



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

20 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Response to stakeholder engagement on the introduction of import checks and fees on medium risk goods from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland**

Thank you for submitting views on the above stakeholder engagement. This letter is to notify you of the outcome.

### **Background**

On 29 August 2023, the UK Government published the final Border [Target Operating Model](#) (BTOM) that introduces a new approach to phytosanitary (SPS) controls applying to imports of plants and plants products at the border. Defra and the Scottish and Welsh Governments will implement the new SPS regime in accordance with the timetable detailed in the TOM, with the second stage, coming into force by 30 April 2024.

### **Proposal**

To introduce documentary and risk-based identity and physical checks on medium-risk plants and plant products from the EU, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. We also intend to update fees relating to imports of certain goods from Rest of World (RoW) countries in response to a change in inspection frequencies for such goods.

### **Summary of responses**

Three responses were received; two from Scottish businesses who raised no concerns with the proposals and one from the NFU which highlighted concerns related to the flat rate fee for plants for planting and the definition of final user. NFU commented that the flat rate fee should be extended to include bulbs for planting. The NFU also suggested that the



definition of 'final user' should be expanded to include businesses which import plants that then never leave their commercial facilities (e.g. importing young plants for the greenhouse production of edible fruit).

### Response:

*The NFU's responses are outside the scope of this current consultation which focussed on medium risk goods from the EU (bulbs are a high risk good). Flat rate fees for England and Wales were consulted on in 2022 (please see the response [here](#)). During this consultation, only one business responded specifically on bulbs, and they were not supportive of the flat rate fee being applied to bulbs. We are grateful for the comments received from the NFU in this current consultation period and will consider further with respect to the flat rate fee.*

*Since 1 January 2021, GB has operated its own sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime, which is focused on addressing the risks it faces. This regime includes risk-based import checks of plants, plant products and other objects to avoid the introduction of harmful plant pests and diseases. These risk-based checks are in line with WTO/SPS principles and consistent with our obligations under the EU Withdrawal Act.*

*'Final user' is defined within the Plant Health Regulation (2016/2031) as "any person acting for purposes which are outside that person's trade, business or profession who acquires plants or plant products for personal use". This definition allows private individuals, taking part in very low risk movements of plants and plant products, to be subject to lower levels of plant health controls appropriate to the risk posed.*

*Commercial movements and uses of plants represent a higher risk due to the quantities and practices involved, as such higher frequencies of import checks apply. For example, greenhouse production of tomatoes poses a known risk of spreading several GB quarantine pests should these be present on imported plants. Where risk assessments allow, a lower frequency of import check is applied. This is the case when bulbs are imported for commercial cut flower production, where a 10% import check (and fee) is applied.*

*To support businesses in adopting the new EU-GB requirements, the UK Government took the decision to introduce new measures in phases for the import of EU plants and plant material. This has allowed us to protect GB biosecurity whilst maintaining the efficient trade in goods such as plants and plant products.*

*The scope of the BTOM is beyond the EU. It creates a new global regime, aimed at making the border easier to use and, where possible, reducing processes and administrative burdens on businesses. The BTOM will deliver a suite of new digital improvements and digital systems to improve efficiencies across border processes, and data will be used to inform the risk profile of commodities being moved across the border.*

### **Next steps**

The responses received were generally supportive of the proposal. Defra and the Scottish and Welsh Governments intend to implement this proposal from 30 April 2024.

Medium risk EU goods will be subject to checks from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. For details of medium risk EU goods please see the [Plant Health Portal](#). Fruit and vegetables from the EU are currently excluded from import checks. For England and Scotland, the expected

fees for physical and identity checks are detailed in Annex 1, and fees for reduced documentary checks for medium risk goods from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are detailed in Annex 2.

I would like to thank those responding for taking the time to submit views on the stakeholder engagement. Your comments have been very valuable in working to develop a policy position.

If you have any views about how this review was handled, or its outcome, please let me know.

