



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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

7 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Thank you for submitting views regarding the above consultation. This letter is to notify you of the outcome.

Background

The consultation invited views on proposed changes to allow risk-based documentary checks for plants, plant products and other objects (such as used agricultural or forestry machinery and vehicles) from non-EU countries, and amendments associated with documentary checking fees for these imported goods. Additionally, changes were proposed that would implement amendments to fees for physical and identity import inspections for certain rest of world goods. These follow changes in the frequency of import inspections for goods from the rest of the world.

In addition, the consultation sought views on proposed changes to reinsert the fees for import checks of *Triticum L.*, *Secale L.*, and *x Tritisecale*, from certain third countries.

The consultation ran from 13 May to 24 June 2024 on these elements. This can be found on the [Plant Health Portal](#).

Furthermore, the consultation also sought views on proposed amendments to ensure that medium risk fruit and vegetables imported from the EU are not subject to import checks or associated fees until 31 January 2025. The proposal also included that the current easement on checks on EU goods entering GB via West Coast Ports from the Republic of Ireland should continue until the end of the Transitional Staging Period. The consultation for these elements ran from 13 May until 3 June 2024.

Summary of responses



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

One response in total was received, from NFU. This noted that the reference to 'prescribed medium risk plants, plant products and other objects from non-EU third countries' was vague in terms of what is included. It did not otherwise comment on the proposed amendments.

We thank the NFU for their comments, and the time taken to respond to this consultation. We would like to clarify that 'prescribed medium risk plants, plant products and other objects from non-EU third countries' is defined on the UK's Plant Health Portal: [BTOM risk categorisations - UK Plant Health Information Portal \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) and also in [Schedule 2A to the Plant Health \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#).

Next Steps

Following discussions with stakeholders, Defra and the Scottish and Welsh Governments intend to implement the changes ensuring that medium risk fruit and vegetables imported from the EU are not subject to import checks or associated fees until 1 July 2025. This is to provide businesses with sufficient time to implement changes. In addition, Defra, and the Scottish and Welsh Governments intend to extend the easement on checks on EU goods entering GB via West Coast Ports from the Republic of Ireland until the 1 July 2025. These amendments will be implemented in legislation when parliamentary time allows.

Regarding the other proposed changes (i.e. include allowing risk-based documentary checks for plants, plant products and other objects from non-EU countries and amendments associated with checking fees for imported goods), Defra and Scottish and Welsh Governments, are considering next steps, and will update stakeholders on policy development. I would like to thank all of those who took the time to consider our proposals.

We will continue with our systematic, proactive screening of potential new and emerging biosecurity risks. Defra and the Scottish and Welsh Governments continue to be responsive to changes in risk levels via actions such as surveillance, enhanced inspection, regulation, import controls, research and awareness raising.

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

