



NURSERY UNITS

(As amended on 19 February 2026)

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1. REGISTRATION OF NURSERIES

1.1 Application for registration

- 1.1.1 Plant SA notifies all registered nurseries annually, before **15 December**, of the re-registration for the following year and provide each nursery with the required application form.
- 1.1.2 Nurseries must apply before **15 January** of the planting year, in writing to register each separate premises intended for propagation.
- 1.1.3 Each application must include:
 - a) an application form as prescribed (**VIA D-3-1**). The name and address of the nursery as well as the name of the farm/s on which each site is situated must be provided in full;
 - b) GPS co-ordinates and/or Google Earth map clearly indicating the location of each site; and
 - c) a signed copy of the VIA Code of conduct (**VIA D-3-2**).
- 1.1.4 Plant SA verifies all applications and confirms compliance with the requirements of Schedule 1, Article 3 for Foundation Nurseries, and Article 5 for other nurseries.
- 1.1.5 A registration certificate (**VIA D-3-13**) is issued to each registered nursery as confirmation of registration for the relevant year

2. MAINTENANCE OF NURSERY UNITS

Nurseries and vines in nursery units must be maintained in a manner that is conducive to obtaining high quality plant material.

2.1 Unit requirements

- a) Nursery units must comply with the requirements of the Scheme as prescribed in Schedule 1, Article 3 (Foundation nursery units) and Article 5 (Nursery units).
- b) If a nursery unit is established on premises where previous vineyard or nursery vines were cultivated, as many roots as possible must be removed and the soil must lie fallow for at least one year.

- c) Soil samples are collected annually on a rotational basis from five existing nurseries, as well as from all new nurseries and sites. Plant SA:
 - i) verifies the information on the application form and location map;
 - ii) collects, according to the procedure described in **VIA F-2-2**, soil samples for nematode monitoring (*X. index*) from each new or selected Nursery and/or Foundation nursery site;
 - iii) records the details of each soil sample collected, on an inspection report and indicates the sampling points on the location map;
 - iv) requests the nursery owner or his authorised representative to sign the location map as confirmation that the inspection and sampling was performed on the correct site;
 - v) the soil samples are submitted to a registered laboratory;
 - vi) the laboratory returns the results of the nematode analysis to the nursery and Plant SA;
 - vii) Plant SA verifies the list of soil samples collected against the nematode analyses and notifies each nursery in writing if the result is positive for *X. index*;
 - viii) if a positive result is found, the relevant premises will be subdivided, and further testing will take place to determine the extent of the contamination.

2.2 Isolation requirements

Nursery units must comply with the requirements of the Scheme as prescribed in Schedule 1, Article 3 (Foundation nursery units) and Article 5 (Nursery units).

2.3 Cultivation practices

Should there be any movement from an area with uncertified vines to an area with certified vines, the following procedure is recommended:

- a) Wash spray tractors and implements;
- b) Disinfect pruning shears;
- c) Wear clean, protective clothing.

2.4 Removal of vines

- a) Visually infected vines must be removed continuously;
- b) Individual deviating vines must be removed; and
- c) in instances where larger numbers of deviating vines are next to each other, it must be clearly marked and demarcated with appropriate signage.

2.5 Insect control

a) Control of Ants

As soon as any ants are found, the area where they are present must be treated from December onwards with prescribed insecticide, using hand-held spray lances.

b) Control of Mealybug

As soon as any mealybugs are found, the entire block must be treated with a registered mealybug remedy by using a vine directed spray pump.

2.6 Weed Control

- a) No weeds may be present in a unit and a specific weed control programme must be followed.
- b) A buffer zone of at least 3 meters wide must be kept weed free around each nursery unit.

2.7 Inspections of nursery units

All plants in a registered nursery unit must be presented for inspection, three times annually:

- a) Summer inspection;
- b) Autumn inspection;
- c) Winter inspection.

3. PLANT MATERIAL

- 3.1 PIO's must issue each clone separately and the nursery must graft each clone separately.
- 3.2 Sub clones must be issued and grafted separately.

