

Risky Plants Seized

Recently, a shipment of plants from New Zealand was seized, because the consignment presented too much of a risk to our biodiversity.

Even though the consignment had a Permit to Import, the owner had failed to fulfill the conditions of the permit.

The plants were supposed to have been accompanied by New Zealand certificates stating that the plants were free from soil, visually detectable pests and diseases, and any other contaminants. They were supposed to be labelled according to scientific name and variety. In addition the consignment had to have pre-shipment treatments for pests and diseases within 7 days of shipment, and then held in a manner to prevent re-infestation.

None of these things were done. There were also plants included that were not stated on the permit, and all of the plants in the consignment had significant amounts of soil all around the roots.



Quarantine Officer Filipina Amosa inspecting the plants

Permit conditions are put there for a purpose – to protect our country from exotic pests, diseases and other unwanted organisms. People wanting to bring plants (or any other biosecurity goods) into Samoa **MUST** comply with our strict biosecurity rules. They are there to ensure the protection of our animal and plant productive sector, our environment, and our way of life.

The moral of this story is – If you can't be bothered complying with entry conditions, don't ask for a Permit to Import, because you won't get your consignment past Quarantine.

Our unique environment is too precious to take chances with. Quarantine will continue to maintain strict entry rules, for everyone's sake.

Want more information about Quarantine, or about Plant and Animal Export issues ?

Come and see us at our office at the [Quarantine Operations Centre, Matautu-tai](#), telephone [20924/22171](#).
Visit our website www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws