



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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

29 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Stakeholder engagement for a new requirement on plants for planting

I am writing to notify you of a proposed change on the regulation of plants for planting imported from any third country.

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.

Plants for planting are generally considered as presenting a higher risk of pest introduction than other commodities. This is because, firstly, pests can survive, and possibly reproduce, on their living hosts or in growing media during transport of the plants for planting. Secondly, once at destination, the plants will remain planted or be replanted, facilitating survival and possible spread of the pest when hosts are likely to be nearby.

Proposal

We are proposing to introduce a requirement for all imports of plants for planting (excluding bulbs, corms, rhizomes, seeds, tubers, and plants in tissue culture) moving into Great Britain to have been grown on a registered nursery and have been inspected prior to export.

This would mean that it would not be possible for a phytosanitary certificate to be issued for plants grown in the wild, as they carry a greater biosecurity risk. Any nurseries exporting plants to GB would need to be registered and supervised by the National Plant Protection Organisation in the exporting country, meaning that there is likely to be a higher



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level of biosecurity applied on these nurseries. In addition, certain growers, such as private exporters, mail order traders and short notice exporters, that are not currently conducting inspections, would need to comply with this new requirement to import plants for planting into Great Britain.

Nurseries are not defined in legislation or in international standards therefore it was considered more appropriate to use place of production. This is defined in ISPM 5¹ as “Any premises or collection of fields operated as a single production or farming unit”. This may include production sites which are separately managed for phytosanitary purposes.

The proposed changes in legislation, to the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation², are detailed in the Appendix below.

Any comments should be sent to plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk by **7 October 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

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

¹ [Glossary of phytosanitary terms \(as adopted by CPM-17, 2023\) - International Plant Protection Convention \(ippc.int\)](https://www.ippc.int)

² [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 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/2072/oj)

Appendix A - Proposed addition to the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulations

Annex 7

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

<i>(1)</i> <i>Description of plants, plant products or other objects</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>Origin</i>	<i>(3)</i> <i>Requirements</i>
Plants for planting, other than bulbs, corms, rhizomes, seeds, tubers, and plants in tissue culture	Any third country	The plants must be accompanied by an official statement that they: (a) have been grown in a place of production, which is registered and supervised by the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin, and (b) have been inspected at appropriate times prior to export.