- 3.3 Clones from each PIO must be grafted separately and specified separately on the return. A certification label may reflect only one PIO name per clone clone.
- 3.4 Clones of different mother blocks should preferably be kept separate and grafted separately. If the same clone from different mother blocks is added together and grafted together, the different mother blocks must still be filled in on the return.
- 3.5 Comprehensive records must be continuously maintained by every nursery or PIO regarding every batch of plant material issued from each unit and received by a subsequent unit.
- 3.6 In the event of plant material being issued to another nursery or PIO, the necessary issuance must be prepared, and a return of issuances containing full details must be submitted to Plant SA.
- 3.7 Since the nursery return contains full details, it is not necessary to issue a separate issuance in the case of plant material being utilised inhouse; however, a return regarding the issuance must be submitted to Plant SA.
- 3.8 All table grape planting material (scion and rootstock bud wood) must undergo hot-water treatment at 50°C for 30 minutes prior to grafting.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSERY VINES

- 4.1 The scheme requirements for the establishment of nursery vines are set out in Articles 11 and 12 of the Scheme.
- 4.2 All nurseries must keep a planting plan, indicating the clones, quantities and location of each graft combination established in the nursery, or in the case of container grown vines, the location of all containers in the greenhouse. The planting plan must be made available to the inspectors upon request.
- 4.3 Block and row numbers must be indicated against each graft combination to specify in which block and row each graft combination is planted.
- 4.4 Graft combination numbers must be allocated in sequential order starting from one.

5. NURSERY RETURNS

- 5.1 The VIA provides each nursery, before **15 September**, with the required nursery return form (**VIA D-3-3**), together with guidelines for completing it.

- 5.2 Nurseries complete the nursery return form (**VIA D-3-3**) in accordance with the guidelines and submits returns for container-grown vines by **30 September** and returns for open-ground vines by **15 November**.
- 5.3 The returns must include all grafted and rooted vines in containers or planted out in the nursery.
- 5.4 According to the Scheme vines in containers include the following:
 - a) Rooted rootstocks;
 - b) Rooted grafted vines; as well as
 - c) Cartonnage vines.
- 5.5 Where potted vines cannot be declared once off, the nursery or PIO must ensure that every new graft combination established in the nursery is also added to the nursery return.
- 5.6 In the case of potted vines, plant material from the same source plants—initially issued in different batches—may be combined and listed as a single entry on the nursery return.
- 5.7 Replanted grafted vines carried over from the previous year must be specified separately from other graft combinations consisting of the same clones.
- 5.8 Vines from the previous season that remained in the ground must be specified separately.
- 5.9 Grafted vines where rooted rootstocks of the previous year were used must be specified separately from other graft combinations of the same clone.
- 5.10 Nursery must make a clear distinction when completing the nursery return forms regarding:
 - a) replant vines (i.e., grafted vines from the previous year's nursery) – abbreviation: OORP
 - b) carry-over vines (i.e., grafted vines from the previous year's nursery that were not lifted) – abbreviation: OORS
 - c) rootstocks – abbreviation: PLNT
 - d) own-rooted vines – abbreviation: MKST
 - e) container-grown vines – abbreviation: POTS
 - f) Cartonnage vines – abbreviation: CART

6. QUANTITY CONTROL

- 6.1 All deliveries to nurseries, whether too many or too few, of both scion- and rootstock material must be declared to the PIO by the nursery before **15 October** and must be corrected with the appropriate documentation between the nursery and the PIO.
- 6.2 Exceeding the quantity of a specific clone issued, will jeopardize the certification of all graft combinations of the applicable clone.
 - a) In cases where more planting material of a clone has been utilized than was originally issued by the PIO, the nurseryman must declare the updated quantity to the PIO concerned before **15 October**, in order to amend the official issuance.
 - b) In cases where plant material has been exchanged between nurserymen, the PIO concerned must be notified before **15 October**, in order to amend the official issuances.
- 6.3 Quantity controls involve a comparison between the quantity issued to and the quantity grafted by the nursery by clone and by source.
- 6.4 In instances where the quantity of a clone issued and grafted do not correspond the nurseryman and PIO will be notified before **15 January** and the certification of the graft combination will be provisionally withdrawn.
- 6.5 If the issuance of the relevant clone for which the certification has been provisionally withdrawn are not corrected by the PIO before **15 February**, the certification of the graft combination will be finally revoked.
- 6.6 The Inspectors annually select and count at least three graft combinations on a random sample basis from ten nurseries to confirm that the physical number of vines planted in the nursery correlates with the number of vines indicated on the nursery return, according to **VIA D-3-4**.
- 6.7 The certification of all graft combinations where discrepancies regarding quantity checks have not been rectified by **31 March** are finally revoked.
- 6.8 Deviations found during quantity control are continuously reported by the inspectors for further follow-up action in consultation with the relevant nursery and/or PIO.

