

Biosecurity (Mediterranean Fruit-fly) Control Declaration 2025

Notifiable instrument NI2025-615

made under the

Biosecurity Act 2023, s 51 (Control declarations)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Biosecurity (Mediterranean Fruit-fly) Control Declaration 2025*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Grounds for declaration—Act, s 51 (1)

I am satisfied that this declaration is necessary to manage the biosecurity risk posed by Mediterranean Fruit-fly.

4 Biosecurity matter and biosecurity risk—Act, s 51 (2) (a)

- (1) The biosecurity matter that is the subject of this declaration is the Mediterranean Fruit-fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) (**Medfly**).
- (2) The introduction and spread of Medfly have the potential to have an adverse effect on the economy, the environment, and the community of the ACT, in particular for commercial orchardists and viticulturalists (the **biosecurity risk**).

5 Control measures—Act, s 51 (2) (b)

I consider that the control measures in schedule 1 are reasonably necessary to prevent the biosecurity risk.

6 Control zone—Act, s 51 (2) (c)

The control zone for this declaration is the whole of the ACT.

7 People to whom control measure applies—Act, s 51 (2) (d)

The control measure in this declaration applies to any person who moves or causes the movement of a Medfly carrier into the ACT.

8 Expiry—Act, s 51 (2) (e)

This instrument expires 5 years after the commencement day.

Dave Peffer

Delegate of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

13 November 2025

Schedule 1 Control measure—Movement of a Medfly carrier

(see s 5)

Part 1.1 Important concepts

biosecurity certificate means a biosecurity certificate or interstate biosecurity certificate.

diagnostic material means

Medfly carrier means any of the following:

- (a) medfly host plant,
- (b) repacked product, or
- (c) used packages.

Medfly host produce means anything included in the Mediterranean fruit fly host list in the Agriculture Victoria Plant Quarantine Manual, found at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/moving-plants-and-plant-products/plant-quarantine-manual/conditions?a=521846>

secure conditions includes –

- (a) unvented packages; or
- (b) vented packages with the vents secured with gauze/mesh with a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm; or
- (c) vented packages enclosing a liner bag or liner sheets that obscure vent holes; or
- (d) fully enclosed under tarpaulins, hessian, shade cloth, mesh or other covering which provides a maximum aperture of 1.6 mm;
- (e) shrink-wrapped and sealed as a palletised unit; or
- (f) fully enclosed or screened buildings, cold rooms, vehicles or other facilities free from gaps or other entry points greater than 1.6 mm; or
- (g) in a manner compliant with specifications Guideline: Maintenance of phytosanitary security for horticulture exports found at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plantexportsmanual#phytosanitary-security>

used packages means packaging (including boxes, box inserts, wrapping etc.) that has previously contained Medfly host produce.

Medfly host covering means any covering that has contained or been in contact with a Mediterranean fruit fly host fruit or Mediterranean fruit fly host soil.

Note Terms used in this declaration have the same meaning that they have in the *Biosecurity Act 2023*. For example, the following terms are defined in the Act, dict:

- biosecurity matter (see s 8)

- biosecurity risk (see s 13)
- biosecurity permit (s62)
- interstate biosecurity certificate (see s 111)

Part 1.2 Control measure

1.1 Control measure— Movement of a medfly carrier into the control zone

- (1) A person must not move, or cause the movement of, a medfly carrier into the ACT unless the person has complied with the control measure exceptions in this order.

1.2 Control measure exception— Movement of Medfly host

- (1) Section 1.1 does not apply to a person who moves a Medfly host into the ACT if –
 - (a) the Medfly host was sourced from a State or Territory that is free from Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate currently in force, and
 - (b) the consignment that contains the Medfly host has a label or identifier stating the name and postcode of the city or town nearest to the place the host plant was grown, the soil was sourced, or the medfly host covering was used.

1.3 Control measure exception— fumigation

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce into the ACT if –
 - (a) the host produce was sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) the Medfly host produce has been:
 - (i) fumigated with one of the following methyl bromide concentration and fruit core temperature options:
 - (A) 10°C – 10.9°C @ 56g/m³ for 2 hours; or
 - (B) 11°C – 15.9°C @ 48g/m³ for 2 hours; or
 - (C) 16°C – 20.9°C @ 40g/m³ for 2 hours; or
 - (D) 21°C – 31.9°C @ 32g/m³ for 2 hours; and
 - (ii) fumigant loading rates for fruits and vegetables are not less than 30%, nor more than 50%, of the volume of the chamber when empty; and
 - (iii) the fumigator ensures produce packaged or covered with impervious materials (such as plastic bags, stacked plastic punnets or waxed paper), are opened, cut or removed to allow

adequate penetration of the gas unless impervious materials contain:

- (A) not less than four unobstructed perforations of 6mm diameter per 100cm²; or
- (B) five unobstructed perforations of 5mm diameter per 100cm²; or
- (C) numerous pinholes (at least 6 holes per square centimetre); and
- (iv) be stored and transported in *secure conditions* which prevent infestation by fruit fly,
- (v) enters the ACT in accordance with a biosecurity permit.

