

Ms. Dorothée André,
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27 March 2017

Epitrix: IE National Measures

Dear Ms André,

In accordance with Article 16(2) of Directive 2000/29, I am writing to inform you of the introduction of IE temporary national measures to protect against the risk of introducing *Epitrix* sp from Member States where the pest is known to occur.

In 2015, the UK reported on interceptions of potatoes from non-demarcated areas of Spain. These potatoes showed signs of *Epitrix* damage and in some cases had larvae present. Further interceptions were made in 2016 by the UK and BE. We fully appreciate the efforts made by Spain in demarcating the areas where these potatoes originated, however, a presentation by Directorate F to the Standing Committee on the 27-28 June, 2016, on their preliminary findings of an audit in Spain to assess the measures implemented highlighted that a number of issues still existed.

Ireland informed you verbally at the Standing Committee meeting on 27-28 June, 2016, that national measures were under consideration for the pest *Epitrix* and I can now confirm that these measures have been introduced. I attach a copy of S.I. 80 of 2017 (Destructive Insects and Pests Acts 1958 and 1991 (*Epitrix*) Order 2017), which comes into force with immediate effect.

These measures relate to the movement of potato tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a Member State where the harmful organism *Epitrix* is known to occur. The following measures must be fulfilled:

1. Movement of potatoes originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a Member State where *Epitrix* is known to occur must be notified (by the Irish trader) to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in writing at least two days in advance of landing in the State.
2. Movement of potatoes originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of Spain must be washed so that there is no more than 0.1% of soil present.

It is clear that the recent interceptions have not come from the *Epitrix* Demarcated areas, as such Ireland will accept potatoes from these areas in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2012/270/EU, as amended.

These national measures are intended to be temporary and DAFM will review the decision regularly to reflect decisions made at EU level in relation to the harmful organism and the spread of the pest.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Delany
Chief Plant Health Officer