

PLANT HEALTH – BREXIT

The following guidance is for the import and export of plants and plant products if there is no withdrawal deal between the UK and the EU.

1. IMPORTING PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS FROM THE EU

The majority of plants and plant products (including fruit, vegetables and cut flowers) imported from the EU will continue to enter the UK freely.

After the UK leaves the EU, any plants and plant products currently managed under the EU plant passport scheme will be subject to UK import controls and become 'regulated commodities'. This replaces the EU plant passport's assurance and traceability, and maintains biosecurity.

If you wish to import plants or plant products currently managed under the EU plant passport scheme, you'll need to:

- register as an importer in the territory of the UK where your EU plants or plant products first enter the UK (not the territory of destination).
- make sure any regulated commodities enter the UK with a phytosanitary certificate (PC) issued in the country of export (or re-export).
- provide pre-arrival notification and upload scanned copies of your PC and other related documents (for example the bill of lading, cargo movement request, or delivery company invoice) to the relevant UK plant health authority.
- supply the original copy of the PC by post within 3 days of your consignment arriving in the UK to the relevant UK plant health authority.

Plants and plant products originating in the EU will not be stopped at the border. PC's and relevant ID documents will receive a remote check in the territory of first landing in the UK and will not require the goods to be stopped inland. The remote checks will be charged by the relevant plant health authority. The plants or plant products will then be free to move to the import destination. Any further movement within the UK would require a UK plant passport.

Plant health inspectors will continue to carry out follow-up surveillance and inspections inland in line with current policies. The Scottish Government does not charge for such inspections.

Notice periods for imports originating in the EU that require a phytosanitary certificate

You must notify the relevant plant health authority of a consignment's arrival into the UK from the EU. There is no set notice period - you can give notice at any time up to the point that the consignment enters the UK.

2. IMPORTING PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES VIA THE EU

In a no deal scenario, the EU would no longer be obliged to carry out plant health checks on regulated third country goods going to the UK.

Plants and plant products that come from third countries via the EU without plant health checks by an EU member state will be treated as third-country imports.

Many plants and plant products entering the UK via the EU arrive at fast-moving roll-on roll-off (RoRo) ports where checks at the border would create significant disruptions to traffic. All third-country plant health controlled material arriving in the UK via RoRo ports requiring checks will have to go to a plant health approved facility for inspection.

These facilities include:

- Place of First Arrival (PoFA) - trade premises that have been authorised to host plant health controls on third country material entering the UK via the EU at RoRo ports.
- other facilities that have been authorised for Plant Health control ('alternative inspection posts').

You must ensure that plant health checks are carried out on third-country material entering the UK via the EU by doing one of the following:

- registering a place of first arrival (PoFA).
- using a non-RoRo point of entry where checks can take place at the border.
- using an 'alternative inspection post'

How to register as a place of first arrival

You may need to speak to suppliers about whether the plants and plant products they import from third countries are likely to move to the UK via the EU. Consider whether to apply for PoFA status before EU exit day.

To import third-country material that need plant health checks in the UK via RoRo ports, you'll need to have access to a PoFA. You can register your own PoFA by:

- reading the PoFA standards and take any necessary steps to ensure your premises meet the requirements.
- applying to be authorised by the relevant plant health authority - you'll need to complete the relevant PoFA form for plant and plant products.

To bring in material for checks at an authorised PoFA, you will need to:

- read the PoFA standards and take any necessary steps to ensure your premises meet the requirements.
- apply to be authorised by the relevant plant health authority. You'll need to complete the relevant PoFA form.
- for goods that are entering the UK via a RoRo port in Scotland or Northern Ireland, give notice to the relevant plant health authority.
- for goods that are entering the UK via a RoRo port in England or Wales, give notice of a consignment's arrival and its location to the plant health authority using the PEACH website.
- hold consignments at your premises until the plant health authority has carried out its checks and released the goods.

Notice periods for imports from third countries via the EU

You must give notice each time you bring a consignment of regulated goods to the UK from third countries for:

- Scotland: consignments being brought in by any route - 2 working days.
- England and Wales: consignments brought in by air - 4 working hours, and consignment being brought in by another route - 3 working days.

3. EXPORTING PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS TO THE EU

In a no deal scenario, the UK will become a third country and will need to meet EU third country import requirements to export regulated plants and plant products to the EU.

The process for sending regulated plants and plant products to the EU will be the same as the current process for sending them to third countries. When you export controlled plants and plant products to third countries, you need to:

- check whether a phytosanitary certificate (PC) is required by contacting the plant health authority or a plant health inspector in the destination country.
- apply for a PC from the relevant UK plant health authority before export.
- check if your plants require laboratory testing of samples to ensure they are free from pests and diseases or inspections during the growing season.

Controlled plant and plant products exports to the EU from the UK may be subject to checks at the EU border.

If you require more information about export requirements or wish to apply for a PC, contact the [Horticulture and Marketing Unit](#).

4. MOVING CONTROLLED PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS WITHIN THE UK

Plants and plant products currently covered by EU plant passports for movements within the UK will need to be moved with a UK plant passport.

When moving controlled plants in the UK, you'll need to:

- register with the relevant UK plant health authority.
- be authorised to issue plant passports.
- replace references to 'EU' with 'UK' when issuing plant passports.

5. HOW TO FIND YOUR RELEVANT UK PLANT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Contact the following for plants and plant products landing into or exported from:

- SCOTLAND: Scottish Government's [Horticulture and Marketing Unit](#).
- ENGLAND & WALES: Register and apply on [PEACH](#) for imports and [eDomero](#) system for exports.
- NORTHERN IRELAND: [DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch](#)
-