Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Guidance on changes to the authorisation process under Statutory Instrument (SI) 2022/1020 and other updates

Version 1.1 October 2022

Introduction

Specific rules for the granting of authorisations (previously referred to as scientific licensing) to import specified material are included in the retained Regulation (EU) 2019/829. Changes to the retained Regulation (EU) 2019/829 were consulted on in Autumn 2021 and following that consultation the changes have been implemented as outlined below.

What has changed?

Retained Regulation (EU) 2019/829 has been amended under SI 2022/1020, The Pests of Plants (Authorisations) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, to address deficiencies and remove administrative requirements for authorisation holders without compromising biosecurity. All changes will be updated from 1st November 2022 when the changes will come into force.

A list of the changes is below:

- The layout of the letter of authority (LoA) (see Appendix 1 for an example). Amendments to authorisations after 1st November 2022 will receive the new LoA. For imports of material between the 1st November and 31st December 2022 existing LoAs are still valid. In England and Wales all authorisation holders will receive the new LoA by 1st January 2023. In Scotland all authorisation holders will receive the new LoA when required. Once received the new LoA should be used.

- The LoA is valid for multiple introductions (more than 1 import of specified material per year). If you will be carrying out multiple introductions you must include a reference number for each sending on your LoA. This should be in the form year/sending number i.e. 2022/01. A record of these reference numbers should be kept alongside your records of specified material entering and leaving the designated quarantine station or confinement facilities for 3 years (see Appendix 2). These records must be shown to your local plant health and seeds inspector at compliance visits.

- There is no requirement to get your LoA endorsed by any National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPO) when importing specified material. The same requirements for export and internal movement within GB still apply.

- As part of the authorisation application process the following information does not need to be provided:
    - the number of material sendings and the quantity per sending in the case of multiple sendings
    - the email address and phone number of the origin of the specified material

What other changes are ongoing?

There are several other changes due in the coming months relating to authorisations that the GB Plant Health Services wish to update you on:

- The legislative status of all organisms on plant pathogen and invertebrate authorisations is currently being reviewed in response to the plant health regulation. This means individual species may be taken off authorisations if they no longer require an authorisation to be imported or moved within GB. Authorisation holders will be updated on the outcome of these risk assessments as required.

- We are updating out technical guide for Authorisation holders and will circulate details of its location online once it is published.

For further information please contact:

For England and Wales:

The Centre for International Trade-Plant Health at: planthealthlicence@apha.gov.uk

For Scotland:

SASA at: Plant_health_licensing@sasa.gov.scot

Appendix 1: Example LoA with explanatory text. Text will be filled in as follows: Blue: pre-filled in when you receive your authorisation; Green: endorsement by GB competent authorities of origin; Red: authorisation holder to complete.

1. Name and address of the place of origin of the specified material, including country

«Include as much detail as possible about the origin of the material that is being imported»

Letter of Authority

for the introduction into, or movements within, England / Wales / Scotland of pests, plants, plant products and other objects for scientific or educational purposes, trials, varietal selection or breeding (issued under Articles 8 and 48(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU 2019/829)

2. Name, address, email address and phone number of person responsible for the specified activities

«Name and contact details of the person responsible for the authorisation»

3. Name of the responsible competent authority of issue (logo) delete other bodies as required.

«Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) / Welsh Government / Scottish Government»

4. Name and address of the Confinement facility/Quarantine station

«Containment facilities that are listed on the authorisation»at the above address

5. Declared point of entry for material introduced from a third country

Great Britain - «point of entry into GB e.g., Heathrow Airport, if not known can put not known»

6. Scientific name(s) when appropriate, or name of the specified material, including scientific name of the specified pest concerned and the country(s) of origin the material may be imported from:

«Specified material that is listed on the authorisation»

7. Quantity of specified material

«Quantity listed on the authorisation if the authorisation says not applicable (n.a.) that will be stated here»

8. Type of specified material

Authorisation for the introduction into, movement within, and holding, multiplication and use of «Specified material e.g., soil, plant pathogens etc»

9. Packaging and import / movement conditions

«Describe how the specified material will be transported e.g., 3 layers of containment by rail»

10. Additional declaration

This specified material is introduced into / moved within Great Britain territory under Articles 8 and 48(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/829

and plant health authorisation no«********»**

11. Date of issuance: Valid from «issue date» **to 31 December of the same year.**

Reference number of the sending: «this reference number should correspond to your records e.g., 001 / 2023»

Quantity per sending of the specified material: «quantity of material being imported»

12. Final Use (tick appropriate option or specify other):

☐ **Destruction**

☐ **Collection**

☐ **Storage**

☐ **Other, specify……**

13. For internal movement within GB only: endorsement by the competent authority of the relevant territory of GB from which material is moved:

Place of endorsement: «e.g., York / Scotland. This will be filled in by competent of authorities where material has come from e.g., SASA if from Scotland, APHA if from England or Wales»

Date: «of LoA endorsement»

Signature of authorised officer:

«*Signature of APHA / SASA personnel*»

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

«Name of APHA / SASA personnel»

14. Stamp of the responsible competent authority of Issue

Place of issue: «place from where the authorisation was issued e.g., York / Scotland»

Date: «e.g., 20th December 2021»

Signature of authorised officer:

«*Signature of APHA / SASA personnel*»

Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

«Name of APHA / SASA personnel»

Appendix 2

Records to be kept by authorisation holders of specified material entering and leaving quarantine stations or confinement facilities

Specified material (e.g., species, soil)	**Origin of specified material** (include as much detail as possible)	**Date received in quarantine station / containment facility**	**Quantity of material received**	**LoA reference number** (e.g., 2022/001)	**Final use of material** (destruction, stored moved elsewhere etc include dates and details)	**Notes** (other observations e.g., any issues)