7. NURSERY INSPECTIONS

7.1 General

- a) The following aspects are monitored during every inspection:
 - i) the general care and cultivation of nursery vines;

- ii) the phytosanitary requirements: appearance of insects and pathogens and damage from climatological or other factors in the nursery.
- b) Inspection reports, **VIA D-3-5** (Potted vines), **VIA D-3-6** (Summer), **VIA D-3-7** (Autumn) and **VIA D-3-8** (Winter), are issued to the nursery as prescribed.
- c) Apart from the official inspection report, the inspector will also notify the nursery orally of any deviations found, as soon as practical after the inspection concerned.
- d) If a graft combination does not comply with the Scheme requirements, it will be preliminary withdrawn with written instructions to take corrective action which must be done within 14 days.
- e) If the shortcoming cannot be rectified, the certification of the graft combination will be finally revoked.
- f) All inspection reports must be signed by the owner or a representative of the nursery.

7.2 Inspection of potted vines

- 7.2.1 Nurseries and PIO's who wants to present potted vines for certification must notify the inspectors at least 7 days prior to when the plants will be ready for inspection.
- 7.2.2 Potted vines are inspected once during the active growth season (continuously).
- 7.2.3 Inspectors does a physical inspection of the vines to determine if the vines are true to type.
- 7.2.4 An inspection report (**VIA D-3-5**) is issued for every consignment inspected. If the consignment does not comply to the Scheme prescriptions, the certification thereof will be **provisionally withdrawn** and written instructions to rectify the non-compliance must be done within 14 days. The inspection report must be signed by die nursery owner or a representative.
- 7.2.5 When the certification of a consignment was provisionally withdrawn, the vines may be re-presented for inspection as per the same prescribed procedure.
- 7.2.6 Consignments, where certification have been provisionally withdrawn must be kept separate and may not be added to another consignment of the same clone and origin.

- 7.2.7 **A follow-up inspection may be requested within 14 days** to determine whether corrective measures have been satisfactorily implemented. If the corrective measures have not been satisfactorily applied, the certification of the consignment in question is finally revoked. An inspection report, as prescribed in **VIA D-3-5**, is issued with written instructions that the labels of the relevant graft combination must be removed and handed over to the inspectors during a subsequent visit. This inspection report must be signed by the nursery owner or an authorised representative.
- 7.2.8 The certification of consignments where certification was provisionally withdrawn, that are not presented for re-inspection, must be finally revoked and the withdrawal must be confirmed by an inspection report.
- 7.2.9 For plants issued during the active growing season, physical requirements must be assessed during a second inspection, which must take place at least two weeks after the start of the hardening-off period under shade netting.
- 7.2.10 Vines must not be cut back at the time of inspection.
- 7.2.11 Cartonnage vines are subject to a second inspection immediately prior to being issued.
- 7.2.12 For plants issued during the dormant stage, varietal authenticity must be determined during the active growth stage, and physical requirements during the second inspection following leaf drop.
- 7.3 Summer inspection
- 7.3.1 Additionally to the points listed under General (7.1) the following must be specifically inspected:
- a) the unit and isolation requirements as prescribed by the scheme's unit requirements in Schedule 1;
 - b) the varietal authenticity of plants as indicated on the planting plan and signage in the nursery.
- 7.3.2 In instances where a nursery has not been inspected by **20 January** and vines need to be cut back, the nurseryman must inform the inspectors to determine a feasible date for the inspection to take place.
- 7.3.3 Summer inspections must be finalised by **31 March**.
- 7.4 Autumn inspection

7.4.1 Additionally to the points listed under General (7.1) the following must be specifically inspected in autumn:

- a) the ripening of shoots;
- b) balanced growth of the nursery vines.