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](mailto:richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk)

## Annex 1. Indicative fees for England for physical and identity checks for imports

<i>Category and description of plant, plant product or other object</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Fee: Physical check (£)</i>	<i>Fee: Identity check (£)</i>
<b>Bulbs, corms, rhizomes, tubers (other than tubers of potatoes), onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other alliaceus vegetables, dormant, not in substrate</b>			
<i>All genera intended for planting, other than commercial flower production, and not intended for final users(1)</i>	Any third country	205.04	5.25
<i>All genera intended for planting, and intended for commercial flower production, or for final users</i>	Any third country	20.50	0.52
<b>Cuttings, seedlings intended for planting, not specified or included anywhere else in this table</b>			
<i>All genera</i>	Any third country	32.15	1.57
<b>Plants for planting</b>			
<i>Woody plants(2) (other than specified or included elsewhere in this table), intended for planting and intended for final users(1).</i>	Any third country	32.15	1.57
<i>All genera</i>			
<i>Non-woody plants(3) (other than specified or included elsewhere in this table), intended for planting.</i>	Any third country	32.15	1.57
<i>All genera</i>			
<i>Indoor plants(4). All genera</i>	Any third country	32.15	1.57
<i>Other plants (other than specified or included elsewhere in this table), intended for planting. All genera</i>	Any third country	32.15	1.57
<b>Cut flowers</b>			
<i>Dendranthema (DC.) Des Moul. (Chrysanthemum L.)</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.28	0.15
	Columbia or Ecuador	21.37	2.62
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Columbia, Ecuador, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.13	0.26
<i>Eryngium Tournier ex Linnaeus.</i>	Any third country other than an EU Member State, European third country, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	4.27	0.52
<i>Lisianthus L.</i>	Any third country other than an EU member state, European third country, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	4.27	0.52

<i>Category and description of plant, plant product or other object</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Fee: Physical check (£)</i>	<i>Fee: Identity check (£)</i>
<i>Rosa</i> L.	Colombia or Ecuador	1.28	0.15
	Canada, India, Mexico or the USA	21.37	2.62
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Switzerland or the USA	2.13	0.26
<i>Solidago</i> L.	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.28	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	4.27	0.52
<i>Other genera not specified or included elsewhere in this table</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.28	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.13	0.26
<b>Branches with foliage, parts of Conifers (other than bark or cut Christmas trees)</b>			
<i>All genera</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.01	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.69	0.26
<b>Fruit, vegetables, leaves</b>			
<i>Momordica</i> L.	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	26.55	2.62
<i>Ocimum</i> L.	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.15	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	35.84	2.62
<i>Solanaceae</i> Juss. (other than <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L. <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> , <i>Solanum</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15

<i>Category and description of plant, plant product or other object</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Fee: Physical check (£)</i>	<i>Fee: Identity check (£)</i>
<i>melongena</i> L. and <i>Capsicum</i> sp.)	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	26.55	2.62
	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>		
	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Morocco	2.65	0.26
	Canary Islands	13.27	1.31
	Any third country other than the Canary Islands, an EU Member State, Liechtenstein, Morocco or Switzerland	53.10	5.25
<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Turkey	15.93	1.57
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein, Switzerland or Turkey	26.55	2.62
<i>Capsicum</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	53.10	5.25
<i>Zea mays</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	53.10	5.25
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than Cameroon, an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.65	0.26
	Cameroon	53.10	5.25
<i>Persea americana</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU	2.65	0.26

<i>Category and description of plant, plant product or other object</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Fee: Physical check (£)</i>	<i>Fee: Identity check (£)</i>
<i>Vitis</i>	Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland		
	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.65	0.26
<i>Malus</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	European third countries(5)	7.96	0.78
	Argentina	18.58	1.83
	Chile	2.65	0.26
	New Zealand	5.31	0.52
	South Africa	7.96	0.78
	Any third country other than Argentina, Chile, an EU Member State, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland or European Third countries(5)	53.10	5.25
<i>Pyrus</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Argentina	13.27	1.31
	Chile	7.96	0.78
	South Africa	5.31	0.52
	Any third country other than Argentina, Chile, an EU Member State, Liechtenstein, South Africa or Switzerland	53.10	5.25
<i>Fragaria</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.65	0.26
<i>Rubus</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.65	0.26

