

## Update for October 2021

Since 1 January 2021, UK plant passports have been required for the movement of wood, wood products and isolated bark in England, Scotland and Wales. EU plant passports are no longer permissible. The format of UK plant passports is shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 with explanatory text.

Since 1 January 2021 EU plant passports cannot be used for the conifer with bark export trade from the Pest Free Area in west Scotland to Northern Ireland and/or the Republic of Ireland. Export Phytosanitary Certificates must be used for this trade and more details can be found at; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-wood-wood-products-and-bark-from-great-britain>

## Introduction

The adoption of timber plant passporting demonstrates the forest sector is committed to the highest standards of biosecurity. Furthermore, the use of plant passports by the forestry sector improves the awareness of biosecurity threats posed by quarantine pests such as the eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*), an outbreak of which is currently undergoing eradication in southern England.

UK legislation requires the use of UK plant passports for the movement of all conifers and *Castanea* species (including sweet chestnut) with bark and isolated bark of these species, including when mixed with bark from other species or other material. The format of these plant passports is shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 of this Overview. These species, and other species imported from third countries including EU member states, are collectively referred to as "Plant Health Forestry regulated material".

UK legislation requires the use of UK plant passports when moving *Juglans* (walnut), *Platanus* (plane) and *Pterocarya* (wingnut) (with or without bark) and isolated bark of these species (except the isolated bark of *Platanus*), including when mixed with bark from other species or other material. Please see Annex 1 for more detail.

For these species, a plant passport is required at each stage of the transport chain where whole or chipped round wood (including brush and stumps) is moved from the harvesting site and/or site of aggregation, to the processor. A plant passport is also required for the movement of bark from a wood processor to a bark processor, and for isolated bark moved between bark processors and to retailers & some final users (see Annex 1 for more detail). A plant passport is also required for cut Christmas trees over 3 metres tall and for cut conifer foliage taken from trees over 3 metres tall. Plant passports are required for plants for planting, please contact the Animal Plant Health Agency for further details about passports for plants for planting on [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk).

## Benefits

1. The UK Government and Devolved Administrations support the overall aims of the Plant Health Regulation (PHR). Implementation of the PHR strengthens biosecurity assurance across key elements of the UK's plant health regime, as well as product traceability through a risk-based approach that does not place unnecessary burdens on industry.
2. Using plant passports for movement of wood and wood products (described above) enables the UK forestry sector to maintain awareness of conifer bark beetles and other known and unknown emerging pests. This ensures the UK protects its valuable and diverse tree, woodland and forested resource.

At present, paper, cardboard or plastic plant passports must be used. As a trial, electronic plant passports can be used to supplement these hard copy plant passports.

## Definitions

Table 1 identifies the roles and responsibilities involved in the management of plant passports. The Forestry Commission is directly responsible for managing Plant Health forestry regulated material in England, as well as having delegated responsibility for managing this material for the Devolved Administrations of Wales and Scotland.

**Table 1 Roles & responsibilities**

<b>PHR Article 2 Definitions</b>	<b>Forestry context</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Competent authority (CA)	Forestry Commission (authority delegated by Scottish Government & Welsh Government) & DAERA in Northern Ireland	The Forestry Commission and DAERA manage the registration, authorisation, approval and inspection of professional operators who issue plant passports for the movement of Plant Health forestry regulated material. Each CA maintains a register of registered authorised operators.
Registered Authorised Professional Operator (RAPO)	A business with the necessary registration and authorisation to issue plant passports for the movement of certain wood, wood products and bark	Examples of RAPOs may include; processors (i.e. an operator processing wood, wood products and bark, e.g. sawmills panel board manufacturers, bark processors), management companies, merchants and timber contractors. Forest owners will not normally issue passports unless they are responsible for the movement of timber from the forest.

Table 2 identifies the Plant Health forestry regulated material that requires a plant passport when moved within GB. Implementation of the regulation will initially be targeted according to biosecurity risk, prioritising the highest volumes in trade and the likelihood of infested material being present. Plant passports for the movement of sawdust, chipped wood (co-products), fuelwood and slab-wood (de-barked or non-de-barked) and wood packaging material are considered to be a lower priority than round wood, brash, stumps and isolated bark.

**Table 2 Plant Health forestry regulated material where a plant passport is required**

<b>Type of wood, wood product and bark</b>	<b>Transport (road, rail and sea) where a plant passport is required</b>
Round wood in the whole, e.g. whole trees, small round wood and saw logs	Any stage of the transport chain where whole or chipped round wood is moved from the site of felling to the processor. All movement of isolated bark between processors and to the retailer & some final users. See Annex 1 for more details.
Wood chips processed from brash round wood or stumps on harvesting sites or other sites where aggregation takes place	
Transport of isolated bark	
Christmas trees over 3 metres & cut foliage (sourced from trees over 3 metres in height) of species <i>Abies</i> , <i>Picea</i> , <i>Pinus</i> and <i>Pseudotsuga</i> , with or without roots	
Brash, i.e. cut branches, discarded stem wood, tree tops and dead & live trees.	
Isolated bark, created by processing operations such as de-barking	Means bark which has been removed or become detached from a living, felled or fallen tree or from any part of such tree.