7.4.2 Autumn inspections must be finalised by **30 April**.

7.4.3 By **April 30**, Plant SA issues a printing list to each nursery confirming the clones propagated along with the certification category of each graft combination.

7.5 Winter inspection

7.5.1 The nursery must provide Plant SA with a two-day notification, prior to the date on which the nursery plants will be ready for certification.

7.5.2 Additionally to the points listed under General (7.1) the following must be specifically verified during the winter inspection:

- a) the physical requirements;
- b) the bundle requirements; and
- c) the labelling requirements.

7.5.3 As stipulated by the Scheme, there must be 50 nursery vines in a bundle. However, only one bundle per graft combination may contain less than 50 nursery vines provided that the reduced number is indicated on the certification label.

7.5.4 At least one bundle (of 50 vines) per graft combination must be inspected. When graft combinations exceed 30 000 vines, one bundle per 10 000 vines should be inspected. If vines in the selected bundle does not meet the prescribed requirements, further samples must be taken as follows:

Sample	Outcome	Additional Samples	Approved	Declined
1 st	No shortcomings		Yes	
1 st	1 Shortcoming		Yes	
1 st	2 Shortcomings	1 add		
2 nd	No Shortcomings		Yes	
2 nd	1 Shortcoming		Yes	

2 nd	2 Shortcomings			Yes
1 st	3 or more shortcomings			Yes

7.5.5 If the vines of a graft combination do not comply with the requirements of the Scheme, the certification will be **provisionally withdrawn**.

- a) The inspector will, except for the inspection report, verbally inform the nurseryman of any deviations found.
- b) An inspection report (**VIA D-3-7**) is issued to the nursery with written instructions of the corrective steps which must be done within 14 days. The report must also indicate if any labels should be removed and handed over to the inspectors during the final inspection.
- c) This inspection report must be signed by the nursery owner or a representative of the nursery.

7.5.6 In instances where the certification of nursery vines is revoked due to the presence of root knot nematode damage, Phytophthora or crown gall:

- a) these graft combinations must be re-worked to remove visually infected vines;
- b) The visually infected vines must receive hot water treatment (HWT) under the supervision of the inspectors.
 - i) *HWT shorter timeframe* (55⁰C for 5 minutes) Control of surface pathogens (e.g., Phylloxera, nematodes and other surface pathogens).
 - ii) *HWT longer timeframe* (50⁰ C for 45 minutes) When deeper treatment of pathogens infecting the phloem and xylem is required (phytoplasmas and *Agrobacterium vitis*)
- c) After HWT, the treated vines must be tested by an accredited laboratory to confirm that the vines are not infected.

7.5.7 After HWT the treated nursery vines must be re-presented for certification.

7.5.8 A follow up inspection must take place after 14 days, to determine if the corrective measures have been done and that the number of labels removed correlates with the number of vines rejected.

7.5.9 In instances where the corrective measures were not applied satisfactorily, the certification of the graft combination will be finally

withdrawn. The inspector issues an inspection report (**VIA D-3-7**) as prescribed to the nurseryman together with instructions to remove the certification labels and to hand the labels over to the inspector during the next visit to the nursery. This report must also be signed by the nursery owner or a representative of the nursery.

7.5.10 The inspector verifies whether the labels handed over corresponds with the number of vines that were finally rejected.

7.5.11 In all instances where the certification of graft combinations is finally withdrawn, Inspection Services (DoA) must be notified by Plant SA. If the DoA inspectors find that these vines do not comply with the minimum standards prescribed by the Plant Improvement Act, the sale of the vines will be prohibited.

8. CERTIFICATION OF NURSERY PLANTS

8.1 Categories of plant material

Both candidate and certified plant material from the following units are subject to inspection, namely:

- Nucleus
- Foundation
- Mother
- Foundation Nursery
- Nursery

8.2 Plants in containers

Plant material in greenhouses includes the following categories, namely:

- Rooted rootstocks in containers
- Green grafted vines in containers
- Bench grafted vines in containers (cartonnage)
- Side grafted vines in containers
- Vines on own root

8.2.1 Plants that are issued or moved internally must always be properly identified by means of a label or internal identification system that is linked to the record keeping system.

