



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)

**19 November 2024**

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Stakeholder engagement on the regulation of conifer plants**

I am writing to notify you of a proposed change on the regulation of conifer plants. 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.

Due to changes in taxonomy, all conifer species are now encompassed at the class level (Pinopsida) rather than the order level (Pinales). However, GB legislation currently regulates conifer species at the order level (Pinales).

### **Proposal**

We plan to update the references to all conifer species, given that the class level (Pinopsida) is now the internationally recognised name for conifers. Currently, certain conifer species are not categorised under Pinales and unintentionally fall out of scope for certain measures targeted towards conifer plants.

Please see the accompanying Appendix for the proposed legislative changes.

Any comments should be sent to [plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto: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)



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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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## Appendix A - Specific import requirements (proposed changes in red)

### Annex 7 of the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation<sup>1</sup>

**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
43.	Plants, other than fruit and seeds, of <b>Pinales Pinopsida</b>	Any third country	The plants must be accompanied by an official statement that the plants have been produced in a nursery and that they originate in a place of production which has been established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM10 as a place of production that is free from <i>Pissodes cibriani</i> O'Brien, <i>Pissodes fasciatus</i> Leconte, <i>Pissodes nemorensis</i> Germar, <i>Pissodes nitidus</i> Roelofs, <i>Pissodes punctatus</i> Langor & Zhang, <i>Pissodes strobi</i> (Peck), <i>Pissodes terminalis</i> Hopping, <i>Pissodes yunnanensis</i> Langor & Zhang and <i>Pissodes zitacuarensis</i> Sleeper.

	(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects	(2) Origin	(3) Requirements
44.	Plants of <b>Pinales Pinopsida</b> , other than fruit and seeds, over 3 m in height	Any third country other than: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, EU Member States, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Russia (only the following parts: Central Federal District (Tsentralny federalny okrug), Northwestern Federal District (Severo-Zapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District	The plants must be accompanied by an official statement that they have been produced in a nursery and that they originate in a place of production which has been established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM10 as a place of production that is free from <i>Scolytidae</i> spp. (non-European).

<sup>1</sup> [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](#)

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(Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug)  
and Volga Federal District  
(Privolzhsky federalny okrug)), San  
Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey,  
and Ukraine

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## Annex 11 of the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation

**Part A: List of plants, plant products and other objects and the respective third countries of origin or dispatch, which may not be introduced into Great Britain unless they are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate**

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<i>(1) Description of plants, plant products or other objects</i>	<i>(2) CN code and its respective description under Council Regulation (EEC) No.2658/87</i>	<i>(3) Country of origin or dispatch</i>
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**Parts of plants, other than fruit and seeds of:**

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12. Conifers ( <del>Pinales</del> Pinopsida)	Foliage, branches and other parts of conifer (Pinales) plants, without flowers or flower buds, being goods of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes, fresh: ex 0604 20 20 ex 0604 20 40	Any third country
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