## Notes

### Notes

1 . “forestry material” (The Official Controls (Plant Health and Genetically Modified Organisms) (England) Regulations 2019 means—

- (a) wood which retains part or all of its natural round surface, with or without bark;
- (b) wood in the form of chips, particles, shavings, sawdust, wood waste or scrap;
- (c) conifer trees over 3m in height;
- (d) bark which has been removed or become detached from, or from part of, a living, felled or fallen tree;

2. Bark-free wood: wood from which all bark, except in-grown bark around knots, and bark pockets between annual growth rings, has been removed (see ISPM15 )

3. “regulated item” (The Official Controls (Plant Health and Genetically Modified Organisms) (England) Regulations 2019 means—

- (a) any plant, plant product or other object to which an EU plant health rule applies, other than any plant, plant product or other object which is part of a controlled consignment; or
- (b) a controlled plant pest.


## Layout of a plant passport

Examples of Standard UK plant passports are shown for the movement of conifer wood, wood products, isolated bark and controlled Christmas trees, conifer cut foliage and conifer brush/stumps within GB. In Figures 1, 2 and 3, the elements of the Standard UK plant passport are annotated by red numerals with an explanation below.

**Figure 1 Standard UK Plant Passport incorporated into a delivery advice note for moving Plant Health forestry regulated material within GB**

Woodlands Management  
Ltd, Goodtown, Oldshire


**DELIVERY ADVICE NOTE**

Forest Name		Sustainable Forest		Certification Status	FSC 100%	Delivery Advice Note Number		123456		
WM Contract No.		5350032		Certificate Number	AA-COC-0000000	PIN Supplier Ref.				
Customer Name & Delivery Site				<b>ABC Sawmills, Wuden</b>				Supplier Contract No.		Sustainable Forest Cpt 1
				Stock location:		Customr Ref.				
Haulier		Wonder Wood		Vehicle Reg		AA00WUD		Contractor		Contract Harvesting Ltd
Species		SS		Product		green logs		specification		4.8 x 16
Collection date		10/06/2019		Delivery Date		10/06/2019		Delivery Time		3.40 pm
Gross		43.62		Tare		17.10		Nett		26.52
				Received by				<i>A. X. O'ker</i>		
<b>UK Plant Passport 1</b>										
<b>A : Pinales 2</b>		<b>B: FC***** 3</b>		<b>C: 123456 4</b>		<b>D: GB 5</b>		 Plant passport 6		

Original to be returned to the above address

Deliveries are made on the terms outlined in the Woodlands Management Ltd CONDITIONS OF TIMBER SALE

**Figure 2 Standard UK Plant Passport not incorporated into a delivery advice note for moving Plant Health forestry regulated material within GB**

<p><b>UK Plant Passport 1</b></p> <p><b>A Pinales 2</b></p> <p><b>B FC***** 3</b></p> <p><b>C free text to include traceability code of wood, wood product or bark 4</b></p> <p><b>D GB 5</b></p> <p>  <b>6</b> </p>
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**Figure 3 Standard UK Plant Passport (tick box version) for moving Plant Health forestry regulated material within GB**

UK Plant Passport <b>1</b>	
<b>A</b> <b>2</b>	Species: tick relevant box
	Conifer: Pinales
	Sweet chestnut: (all <i>Castanea</i> species)
	Walnut (all <i>Juglans</i> species)
	Plane: (all <i>Platanus</i> species)
	Wingnut (all <i>Pterocarya</i> species)
<b>B</b>	FC***** <b>3</b>
<b>C</b>	Traceability code, e.g. delivery advice note numbers <b>4</b>
<b>D</b>	GB <b>5</b>

1. The words "UK Plant Passport".
2. The botanical name(s) of the plant(s) species or taxon(s) concerned. For all conifers the Order Pinales can be used and for sweet chestnut *Castanea* must be used. For plane, *Platanus* must be used, *Juglans* is used for walnut and *Pterocarya* is used for wingnut.
3. The alphabetical and numerical national registration number of the professional operator concerned.
4. The traceability code (delivery advice note numbers can be used) of the plant, plant product or the other object concerned.
5. The two-letter code for the origin, i.e. GB is used for UK.
6. As an example but not necessary at present, a QR code is shown which can support the trial of electronic passports. QR codes can also be used to supplement (but not replace) the traceability code.

