



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Date 20 January 2021

To EU Member States, Switzerland and Liechtenstein NPPOs

Great Britain's Plant Health import requirements | Exports of plants and plant products of GB origin

I am writing to address several recent queries we have received from EU Member States regarding GB's new Plant Health import requirements. Further information to supplement this note can be found on [GOV.UK](#), [The Plant Health Portal](#) post transition guidance page, and [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#).

Updates to GB special import requirements

We are currently reviewing the import requirements for a small number of plants and plant products in respect of some specific pests and diseases. In the meantime, please note the following clarifications and flexibilities which apply with immediate effect:

Potato cyst nematode requirements

An error has been identified in the potato cyst nematode requirements in items 20 (seed potatoes), 22 (ware potatoes), 31 (capsicum etc.), 32 (leeks etc.) and 33 (bulbs etc.) of Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#), creating an unintentional impression that requirements have been strengthened.

For imports from EU Member States, the intention is to remain as close as possible to the requirements in Annex VIII of the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation but a reference to Union law is no longer possible, hence the reference to an appropriate EPPO standard. The expectation is that seed potatoes, ware potatoes and the other plants for planting which have requirements relating to PCN should meet the same standards as is set out in Directive 2007/33/EC. These points will be amended in subsequent updates of the GB plant health legislation. However, until then we will accept seed potatoes, ware potatoes and the other plants for planting referred to in

the points listed above (in relation to the relevant options, where the EPPO Standard is referred to) which meet the following requirement in relation to PCN:

- Originate in a site of production where the procedures to combat *Globodera pallida* (Stone) Behrens and *Globodera rostochiensis* (Wollenweber) Behrens set out in EPPO PM 9/26 have been implemented

Tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L.

In respect of quarantine potato pests (item 27 Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland should be excluded from this point.

Plants of herbaceous species for planting, other than bulbs, corms, plants of the family *Gramineae*, rhizomes, seeds, tubers – *Liriomyza* spp.

In respect of *Liriomyza* spp. (specifically, item 40, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), until April 2021, GB will accept plants where the exporting country is in the process of implementing option (b) and where at least one satisfactory official inspection has been carried out prior to harvesting.

Plants of *Castanea* and *Quercus* - *Cronartium* spp.

In respect of *Cronartium* spp. (item 45, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), the requirement need only apply to third countries where *Cronartium* spp., other than *Cronartium gentianeum* Thümen, *Cronartium pini* (Willdenow) Jørstad and *Cronartium ribicola* Fischer are known to occur.

Plants of *Malus* – *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma mali*

In respect of *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma mali* (item 74, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), GB will accept plants accompanied by an official statement that:

- No symptoms of diseases caused by *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma mali* have been observed on the plants at the place of production, or on susceptible plants in its immediate vicinity, since the beginning of the last three complete cycles of vegetation.

Plants of *Prunus* – *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma pruni*

In respect of *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma pruni* (item 76, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), GB will accept plants accompanied by an official statement that they:

- originate in an area which, in accordance with the measures specified in ISPM4, is known to be free from *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma* 'pruni' (16SrIII-A) Davis, Zhao, Dally, Lee, Jomantiene & Douglas; **or**
- that no symptoms of diseases caused by *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma* 'pruni' (16SrIII-A) Davis, Zhao, Dally, Lee, Jomantiene & Douglas have been observed on the plants at the place of production, or on susceptible plants in its immediate vicinity, since the beginning of the last three complete cycles of vegetation.

Wood of Pinus and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirbel) Franco, other than in the form of chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and scrap, and isolated bark

In respect of *Fusarium circinatum* (item 116, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), this should only apply to Pinus and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and not all conifers sp. Chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste, scrap and isolated bark should be excluded and instead covered by item 119 (see below).

Wood of conifers (Pinales) in the form of chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and scrap, and isolated bark

In respect of *Fusarium circinatum* (item 119, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and scrap excluded from point 116, should be included here.

Wood of *Anoplophora glabripennis* hosts

In respect of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (item 142, Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)), sawdust is included in option (a), along with chips, particles, shavings, wood waste or scrap.

