Contents

Hosts and carriers

What plants are considered hosts or carriers under current TPP regulations, and where can we access the full list?

Under current Tomato potato psyllid (TPP) regulations:

- **Hosts**

  The host plant families are *Convolvulaceae* and *Solanaceae*. See the following links for a list of the plants in these families:

  https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Solanaceae

  https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Convolvulaceae

  A technical review of the hosts of TPP confirmed that plants of the *Convolvulaceae* and *Solanaceae* families were the only hosts of TPP.

- **Carriers**

  The definition of a carrier varies by state. In some jurisdictions, it can include all other plant families that are not true hosts.

  This means advanced trees and ornamental plants may be classified as carriers and require treatment if sent to states with carrier restrictions.

  Import conditions for each state:

  - **New South Wales:** https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/plant-biosecurity/market-access-and-trade/nsw-movement-zones/movement-conditions-for-plants,-plant-products-and-related-items (search for “TPP”)
  - **Tasmania:** https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/biosecurity/importing-plants (search for “Import Requirement 46 – Tomato Potato Psyllid – Hosts and Carriers”)
  - **South Australia:** https://interstatequarantine.org.au/new-condition-17-entry-conditions/ (includes PDF link and recent changes)

    - **Queensland:** https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/plants/priority-pest-disease/tomato-potato-psyllid
    - **Northern Territory:** https://daf.nt.gov.au/publications/publications-search/publications-database/primary-industry/plants/plant-health-manual.pdf (search for “Condition 23 for TPP”)

- **Exemptions**

  Seed potatoes and bulbs: exempt because they do not have green material. Other import conditions may still apply for example nursery stock also requires ICA-29 treatment and certification to go to WA.

  Bare root trees: exempt if they have no green material.

- **Special cases**

  Families like *Araceae* and *Orchideae* may need treatment if the importing state classifies all non-host families as carriers.

- **Sending plants interstate**

  If a plant is not a host or carrier under the importing state’s rules, it is exempt from TPP requirements such as a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC), inspection, and treatment.

- **Updates**

  Other states may update their carrier definitions and requirements due to the planned revocation of Victoria’s area freedom, but this is at each jurisdiction’s discretion and timeline.

Treatment and chemical use

1. What are the current chemical treatment requirements for TPP, including approved insecticides, withholding periods for edible plants, compatibility with ICA protocols, and plans for reviewing or expanding permits and chemistries?

- **Approved chemicals and permits**

  Agriculture Victoria is working with Nursery & Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV) and Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) on available chemicals for TPP.

  Permit applications for new chemicals are usually led by industry and assessed by the **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)**. Label changes must be made by the chemical registrant.

- **Withholding periods**

  Chemicals approved for TPP treatment include options with **short withholding periods for edible plants**, making them suitable for trade compliance.

- ICA-62 (TPP carrier protocol) is under review and may be updated after initial negotiations to maintain trade.

. **Future updates**

- There are plans to review ICA-62 and expand available chemistries after this initial phase to support industry needs.
- Agriculture Victoria will advocate with jurisdictions for updates to ICA-29 and ICA-62 with the aim to make them consistent including chemical rates and treatment windows.

2. How do treatment requirements accommodate practical challenges such as safety, IPM programs, organic approaches, and timing (e.g., 3-day spray windows), and what guidance exists for using neonicotinoids under biosecurity protocols?

- **Safety and timing**

  ICA-62 currently requires treatment **72 hours** before dispatch. Growers should follow chemical safety guidelines and consult suppliers for best practice.

- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic approaches**

  Agriculture Victoria acknowledges the challenge for organic and biological growers. There will be opportunities to review ICA requirements and explore alternative approaches after initial trade negotiations. Organic growers need to check with their certifying body as to what chemicals can be used within their certification.

- **Neonicotinoid use**

  Neonicotinoids are allowed under **biosecurity protocols for interstate plant movement**, despite some retailers choosing not to stock or supply these products. Best practice involves using neonicotinoids in rotation with other chemical classes to manage resistance.

Inspection protocols

1. What are the current inspection requirements under ICA-62, including timing, sampling rates, record-keeping, and whether inspections can occur before or after treatment?

- **Timing**

  Inspections must occur **after treatment**, as required by ICA-62. This is because TPP can hide on the underside of leaves and may survive treatment if not verified. Pre-treatment inspections are not currently allowed and would require interstate agreement.

