



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

19 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Stakeholder engagement for the review of *Agrilus planipennis* hosts

I am writing to notify you of a proposed change on the regulation of host species associated with *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald Ash Borer). These changes would take effect by May 2025.

Background

The phytosanitary import regime in Great Britain is not static and is kept under continuous review to ensure that it continues to address any biosecurity risk posed to the UK, and that it meets our WTO obligations by being risk-based.

Emerald Ash Borer is a highly damaging pest on ash trees. It is currently absent from the UK, although it has spread from Asia to North America and parts of Europe. It is currently regulated as a GB Quarantine Pest, with associated special requirements which apply to the import of plants and wood of specified hosts.

Proposal

We plan to update the current GB host list for Emerald Ash Borer, given the current evidence suggests there are altered risks to these species.

As a result of this evidence, we propose to remove *Juglans ailantifolia*, *J. mandshurica* (species of walnut) and *Pterocarya rhoifolia* (Japanese wignut) as hosts of Emerald Ash Borer. As a result, certain plants, wood and bark of these species will no longer need to meet specific import requirements to be imported into Great Britain.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

We also propose to regulate *Chionanthus virginicus* (fringetree) as a host of this pest, therefore certain plants, wood and bark of this species will need to comply with specific import requirements to be imported into Great Britain. Please see Appendix A below for the legislative details and the accompanying Appendix B for a summary of the evidence reviewed.

Any comments should be sent to plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk by **11 February 2025**.

Comments provided in response to this letter, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your comments. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully,

Richard McIntosh
Assistant Chief Plant Health Officer
Defra
T: +44 (0)208 026 2396
M: +44 (0)7767 357817
richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk

Appendix A - Specific import requirements for host plants (proposed changes in red)

Annex 7 of the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation¹

Part A: Plants, plant products and other objects originating in third countries which may only be introduced into Great Britain if special requirements are met

(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects	(2) Origin	(3) Requirements
50. Plants, other than fruit and seeds, of <i>Fraxinus</i> L., <i>Juglans ailantifolia</i> Carrière., <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> Maximowicz., <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> Planchon. and <i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i> Siebold & Zuccarini <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Any third country	<p>The plants must be accompanied by an official statement that the plants have been grown during a period of at least two years prior to export, or in the case of plants which are younger than two years, have been grown throughout their life, in an area established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM4 as an area that is free from <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire and that no part of the area lies within 100 km of a known outbreak of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire.</p> <p>*The name(s) of the area(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".</p> <p>A phytosanitary certificate may not include any such official statement unless the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin has previously provided the national plant protection organisation of the United Kingdom with written details of the area or areas.</p>
125. Wood of <i>Fraxinus</i> L., <i>Juglans ailantifolia</i> Carr., <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> Maxim., <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> Planch. and <i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i> Siebold & Zucc. <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> , other than in the form of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and 	Any third country, other than Canada and the USA	<p>The wood must be accompanied by:</p> <p>(a) an official statement that it has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1 kGy throughout the wood, or</p> <p>(b) an official statement that the wood originates in an area* established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM4 an area that is free from <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire and that no part</p>

¹ [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/2019](#)

<p>scrap, obtained in whole or part from these trees,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — wood packaging material, except associated controlled dunnage, <p>but including wood which has not kept its natural round surface, and furniture and other objects made of untreated wood</p>	<p>of the area lies within 100 km of a known outbreak of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire.</p>
	<p>* The name of the area(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading “Additional declaration”.</p>
	<p>A phytosanitary certificate may not include any such official statement unless the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin has previously provided the national plant protection organisation of the United Kingdom with written details of the area or areas.</p>