8.2.2 Plants in containers issued to a nursery, PIO or a producer must be marked with the official candidate or certification label on which the full particulars are recorded.

- 8.2.3 Particulars recorded on the labels must be verified by the inspector during every inspection.
 - 8.2.4 In the case of consignments where plants have not been individually labelled, one label must be affixed to each bulk container issued.
 - 8.2.5 Separate records must be kept of the number of labels used for the certification of nursery vines in containers and must be recorded separately on the label returns.
- 8.3 Nursery vines of the following categories can be certified with the same status as the previous year:
- 8.3.1 In instances where certified nursery vines from the previous year were **left over** in the nursery, these vines can be submitted for certification with the retention of their status provided that the vines are presented for inspection in autumn and winter of the following year.
 - 8.3.2 In instances where certified nursery vines from the previous year were **replanted** in the nursery these vines can be submitted for certification with the retention of their status provided that the vines are inspected in the summer, autumn and winter of the following year.
 - 8.3.3 In instances where certified nursery vines were **bought from another nursery and replanted** in the nursery, these vines can be submitted for certification provided that the invoice and certification labels of the previous year can be submitted and the vines are inspected in the summer, autumn and winter of the following year. In this instance the date of the previous year must be indicated on the new certification labels.
 - 8.3.4 In instances where certified nursery vines were kept in **cold storage for one year** and replanted in the nursery, these vines can be submitted for certification provided the necessary proof and the certification labels of the previous year can be submitted. In this instance the date of the previous year must be indicated on the certification labels.
 - 8.3.5 Left over and replanted nursery vines can only be resubmitted once for certification. Left over and replanted vines older than two years cannot qualify for certification.
 - 8.3.6 Rejected nursery vines that were replanted cannot qualify for certification in the following year.
- 8.4 The inspectors record the number of vines per clone certified, on the nursery return and issue a final inspection report (**VIA D-3-9**) as prescribed to each nursery by **15 September**.

- 8.5 Plant SA issues, by **30 September**, a certification certificate (**VIA D-3-10**) as well as a printout of the nursery return (**VIA D-3-3**) to each nursery, declaring the number of vines certified, as well as a confirmation of any final withdrawals of certification.

9. LABELS

9.1 Label returns

- 9.1.1 Nurseries and PIO's complete the label return (**VIA D-3-11**) indicating the number of labels received, utilised, damaged and in stock.
- 9.1.2 Nurseries and PIO's must submit their label returns to Plant SA by **01 October**.

9.2 Purchases

- 9.2.1 Nurseries and PIO's annually estimate the number of labels required and record the quantity on the label return (**VIA D-3-11**).
- 9.2.2 Plant SA pools the quantities required and places an order with the supplier before **31 December**.

9.3 Issuing of labels

- 9.3.1 Plant SA issues labels to the nurseries and PIO's according to the quantities ordered.
- 9.3.2 Plant SA issues delivery notes and invoices to the nurseries and PIO's for the labels delivered.
- 9.3.3 Nurseries and PIO's sign the delivery notes to the effect that the numbers have been correctly issued.

9.4 Label control

- 9.4.1 Plant SA verifies the number of labels issued to each nursery against the number of bundles of nursery vines certified.
- 9.4.2 PIO's verify the number of labels issued to each mother block producer against the number of bundles of plant material certified.
- 9.4.3 Plant SA provides deviation reports the inspectors for follow-up actions.
- 9.4.4 A report of follow-up visits and statements in cases where deviations occurred is compiled and placed on record.

10. NURSERY ASSESSMENTS

10.1 General

The assessment of nurseries is divided into four categories, namely:

- a) Administration
- b) Unit requirements
- c) Plant material
- d) Percentage certification

A weight is assigned to each category, and each category is subdivided into the various aspects being assessed; a score out of 90 is attached to each aspect based on its critical value.

In some cases, assessment is conducted once, whereas other aspects are assessed on an ongoing basis. Scores are awarded on a scale of 0 to 5 and applied according to a set of requirements for each aspect.