- **Sampling rates**

  ICA-62 uses a **two-step approach**: treatment plus inspection. The inspection rate is **2% of the consignment or 600 plants**, whichever is greater. For small consignments, this can mean inspecting all plants.

- **Record-keeping**

  An inspection record must be completed for **each end-point inspection**, based on a consignment or lot.

Chemical use records must be made within 48 hours of the use and kept for a minimum of two years.

- **Future changes**

  Any changes to inspection timing or sampling rates will require negotiation with other states and may involve additional risk assessments. This is considered a **medium-term goal**.

2. Why are inspections required when stock is treated, and how will practical challenges such as large consignments, safety, and compliance be addressed?

- **Why inspections are needed**

  ICA-62 requires inspection after treatment to confirm the treatment has worked and plants are free of TPP.
  TPP can shelter in protected areas and survive treatment, so inspection is an essential risk management step.

- **Practical challenges**

  - **Large consignments**: The current 2% or 600 plant rule can mean inspecting all plants in some cases. Changes to this requirement will need interstate negotiation and are a medium-term priority for Agriculture Victoria.
  - **Safety (WHS)**: Inspections must follow chemical label advice for withholding periods to reduce exposure risks.
  - **Compliance**: ICA-62 is designed to maintain interstate trade while managing biosecurity risk. Updates to improve practicality will be considered in future reviews.

Certification (including Plant Health Assurance Certification (PHAC) and Plant Health Certificates (PHC))

1. When is a PHAC required for interstate plant movement, including situations where consignments contain non-host plants, multiple ICA codes (e.g., ICA-42 and ICA-62), or cross-dock distribution?

- **When PHAC is required**

  A Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC) is required for **every interstate order** under ICA rules.

  - If the consignment contains **hosts or carriers**, treatment and certification are mandatory.
  - If the consignment contains **non-host items without green material** (e.g., bulbs or seeds), TPP certification is not required, but other import conditions may still apply.

- **Multiple ICA codes**

If a consignment meets requirements for more than one ICA (e.g., ICA-42 and ICA-62), both codes can be listed on **one PHAC**.

- **Cross-dock scenarios**

  A single PHAC applies to **one consignee in another jurisdiction**. If stock is sent via a Victorian cross-dock and then re-consigned to multiple destinations, **each consignee requires its own PHAC**.

2. What are the current requirements for PHAC documentation, including availability of booklets, options for pre-populated or digital PHACs, and whether online submission is possible?

- **Booklets**

  Agriculture Victoria has good stocks of PHAC booklets. These must be used when issuing PHACs.

- **Pre-populated details**

  Businesses can pre-fill their details (e.g., stamp or sticker) on PHACs, but the **Authorised Signatory must complete and sign** the certificate for each consignment after inspection and treatment.

- **Inspection records**

  Must be completed at the time of end-point inspection or immediately after. They can be typed or handwritten, as long as they capture all required information.

- **Digital PHACs**

  Online PHAC submission is being developed nationally but it will **not be available in the short term**.

Transport and secure movement

1. What are the current secure transport requirements for TPP under ICA-62, including options for screened vehicles, boxing, and cross-dock scenarios?

- **Secure transport definition**

  After treatment, carrier nursery stock must be **securely packed and transported** to prevent contamination with TPP.

  Options include:

  - Fully enclosed or screened vehicles (e.g., tautliners in good condition)
  - Coverings such as tarpaulins, hessian, shade cloth, mesh, or similar materials with a **maximum aperture of 1.6 mm**

- **Boxing plants**

  Boxing is **not required** if plants are transported in an enclosed or screened vehicle. Large plants (e.g., 2 m trees) can remain unboxed if secure transport requirements are met.

- **Mixed loads and cross-docks**

  If ICA-62 treated stock is transported with non-treated material, it must be **securely packed and labelled** according to ICA-62 section 9.

  Dispatch refers to leaving the **ICA-62 accredited facility**, not the state border. Stock can sit at a Victorian freight depot before interstate travel if secure transport conditions are maintained.

- **Cut flowers**

  Host cut flowers can move to NSW/SA with no restrictions. Carrier cut flowers can move to NSW/SA/NT with no restrictions. Agriculture Victoria is working with other states on protocol options outside of the above.

2. How do secure transport requirements address practical challenges such as reconsolidation at cross-docks, large consignments, and compliance?