(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects	(2) Origin	(3) Requirements
<p>126. Wood of <i>Fraxinus</i> L., <i>Juglans ailantifolia</i> Carr., <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> Maxim., <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> Planch. and <i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i> Siebold & Zucc. <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>, other than in the form of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and scrap, obtained in whole or part from these trees, — wood packaging material, except associated controlled dunnage, <p>but including wood which has not kept its natural round surface, and furniture and other objects made of untreated wood</p>	<p>Canada and the USA</p>	<p>The wood must be accompanied by an official statement that it:</p> <p>(a) originates in an area* established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM4 as an area that is free from <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire and that no part of the area lies within 100 km of a known outbreak of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire,</p> <p>(b) has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1kGy throughout the wood, or</p> <p>(c) has been—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. debarked, all sawn wood being produced from such debarked wood**, II. heated through its profile to at least 71°C for 1200 minutes in a heat chamber approved by the relevant national plant protection organisation’s inspection service***, and III. dried following industrial drying schedules of a duration of at least two weeks, recognised by the relevant national plant protection organisation’s inspection service*** and the final moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10% expressed as a percentage of dry matter.
		<p>* The names(s) of the area(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading “Additional declaration”.</p>
		<p>A phytosanitary certificate may not include any such official statement unless the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin has previously provided the national plant protection organisation of the United Kingdom with written details of the area or areas.</p>
		<p>** The maximum tolerance level for residual pieces of bark is 50 cm² in area.</p>

*** The inspection services as officially approved by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin or the country of processing, namely Canada or the USA.

In the case of wood declared to comply with the requirements listed in point (c):

- (1) the wood must be produced, handled or stored in a facility**** which fulfils all the following requirements:
- I. it is officially approved by the relevant national plant protection organisation's inspection service pursuant to its certification programme for the pest *Agilus planipennis* Fairmaire,
 - II. it is registered in a database published by the relevant inspection service,
 - III. it is audited *****at least once per month by the relevant national plant protection organisation's inspection service, or an agency approved by that inspection service, which concludes in each audit that the facility has treated wood as per the requirements listed in point (c),
 - IV. it uses equipment for the treatment of the wood which has been calibrated consistently with the equipment's manual of operation,
 - V. it keeps records of its procedures for verification by the relevant national plant protection organisation's inspection service, or an agency approved by that inspection service, including the duration of treatment, temperatures during treatment and, for each specific bundle to be exported, the compliance check and final moisture content.

****The name of the facility or facilities must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".

*****Where these audits are performed by an agency approved by the relevant national plant protection organisation's inspection service, the relevant national plant protection organisation's inspection service must carry out six-monthly audits of this work. The six-monthly audits must include the verification of the procedures and documentation of the agency and audits at approved facilities.

(2) Each bundle of wood must visibly display both the unique bundle number and a label with the words "HTKD" or "Heat Treated-Kiln Dried". That label must be issued by, or under the supervision of, a designated officer of the approved facility after verifying that the processing requirements set out in point (c) and the requirements for facilities set out in point (1) have been complied with. The bundle number(s) corresponding to each specific bundle being exported must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".

(3) The wood must have been inspected before export by the relevant national plant protection organisation's inspection service, or an agency approved by that

inspection service, to ensure that the requirements laid down in point (c) and point (2) are met.

(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects	(2) Origin	(3) Requirements
126. Wood in the form of chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and scrap obtained in whole or in part from <i>Fraxinus</i> L., <i>Juglans ailantifolia</i> Carr., <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> Maxim., <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> Planch. and <i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i> Siebold & Zucc. <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> ,	Any third country	<p>The official statement must confirm that the wood originates in an area* established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM4 as an area that is free from <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire and that no part of the area lies within 100 km of a known outbreak of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire.</p> <p>* The name of the area(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".</p> <p>A phytosanitary certificate may not include any such official statement unless the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin has previously provided the national plant protection organisation of the United Kingdom with written details of the area or areas.</p>

(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects	(2) Origin	(3) Requirements
127. Isolated bark and objects made of bark of <i>Fraxinus</i> L., <i>Juglans ailantifolia</i> Carr., <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> Maxim., <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> Planch. and <i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i> Siebold & Zucc. <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> ,	Any third country	<p>The official statement must confirm that the bark originates in an area* established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM4 as an area that is free from <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire and that no part of the area lies within 100 km of a known outbreak of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> Fairmaire.</p> <p>* The name of the area(s) must be included in the phytosanitary certificate under the heading "Additional declaration".</p> <p>A phytosanitary certificate may not include any such official statement unless the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin has previously provided the national plant protection organisation of the United Kingdom with written details of the area or areas.</p>