1.4 Control measure exception— movement of used packages into medfly control zone

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves used packages that has contained Medfly host material into the ACT if –
 - (a) the used packaging and host produce was sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) has been brushed or washed to remove all visible organic matter; or
 - (c) enters the ACT in accordance with a biosecurity permit.

1.5 Control measure exception— post harvest cold treatment

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce into the ACT if –
 - (a) the host produce was sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) the Medfly host produce has been:
 - (i) postharvest cold treated at a temperature of:
 - (A) 0.0°C ± 0.5°C for at least 14 days; or
 - (B) 1.0°C ± 0.5°C for at least 16 days; or in the case of lemons, 14 days; or
 - (C) 2.0°C ± 0.5°C for at least 18 days; or in the case of lemons, 16 days or
 - (D) 3.0°C ± 0.5°C for at least 20 days; or in the case of lemons, 18 days; and
 - (ii) be stored and transported in ‘secure conditions’ which prevent infestation by fruit fly, or
 - (iii) enters the ACT in accordance with a biosecurity permit.

1.6 Control measure exception— post harvest irradiation

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce into the ACT if –
 - (a) the host produce was sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) the Medfly host produce has been:
 - (i) in the case of fruits of plants approved under the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Food Safety Code 1.5.3; be post- harvest irradiated, with a minimum absorbed dose of 150Gy; and
 - (ii) be stored and transported in ‘secure conditions’ which prevent infestation by fruit fly, or
 - (iii) enters the ACT in accordance with a Biosecurity Permit.

1.7 Control measure exception— pre harvest treatment (tomatoes)

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce that is field grown tomatoes into the ACT if –
 - (a) the tomatoes were sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) each block of tomatoes for certification has been treated with a program of cover sprays consisting of:
 - (i) a trichlorfon mixture in a high volume application containing 250mL of a 500g/L product per 100L of spray mixture in the first application to a block; and
 - (ii) a trichlorfon mixture in a high volume application containing 125mL of a 500g/L product per 100L of spray mixture in all subsequent spray applications; and
 - (iii) applied thoroughly to the fruit to the point of run-off; and
 - (iv) commencing a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to harvest; and
 - (v) reapplied at an interval of not more than ten (10) days; and
 - (vi) ending seven (7) days prior to completion of harvest; and
 - (c) post-harvest inspected and found free of Mediterranean fruit fly, where one package in every 50 packages or part thereof; or 600 units are inspected, and
 - (d) stored and transported in ‘secure conditions’ which prevent infestation by fruit fly, or
 - (e) enters the ACT in accordance with a Biosecurity Permit.

1.8 Control measure exception— hard condition (avocadoes)

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce that is an avocado into the ACT if –
 - (a) the avocadoes (Fuerte, Hass, Lamb Hass, Reed and Sharwil varieties only) were sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) the avocadoes have been:
 - (i) harvested in a hard condition where ‘hard condition’ means the flesh is not soft, or softening, and the skin is not cracked or broken, and
 - (ii) stored, and transported in ‘secure conditions’ within 48 hours of harvest, or
 - (iii) enter the ACT in accordance with a Biosecurity Permit.

1.9 Control measure exception— mature green (banana or tomato)

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce that is a banana or a tomato into the ACT if –
 - (a) the bananas or tomatoes were sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) in the case of bananas:
 - (i) harvested and packed in a mature green condition, where “mature green condition” means –
 - (A) the flesh is hard and not flexible, and
 - (B) the skin is green and shows no yellow colouration except for areas towards the flower end of the fruit where the sun has bleached the skin, but the flesh beneath is still hard; and
 - (C) the skin has no pre-harvest cracks, splits, punctures or other breaks that penetrate through to the flesh; or
 - (c) in the case of tomatoes:
 - (A) harvested and packed in a mature green condition, where “mature green condition” means the fruit has no more than a 2 cm diameter area of pink to red colour at the stylar end at the time of colour sorting after harvest; and
 - (B) be stored and transported in ‘secure conditions’ which prevent infestation by fruit fly, or
 - (d) enter the ACT in accordance with a Biosecurity Permit.

1.10 Control measure exception— secure transportation of wine grapes

- (1) Section 1.3 does not apply to a person who moves a medfly host produce that is wine grapes into the ACT if –
 - (a) the wine grapes were sourced from a State or Territory, or part of a State or Territory, that is free of Medfly as evidenced by a biosecurity certificate, or
 - (b) the movement of the wine grapes is in line with Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) arrangement ICA33. ICA33 can be found at [ICA-33 Movement of wine grapes - Phylloxera and fruit fly](#)

1.11 Control measure— Dealing with Medfly within the control zone

- (1) A person must not deal with Medfly if, as a result of the dealing, Medfly enters or is likely to enter the control zone.

Part 1.3 Notification of Medfly within the control zone

1.12 Notification of presence of Medfly

- (1) A person who becomes aware of or suspects the presence of Medfly within the control zone must immediately notify the presence of Medfly and provide the following information:
 - (a) the person's full name and contact phone number,
 - (b) details of the presence or suspected presence of Medfly,
 - (c) the location of the Medfly including, if the Medfly is on a property with a property identification code, the property identification code (if known).
- (2) Notification is to be given by:
 - (a) emailing ACTbiosecurity@act.gov.au or
 - (b) calling the Exotic Pest Plant Hotline on 1800 084 881