- **Cross-dock challenges**

  ICA-62 does not currently account for reconsolidation at cross-docks before interstate travel. Compliance relies on maintaining secure conditions during unloading and reloading.

  Boxing every plant is not required if secure transport standards are met.

- **Large consignments**

  Secure transport requirements apply regardless of consignment size. For oversized plants, enclosed or screened vehicles remain the preferred option.

- **Compliance and flexibility**

  Agriculture Victoria is open to discussing practical solutions with industry to ensure ICA requirements can be met without unnecessary burden.

Area freedom and timing

1. How will area freedom for TPP be applied—statewide or by region—and will property-level freedom be considered?

- **Statewide approach**

  Agriculture Victoria will revoke the **area freedom certificate for the entire state**. This means Victoria will no longer be considered free from TPP as a whole. A regional approach, similar to Queensland's fire ant zones, is **not planned**.

- **Property-level freedom**

  Property freedom is **being considered** but it will require significant redevelopment of the CA-14 arrangement. Industry feedback indicates that meeting the current CA-14 requirements is virtually impossible for most businesses. Instead, Agriculture Victoria is negotiating with other jurisdictions to agree on arrangements that are practical for industry. This arrangement may provide an alternative for organic producers and producers of plants intended for consumption.

2. What is the timeline and process for revoking or reinstating area freedom, including notice periods for businesses and how trapping data will be used?

- **Timing**

  There is currently no definitive timing for revoking area freedom. This will be dependent on a range of factors, including further detections of TPP and the support from other jurisdictions. Businesses should **apply now for ICA-62 accreditation** to avoid market access disruptions. Accreditation can usually be completed within a week.

- **Notice periods**

  Agriculture Victoria will aim to advise your business as early as possible before the Victorian Area Freedom for Tomato Potato Psyllid is revoked and ICA-62 is required for interstate market access. Noting that jurisdictions may implement restrictions on Victorian products at any time.

- **Data and reinstatement**

  While Victoria has historical data showing no TPP in many growing areas, recent detections (e.g., Melbourne's north) suggest TPP may be more widespread. Trapping and surveillance will inform future decisions, but reinstating area freedom would require extensive evidence and agreement from other states.

Movement monitoring and compliance

1. How will compliance and monitoring be managed for plant movements across borders and at events like NGIV trade day, including requirements for accreditation under ICA-62 for growers (members and non-members) and implications for non-nursery industries such as fresh produce?

- **Border monitoring**

  Compliance activities for plant movements across borders will be managed by the **receiving jurisdiction**, not Agriculture Victoria. This includes monitoring public movements and small plant collectors.

- **NGIV trade day**

  NGIV is considering options to help facilitate trade at events. If border restrictions are implemented prior to the NGIV trade day, all growers sending plants interstate will need **ICA-62 accreditation**, regardless of whether they are NGIV members or not. Agriculture Victoria encourages all growers intending to send stock interstate at the NGIV trade day to obtain appropriate accreditations prior to the day to reduce the risk of trade impacts.

- **Non-nursery industries**

  Movement of fresh produce from host crops to interstate markets requires **separate negotiations with other jurisdictions**.

  This is a current priority for Agriculture Victoria because it involves significant changes to import conditions.

2. What systems or support will be provided to improve clarity and coordination, such as a national horticulture grower database, streamlined documentation, and departmental assistance with packing and transport under ICA-62?

- **National database**

  A national horticulture grower database does not currently exist, but Agriculture Victoria supports this idea. It will be flagged with developers of the **National Action Plan for pests of horticultural crops** as a future option.

- **Clarity and documentation**

  ICA-62 requirements for packing and transport are being reviewed to address industry concerns.

  Agriculture Victoria will continue to provide guidance and FAQs to reduce confusion and avoid businesses needing to email individually.

Training and support

1. What training and resources are available to help businesses identify TPP and meet ICA-62 requirements, and how can they access them?

- **Identification training**

  ICA-62 training is **available now** through two e-learning modules. Once a business submits a completed application form, they will receive links to access the training and can complete it at their own pace.

- **Additional resources**

  The **NGIQ PestID tool** provides useful information and is open to all users. This can help businesses improve pest identification and compliance readiness.

2. What financial and regulatory considerations apply, including fee waivers, support packages, and licensing requirements for businesses charging for treatment or inspections?

- **Financial support**

  From 1 October 2025, Agriculture Victoria has been waiving some plant biosecurity fees.

  What fees are waived?

  Between 1 October 2025 and 30 June 2026, we will not charge fees for:

  - application processing
  - audits, including associated travel
  - issuing non-conformance reports

  These waivers apply to service delivery changes linked to market access for tomato potato psyllid (TPP).

  What fees remain?
  All other plant biosecurity services will continue at the usual rates. For 2025–26, fees and charges remain at 2024–25 levels. More information about plant biosecurity fees can be found at Fees and charges for plant biosecurity services.

- **Licensing requirements**

  If a business or individual charges a fee for spraying or inspections, they must hold a **Commercial Operators Licence (COL)** in Victoria.

  - Mutual recognition applies for licences from other jurisdictions.
  - Permission from the produce owner is required before applying agricultural chemicals.

Pest risk and justification

Why are such strict restrictions in place for TPP when it is considered easy to control and the associated bacterium has not been detected in Australia?

Although TPP can be controlled with chemicals, it still poses a serious risk to agriculture:

- **Direct plant damage**

  TPP causes significant harm to host plants such as tomatoes and potatoes.

  Damage includes leaf yellowing, distorted growth in leaves, stems, fruit and tubers, and in severe cases, plant death.

  The sugars excreted by TPP lead to sooty mould, which makes plants look dirty, reduces photosynthesis, and attracts ants.

- **Risk of CLso**

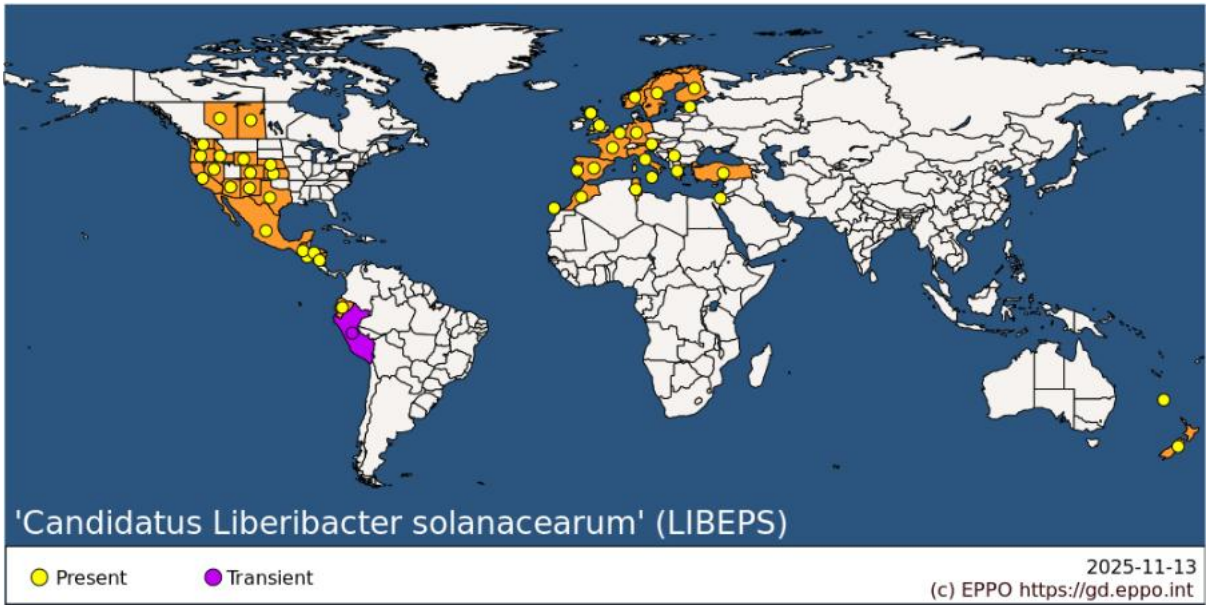
  TPP is a known vector for *Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum (CLso), one of Australia's **National Priority Plant Pests**.

  CLso causes a disease for which there is **no known cure**. If TPP becomes widespread, and CLso is ever detected in Australia, the pathogen could spread rapidly and devastate host crops.

Strict restrictions aim to **limit TPP spread now**, reducing the risk of CLso becoming unmanageable in the future.

For more information on CLso, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/clso.

International context



What countries is CLso present in?

CLso (*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*) is known to occur in:

- **North America**
- **Central America**
- **Ecuador**
- **New Zealand**
- **Europe**
- **Parts of northern Africa**