<i>Category and description of plant, plant product or other object</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Fee: Physical check (£)</i>	<i>Fee: Identity check (£)</i>
<i>Vaccinium</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	European third countries(5)	26.55	2.62
	Argentina	13.27	1.31
	Chile	5.31	0.52
	Peru	5.31	0.52
	Any third country other than Argentina, Chile, an EU Member State, Liechtenstein, Peru, Switzerland or European Third Countries(5)	53.10	5.25
	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59
Any third country other than Cameroon, an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland		2.65	0.26
Cameroon		53.10	5.25
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	53.10	5.25
<i>Other genera or species of fruit or vegetables not specified or included elsewhere in this table</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	1.59	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.65	0.26
<i>Other leaves not specified or included elsewhere in this table</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	2.15	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	3.58	0.26
<b>Seeds (for sowing), tissue cultures</b>			
<i>All genera, for trials or testing</i>	Any third country	12.81	0.52
<i>Brassicaceae</i> (other than for trials or testing)	Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand or Uruguay	128.13	5.25
<i>Capsicum</i> spp. L. (other than for trials or testing)	Any third country	128.13	5.25

<i>Category and description of plant, plant product or other object</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Fee: Physical check (£)</i>	<i>Fee: Identity check (£)</i>
<i>Poaceae</i> (other than for trials or testing)	Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand or Uruguay	128.13	5.25
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L. (other than for trials or testing)	Any third country	128.13	5.25
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L. (True seed) (other than for trials or testing)	Any third country	128.13	5.25
<i>Trifolium</i> spp. (other than for trials or testing)	Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand or Uruguay	128.13	5.25
<i>Other genera or species not specified or included elsewhere in this table</i>	Any third country	6.40	0.26
<b>Grain (other than seeds for sowing)</b>			
<i>Secale</i> L.	Afghanistan, India, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa or the USA	142.98	5.25
<i>Triticum</i> L.	Afghanistan, India, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa or the USA	142.98	5.25
X <i>Triticosecale</i> Wittm. ex A. Camus	Afghanistan, India, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa or the USA	142.98	5.25
<b>Tubers of potatoes</b>			
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L. (seed potatoes)	Any third country	156.69	5.25
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L. (ware potatoes)	Egypt, Poland, Portugal or Romania	78.34	2.62
	Spain	156.69	5.25
	Any third country other than Egypt, Poland, Portugal, Romania or Spain	4.70	0.15
<b>Cut Christmas trees (less than 3 metres in height)</b>			
<i>All genera</i>	Any EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	3.58	0.15
	Any third country other than an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland	5.98	0.26
<b>Machinery or vehicles which have been operated for agricultural or forestry purposes</b>	Any third country	5.98	0.26

For Scotland, indicative plant health import fees are attached [here](#).

## Annex 2 Indicative fees for documentary checks

<i>Category and description of plant or plant product</i>	<i>England Fee (documentary check) (£)</i>	<i>Scotland Fee (documentary check) (£)</i>
<b>Cut Flowers</b>		
<i>Dendranthema</i> (DC.) Des Moul. ( <i>Chrysanthemum</i> L.)	0.15	0.18
<i>Rosa</i> L.	0.15	0.18
<i>Solidago</i> L.	0.15	0.18
Other genera not specified or included <i>elsewhere in this table</i>	0.15	0.18
<b>Branches with foliage, parts of Conifers (other than bark or cut Christmas trees)</b>		
<i>All genera</i>	0.15	0.18
<b>Fruit, vegetables, leaves</b>		
<i>Momordica</i> L.	0.15	0.18
<i>Ocimum</i> L.	0.15	0.18
<i>Solanaceae</i> Juss. (other than <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.)	0.15	0.18
<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.	0.15	0.18
<i>Other genera or species of fruit or vegetables not specified or included elsewhere in this table</i>	0.15	0.18
<i>Other leaves not specified or included elsewhere in this table</i>	0.15	0.18
<b>Cut Christmas trees (less than 3 metres in height)</b>		
<i>All genera</i>	0.15	0.18