When using a tick box UK Plant Passport as shown in Figure 3, the identity of the material being moved must be shown by ticking the appropriate box. If no regulated material is being moved, then no boxes must be ticked. Tick box plant passports can be incorporated into delivery advice notes or used as stand alone documents.

## Annual Inspections

The competent authority must complete annual inspections of the Registered Authorised Professional Operators issuing plant passports. This is necessary to ensure compliance with the Plant Health Regulation. This inspection frequency may be reduced to once every two years, where the RAPO has a Pest Risk Management Plan approved by the competent authority that has been in place for two years. The inspections will take place at locations where the plant passport records are available for review. The inspections will be subject to a fee payable to the competent authority. Should plant passport information need to be reviewed at regional/satellite locations as well as a primary/HQ location then a separate fee will be levied for each inspection. These fees are set out in the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 (as amended).

## Use of Official documents

- a) For movements of conifer with bark out of the Pest Free Area in Scotland, to Northern Ireland a phytosanitary certificate will be used and not an EU or UK plant passport.
- b) For movements of conifer with bark out of the Pest Free Area in Scotland, to the Republic of Ireland, a phytosanitary certificate will be used.
- c) For movements within, into and out of the Pest Free Area in Scotland, to locations within GB, a standard UK (non Pest Free Area) plant passport will be used.
- d) For all movements within GB, a standard UK (non Pest Free Area) plant passport will be used.
- e) For all movements within GB, a standard UK plant passport (non Pest Free Area) will be used for Platanus, Juglans and Pterocarya.

Forestry Commission, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## Annex 1

### 1. Isolated bark

Under the Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031, isolated bark is treated as a plant product and, where necessary, it is regulated separately to wood through the EU Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation [2019/2072](#). The plant passport system requires that the professional operator responsible for commissioning the transport of Plant Health Forestry regulated material issues the UK plant passport.

The plant passport system requires movements of isolated bark from a primary processor (e.g. sawmill) to their customers and also between other processors (i.e. those processors managing bark) to be moved with a UK plant passport. UK Plant passports are required in the delivery supply chain to retailers (but not their final user customers) and also to single end users such as landscaping companies, stables, equestrian centres, horse racing trainers and farms. Phytosanitary Certificates must be used for all movements of isolated conifer bark to EU Protected Zones such as Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland where pest freedom from six types of bark beetle is required, i.e. *Dendroctonus micans*, *Ips amitinus*, *Ips cembrae*, *Ips duplicatus*, *Ips sexdentatus*, *Ips typographus*.

A UK plant passport must be used when moving regulated isolated bark within GB. This includes regulated isolated bark that is mixed with non regulated bark and/or other material, for uses which will include horticultural mulch, biomass fuel, track/arena surfaces and animal litter.

### 2. Arboriculture

Arboriculture is generally defined and understood as “the management of individual trees or small groups of trees for amenity”. Professional operators must make their own judgement as to whether their activities meet the definition of arboriculture.

We are not currently prioritising the registration of professional operators who are primarily involved in that movement of regulated material arising from arboricultural operations but registrations will be processed where there is an immediate business need, i.e. Chain of Custody requirements. The exception to this prioritisation is the genus *Platanus* (includes Plane trees) due to the quarantine pest *Ceratocystis platani* and the prevalence of *Platanus* in some civic locations. In order to support best biosecurity practice, professional operators who are managing operations with plane trees and who commission the movement of plane material, must issue a plant passport when moving plane material to a processing site. A plant passport is not required for moving material to final users.

Operators who are registered and authorised to issue plant passports for other purposes would be expected to comply with the legislation on Plant Health forestry regulated material, including that arising from arboricultural sites. Operators also need to be aware that some end-users, like biomass companies, may specify that plant passports accompany all regulated material, regardless of its origin.



### 3. UK Plant Passports replacing Phytosanitary Certificates

Please see this link for the latest updates on this subject area. The text below was extracted in September 2021. <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/eu-exit-guidance/plant-passporting/factsheet-the-post-transition-period-and-plant-passports/>

