



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Exporting plant and plant Product goods from EU into Great Britain

12 February 2021

Please note that these slides are correct as of 12/02/2021, but information may be subject to change. Please check the relevant UK government websites for the latest information.



Agenda

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Introduction to phased approach - EU to GB

- New sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) controls now apply for goods imported to GB from the EU from 1 January 2021
- Further controls will be introduced in stages up to **1 July 2021**, with different controls introduced at each stage for different commodities
- Some processes and procedures will be introduced in stages up to **1 July 2021** for the import of live animals, animal products, fish and shellfish and their products, plants and plant products and high-risk food and feed not of animal origin

Controls will be introduced in stages, and include the requirements for:

- Import pre-notifications (GB importer action)
- Health certification (such as an Export Health Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate)
- Documentary, identity and physical checks at the border or inland at places of destination
- Entry via a point of entry with an appropriately designated Border Control Post (BCP) with relevant checking facilities from **1 July 2021**

Imports - Plants and Plant Products (SPS)

- Requirement for pre-notification and phytosanitary certificates for 'high-priority' plants and plant products from **1 January 2021**
- Phytosanitary checks will take place away from the border at [registered](#) places of destination.
- An exhaustive list of 'high-priority' plants and plant products is [available here on GOV.UK](#).
- The requirement for phytosanitary certificates will be extended to all regulated plants and plant products, from **1 April 2021**
- For a list of plants and plant products that do not require SPS certificates, please refer to the GOV.UK website, [available here](#)
- From **1 July 2021**, there will be an increased number of physical and identity checks
- All checks will take place at Border Control Posts (BCPs)

Imports - Plants and Plant Products (SPS)

1 January 2021:

- Pre-notification and phytosanitary certificates are now required for 'high-priority' plants/products
- Documentary checks are being carried out remotely
- Physical checks are being carried out on 'high-priority' plants/products at registered places of destination or other authorised premises
- EU Exporters must apply for a phytosanitary certificate from the relevant competent authority in the country of origin
- GB Importers must submit import notifications prior to arrival, along with the phytosanitary certificate
- Checks are carried out by Plant Health and Seed Inspectors (PHSI) from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Forestry Commission (FC) in England and Wales, and the Scottish Government in Scotland

Imports - Plants and Plant Products (SPS)

1 April 2021:

- All regulated plants and plant products will be required to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate (i.e. not only those categorised as 'high-priority'), The full list has been published [online](#).

Plants which are exempt from a Phytosanitary Certificate

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pineapples• Kiwis• Coconut• Citrus• Kumquat• Bitter orange• Persimmon• Durian | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cotton (bolls)• Curry leaves• Banana and plantain• Mango• Dates• Passionfruit• Guava |
|--|--|

Imports - Plants and Plant Products (SPS)

1 July 2021:

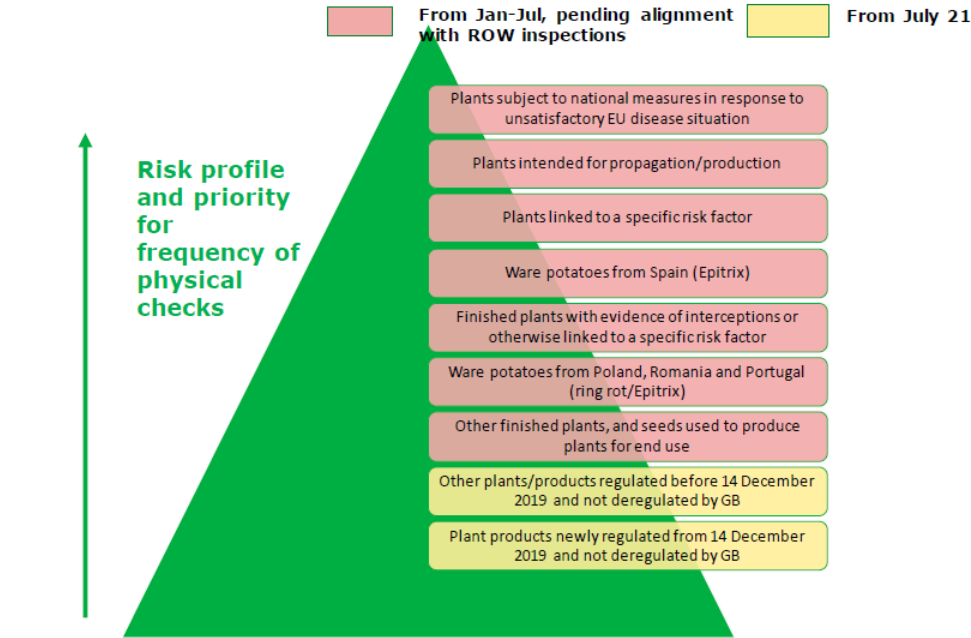
- Physical checks for plants/products increase
- Commodities subject to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) controls will need to enter via a Point of Entry with an appropriate Border Control Post (BCP). The full list of UK plant health designated BCPs is published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- All ID and physical checks for plants and their products will move to Border Control Posts, either at existing points of entry or at new inland sites
- Using Places of Destination for physical inspections will no longer be permitted.

