Thank you,

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – MAF
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - MNRE

Dated this 14 day of July 2023

