



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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

13 May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Stakeholder engagement on changes to checks and fees relating to the import of plants, plant products and other objects.

I am writing to notify you of proposed changes to the **Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2022/739**, **Official Controls Regulation 2017/625**, **Plant Health etc. (Fees) (England) Regulations 2018/289**, the **Plant Health etc. (Fees) (Wales) Regulations 2018**, and the **Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2014**. These changes are intended to take effect in late 2024.

The proposed amendments make changes to allow risk-based documentary checks for plants, plant products, and other objects, from non-EU countries and amends associated documentary checking fees for these imported goods.

In addition, the proposed changes will implement amendments to fees for physical and identity import inspections for certain rest of the world goods. These follow changes in the frequency of import inspections for goods from the rest of the world.

Furthermore, the proposed changes reinsert the fees for checks of *Triticum L.*, *Secale L.* and *x Triticosecale*, from certain third countries, following their erroneous removal via the Plant Health (Fees) (England) and Official Controls (Frequency of Checks) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.

Any comments on the above proposed changes should be sent to plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk by **24 June 2024**.

Finally, the proposed amendments will also ensure that medium risk fruit and vegetables imported from the EU, are not subject to import checks or associated fees until 31 January 2025. We also propose that the current easement on checks on EU goods entering GB via West Coast Ports from the Republic of Ireland should continue to the end of the



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Transitional Staging Period. Please see Appendix A for further information regarding the proposed changes. Any comments on these aspects of the proposed changes should be sent to [plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:pestsrisks@defra.gov.uk) by **3 June 2024**.

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

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