Imports – Place of Destination (PoD)

- Between January and July 2021, goods classified as high-priority may be inspected at Places of Destination (PoD) which are commercial premises located inland away from the border.
- To register a PoD for physical inspections on EU high priority goods with APHA, the Forestry Commission or SASA, you must meet certain requirements.
- Once your PoD is registered with the relevant inspectorate, you will be able to select the PoD during the pre-notification process, to notify your GB inspector where the goods will be inspected.
- GB plant health services (APHA and Forestry Commission) will then undertake the physical checks at registered PoDs on a risk basis.
- Further details on the requirements and how to you can register at a PoD can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Imports – Place of Destination (PoD)

Risk hierarchy for EU import - plants



Imports – Place of Destination (PoD)

Service Level Agreements and Operational Hours

Physical checks will be conducted at Places of Destination on a risk-basis, specific to GB biosecurity objectives.

APHA

- Consignments can be inspected at registered Places of Destination 7 days a week, 7am-7pm.
- APHA will aim to inspect your consignment within four working hours of the time given for inspection by the importer as part of their pre-notification.
- APHA will be providing a flexible approach to manage demand e.g. some out of hours coverage and auto clearance mechanisms

Forestry Commission

- Consignments can be inspected Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm.
- The Forestry Commission will aim to tell businesses if their goods had been selected for inspection within three days of advance notification.

Imports – Fees and Charges

- Inspection fees on plants and plant products imported from the EU will be delayed in England and Wales until 1 April 2021 to help businesses adapt to the new import regime.
- HMT policy is that charges for statutory services should achieve full cost recovery. More details on current fees are available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Information about import inspection fees for goods originating in the EU will be published soon.
- There are no direct costs to registering as a place of destination (PoD). However, there may be set up costs to make sure the PoD meets the minimum requirements. Please check these requirements at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Imports – IT system

If you are importing plants and plant products to GB from 01 January 21 that are on the high priority list, Importers **must register with the PEACH system** and Government Gateway (To note this is an importer action)

Once registered, importers will be able to use the PEACH system to make a pre-notification and track the progress of consignments.

Pre-notification of goods on the relevant IT system will be required prior to arrival:

- 4 hours if being imported by air or via Roll-on Roll-off port
- 1 working day via other modes of transport

The PEACH system will be changing to a new IT service in early 2021. Until then, Importers should continue to use the PEACH system to make pre-notifications. Importers will be contacted to register for the new service before the change.

Further guidance on how to register and use the new IT system will be provided soon.

Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) - Introduction

- From April 2021, all regulated goods will require a phytosanitary certificate (PC) when entering GB and will follow the same process as for goods imported from third countries currently.
- A PC from the plant health authority in your country is required for each consignment.
- The PC is a statement from the plant health authority that the consignment:
 - has been officially inspected
 - meets the legal requirements to enter GB
 - is free from quarantine pests and diseases

Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) – Entering GB

- All regulated plants and plant products imported from the EU will need to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and may be checked upon entry into GB.
- A scanned copy of the PC may be submitted to the GB competent authority as per import notification requirements, provided the original PC is posted to the competent authority within three days of the consignment reaching GB.

Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) - Addresses

- The 'consignee' address included on an import PC should be that of the importer/consignee who is responsible for importing the goods into GB.
- Traders importing plants and plant products must have established a registered GB business premises or office and supply a valid name, address and contact details.
- In the event that an importer in GB does not have a registered GB business premises, they may use the services of a Customs agent to act as their proxy.
- If the importer is using a customs agent as their proxy, the PC should state the name of the importer (based outside GB); the name of the customs agent and the address of the customs agent.

Plants and Plant Products: FAQs

What do physical checks actually look like for these goods? Will every good be checked, or a sample from a consignment of goods?

- From 1 January 2021, most physical checks on high-priority plants and plant products from the EU will take place away from the border initially, and will be based on an assessment of risks
- Plants and plant products will be physically checked by examining the contents of consignments to ensure there is no evidence of the presence of harmful plant pests and diseases

Will importers incur any additional charges because of these new checks?

- Fees will not be applied until 1st April for checks on EU imports

Will this also mean any changes to imports from countries outside the EU?

- From 1 July 2021, a common import regime will ultimately apply to all third countries, so any changes will apply equally to EU and non-EU countries

GB Internal Movements – Plant Passports

- Imports from the EU which currently arrive into GB with an EU plant passport will instead need a phytosanitary certificate from 1 January 2021.
- A UK plant passport will be used for movements in GB from 1 January 2021
- The content and format will change to differentiate UK plant passports from EU plant passports.
- The EU plant passport will no longer be recognised as an official label in GB, however old EU plant passport labels will remain valid if in circulation before 1 January 2021.
- UK plant passports can be attached in an EU member state for the first 6 months of 2021, providing the format and attachment is correct. This will be reviewed in June 2021.
- However, an EU operator can't legally issue a UK plant passport under GB plant health rules

Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)

- Traders should check any potential CITES requirements by searching on Species+ .
- The UK will accept joint CITES-phytosanitary certificates used in lieu of CITES export permits.
- The point of entry to the UK needs to be a CITES designated port. The usual CITES and Plant Health declarations need to be made on the CDS/CHIEF and PEACH systems respectively.
- Traders should declare the shipment contains CITES goods for Border Force clearance purposes. Ports will have signage to direct exporters/importers to the Border Force offices where the CITES check will take place.
- The original copy of the joint CITES-phytosanitary certificate needs to travel with the shipment for UK Border Force to endorse. The original phytosanitary certificate will be retained by Border Force and sent directly to APHA.