#### Imports with EUPPs

- Imports from the EU which currently arrive into GB with an EU Plant Passport (PP) will have to be imported with a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) post-transition period. More information about imports from the EU from 1st January 2021 can be found on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk).
- The process for replacing a PC with a PP will remain the same, and the replacement should take place at the First Place of Destination.
- If the commodities you trade in require a PP now, but you simply move them on under their existing EU PP, from 1 January 2021 you may need to be authorised to issue a UK PP for them. If you are already authorised to issue PPs then you don't need a new authorisation to do this. More detail regarding cases where you need to issue a UK PP are below.
- EU PPs do not need to be invalidated when they enter GB, as the format is different to the UK PP they can easily be differentiated, and the EU PP considered invalid automatically.
- If you brought in goods under a PC, you only need to issue a UK PP for your goods if you are:
  - a. Moving them to another professional operator;
  - b. Selling them to final users (those buying for personal use) by means of distance contract, e.g. online;
  - c. Moving them to another of your own premises which is more than 10 miles from the premises to which the consignment arrived;
  - d. If the phytosanitary status of the consignment changes, for example, if it has been grown on (more information on what is classed as growing on can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) under Part D of 'Make a plant passport'), or if they have been reconfigured (e.g. two plants in separate pots have been planted up in a new pot together).
- Until 30th June 2022, we will allow UK PPs to be attached in an EU member state. This approach will be subject to ongoing review to monitor levels of non-compliance and any resulting biosecurity risk. Those UK PPs should be in the correct format (outlined in Section 1 and Annex I of this factsheet) and should be attached correctly. Guidance on attachment is available on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and our Plant Health Portal.
- However, it should be noted that this extends only to the act of affixing a UK PP. EU operators will not be authorised to issue UK PPs. This means that it will be the GB operator who is responsible for the First Place of Destination of the relevant consignment who will need to be authorised to issue those

plant passports and would be audited under the plant passport regime. It is also the GB operator's registration number that will go in Part B of the UK PP.

- The UK PPs will have no legal status until they reach that First Place of Destination in GB. Non-compliances will be the responsibility of the GB operator and may prevent plants from being able to move on from the First Place of Destination.
- Information on how to become registered and authorised to issue PPs can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). This process will not change post-transition period.

#### 4. Receiving material that has been plant passported

Professional operators who receive material that has originated in GB, which is plant passported (who do **not** subsequently move that material to other users) **are not required to be registered to receive plant passported material**. An example where registration is not required, is a professional operator managing a biomass unit, burning chipped wood mix, where all the material is burnt on site and the biomass burner operator is not responsible for commissioning the transport of the regulated material. However, if a professional operator introduces or moves material into GB that requires a phytosanitary certificate, then registration will be required.

#### 5. Christmas Tree update

Growers supplying conifer Christmas trees over 3 metres tall, tops cut from trees over 3 metres tall or foliage collected from trees over 3 metres tall direct to final user

When a grower supplies directly to a final user, the use of a plant passport to support movement is not currently required. Final users include domestic customers, churches, pubs & hotels, clubs, halls, schools, businesses, civic authorities and other similar establishments.

Growers supplying conifer Christmas trees over 3 metres tall, tops cut from trees over 3 metres tall or foliage collected from trees over 3 metres to wholesalers/retailers

When growers supply directly to a wholesaler or retailer, or a wholesaler supplies directly to a retailer, the use of a plant passport is required to support movement. However, when/if a retailer supplies directly to a final user, the use of a plant passport to support movement is not currently required.

If you trade in Christmas trees in England and Wales, you may need to be authorised to issue plant passports. APHA will provide authorisation if you need to move:

- potted trees
- cut trees of any size - this includes cut trees of more than 3 metres

If you only move cut trees of more than 3 metres, you should be [authorised by the Forestry Commission](#).

You should only be registered to issue plant passports with either APHA or the FC, but not both.

## 6. Firewood

Professional operators who import firewood into GB must ensure that regulated material is accompanied by the necessary phytosanitary certificate. Section 4 of this Annex 1 applies to material imported into GB.

Professional operators who commission the transport of regulated wood, wood products and bark from the forest/wood or site of aggregation to a processing site must use a UK plant passport for the material. Plant passports are not currently required for the movement of GB origin firewood to retailers and final users but registrations/authorisations will be processed where there is a business need e.g. Chain of Custody requirements.

## 7. Exceptions for movements within and between the premises of the same registered professional operator (close proximity 10 miles)

Where regulated wood, wood product and bark material is moved within and between the premises **of the same** registered professional operator, a UK plant passport is not required for movements completed within a 10 mile radius. Such movements include those taking place on managed land where tree felling and wood processing take place in close proximity. UK Plant passports may be required for movements of regulated material to subsequent supply chains, for example isolated bark to commercial growers. A close proximity exemption can be used on islands no larger than Mull, where plant passports are not required for transport of regulated material between the felling coupe and the boat loading point. A plant passport may however be required for the transport of the material from the island's pier to the final destination.

## 8. Useful websites

To register as a professional operator with the Forestry Commission and to access e-learning for plant passporting wood, wood products and isolated bark, please see this link; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-professional-operator-to-issue-plant-passports>

To find out more information about plant passporting please see this link; <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/eu-exit-guidance/plant-passporting/>