10.2 Administration [5]

Administration is assessed based on the accuracy and timeliness of documentation according to the following criteria:

- *Good (Registration and documentation consistently timely and accurate) - 5*
- *Average (depending on the extent of deviation from submission dates and/or other discrepancies) - 4 to 1*
- *Poor (no cooperation or submission) - 0*

a) Nursery registration (1)

Full compliance with the requirements set out in Section 1.1 is required.

b) Nursery return (2)

Full compliance with the requirements set out in Section 5 is required.

The complete return also includes the declaration of unused label numbers at the end of the season.

c) Reports (1)

All reports must be signed off and returned promptly.

d) Label return (1)

Full compliance with the requirements set out in Sections 9.1 & 9.2 is required.

10.3 Unit requirements **[15]**

Unit requirements are assessed based on compliance with the provisions of the Scheme and the Standard Operating Procedures. Points are awarded for each aspect on a scale of 5 to 0, depending on the degree of compliance with the requirements.

a) Land requirements (1)

Full compliance with the requirements set out in Section 2.1 is mandatory.

b) Isolation requirements (1)

Full compliance with the requirements set out in Section 2.2 is mandatory.

c) Weed management (5)

Full compliance with the requirements set out in Section 2.6 is mandatory.

d) Signboards

i) Summer (3)

Signboards must always be fully and correctly displayed.

ii) Winter (3)

Signboards and labels must be fully and correctly displayed.

e) Layering-in plots and bundles (2)

Vines must be layered-in properly and neatly.

10.4 Plant material **[60]**

a) Disease control (15)

Disease control is continuously assessed based on the degree of visual infection of vines with any of the prescribed pathogens listed in Schedule 2 of the Scheme.

5	4	3	2	1	0
>99%	>96≤99%	>94≤96%	>92≤94%	>90≤92%	<90%

b) Intermixing (15)

Intermixing is measured during the first inspection taking into consideration the total number of vines as well as the total number of graft combinations. The outcome of the calculation that benefits the nursery the most is used to determine the point. If intermixing occurred at the source, the nursery is not penalised.

5	4	3	2	1	0
100%	>98<100%	>96≤98%	>94≤96%	>92≤94%	<92%

c) Epicormic shoots (5)

The point is assessed based on the presence or absence of epicormic shoots and the extent of their occurrence.

5	4	3	2	1	0
0	1%	2%	3%	4%	>5%

d) Ripening of wood (5)

All graft combinations are evaluated based on the percentage of shoots that have not matured properly.

5	4	3	2	1	0
0	1%	2%	3%	4%	>5%

e) Balanced vigour (5)

All graft combinations are evaluated based on the percentage of vines with unbalanced vigour.

5	4	3	2	1	0
0	1%	2%	3%	4%	>5%

f) Physical standards (15)

Physical standards are assessed based on the percentage of vines that meet the physical standard requirements, as set out in the Scheme, during their initial inspection. If any rejections occur during the re-inspection, all points are forfeited.

Physical standards are assessed by considering the total number of vines and the total number of graft combinations. Nurseries receive the benefit of

both calculations, and the calculation yielding the best result for the nursery is used as the score.

5	4	3	2	1	0
>99%	>96≤99%	>94≤96%	>92≤94%	>90≤92%	<90%

10.5 Percentage certified

The percentage of certified/candidate vines propagated and submitted for certification by the nursery concerned is measured here.

10.6 Summary of assessment

Points awarded during the assessment are summarised at the end of the season as prescribed (**VIA D-3-9**) and presented to the nursery.

11. NURSERY AUDITS

11.1 Nursery Auditor: An authorised inspector of the Scheme who is appointed by the authority to do the following audit functions during nursery inspections (Section 7):

- a) audit in terms of physical and phytosanitary requirements of plant material;
- b) audit in terms of inspection procedures by the scheme inspectors:
 - i) inspector in possession of a valid inspector identification card;
 - ii) Inspector follows the prescribed sample procedure as in Section 2.

7.2 The following audit procedure is applicable:

- a) the VIA selects a number of nurseries (3-5) before every seasonal inspection alternately and inform them at least seven days before the audit;
- b) the audit must be done at the same time and on the same graft combinations as the inspectors' inspections;
- c) audit reports must be signed by the auditor and inspector and any negative findings must be reported within 24 hours to Plant SA for consideration/rejections;
- d) The auditor is not allowed to reject any graft combinations.