Vegetable seed – tomatoes

In respect of *Candidatus Liberibacter 'solanacearum'* (Annex 4, Part E of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)): this is an error, there are no RNQP requirements in relation to this pest and tomato seeds (only on tomato propagating and planting material other than seeds and seed potatoes).

Plants of *Malus* and *Prunus* – Tomato ringspot virus

In respect of Tomato ringspot virus (Annex 5, Part C of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)). As an alternative to meeting the existing import requirements, GB will also accept such plants which:

- originate in areas known to be free from Tomato ringspot virus.

Vegetable seed – tomatoes

In respect of *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria*, *Xanthomonas gardneri*, *Xanthomonas perforans* and *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* (Annex 5, Part E of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)): these should read as per the equivalent point in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 (see below, using *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* as an example, but all four should be the same):

<i>Xanthomonas vesicatoria</i> (ex Doidge) Vauterin <i>et al.</i> [XANTVE]	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L.	(a) the seeds have been obtained by an appropriate acid extraction and
		(b) originate in areas known to be free from <i>Xanthomonas vesicatoria</i> (ex Doidge)

Vauterin *et al.*, or
(i) no symptoms of disease caused by *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* (ex Doidge) Vauterin *et al.* have been observed on visual inspections at appropriate times during the complete cycle of vegetation of the plants at the site of production, or
(ii) the seeds have been subjected to official testing for *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* (ex Doidge) Vauterin *et al.* on a representative sample using appropriate methods (whether or not following an appropriate treatment) and have been found in those tests to be free from that pest.

Wood and isolated bark of conifers (Pinales)

The following amendment has already been made by Regulation 9(4) of [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020](#). The effect of this amendment is that the wording in the second column of items 116 and 119 of Annex 7, Part A of [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#), now reads as follows:
Any third country, other than EU Member States where *Fusarium circinatum* Nirenberg & O'Donnell is known not to occur...

GB *Xylella fastidiosa* host plant list

The list of *X. fastidiosa* host plants which is referred to in The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, can be found on the UK Plant Health Portal [here](#).

Phytosanitary import controls for mung beansprouts (taugé)

We consider that this commodity falls within scope of Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 (as retained EU law in GB), and must therefore be accompanied by a PC for import into GB. There are no food safety restrictions on importing EU origin beansprouts into GB.

Re-export certificates for goods originating in non-EU countries

Plants and plant products from a non-EU country (third country) transiting through the EU and imported to GB will be treated by GB as if they were an EU import for the purposes of the phased introduction of import controls in GB, provided they entered into free circulation in the EU and passed plant health checks in a Member State. The non-EU country of origin must be stated on the phytosanitary certificate. The phased import approach, outlined on [GOV.UK](#), will apply to these goods, which will include the requirement for a phytosanitary certificate for high priority goods as of 1

January and for all other regulated goods from 1 April. Should the goods not enter free circulation in a Member State they will be treated as a direct non-EU third country import and need to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin.

Regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQP)

There is no requirement to make specific declarations regarding RNQPs on phytosanitary certificates accompanying consignments exported to GB.

Phytosanitary exemptions for small quantities

There are no exemptions for small quantities, a phytosanitary certificate will be required for any quantity of regulated plants and plant products imported to GB, in line with the phased introduction of import controls of goods from the EU. Further information in relation to the phasing of import controls from the EU can be found [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Grace period for non-compliant consignments from the EU

Until 1 February 2021, provided they do not present an immediate and material biosecurity risk, any non-compliant consignments imported from EU Member States will not be detained or rejected upon entry to GB. Instead, the importer will be informed of the non-compliance so that they can take action to prevent reoccurrence. An example of such a non-compliance is missing or incorrectly cited additional declarations.

Exports of plants and plant products of GB origin

Notifications of non-compliance

Notifications of interceptions of GB origin plants and plant products should be sent to the UK NPPO mailbox (UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk).

EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/466

I would be grateful for confirmation in writing of whether exports from GB to your country need to be accompanied by an original phytosanitary certificate. Unless I hear otherwise, I will assume that electronic copies will be accepted in-lieu of the original PC in line with the above implementing regulation. The UK notified the Commission on 22 December 2020 of our intention to make use of this provision, where accepted by Member States.

Any questions regarding this note or GB's new Plant Health regime should be directed to the UK's IPPC official contact point via UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk.