

**Recommendation of the Working Group on the Annexes of the Council
Directive 2000/29/EC – Section II – Listing of Harmful Organisms as
regards the future listing of *Dickeya dianthicola* (Samson et al., 2005) [syn.
Erwinia chrysanthemi pv. *dianthicola*¹**

Current regulatory status

Dickeya dianthicola is a regulated harmful organism (listed as *Erwinia chrysanthemi* pv. *dianthicola*) in Annex IIAII of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on plants of *Dianthus L.*. This genera (which includes about 300 species) is included under the requirements for the Marketing Directive for ornamental plants 98/56/EC.

For imports and internal movement within the EU (Annex IV), an official statement is required on the plant passport/phytosanitary certificate that the plants have been derived in direct line from mother plants which have been found free from *Erwinia chrysanthemi* pv. *dianthicola*, on officially approved tests, carried out at least once within the two previous years, and that no symptoms have been observed on the plants. However, the requirement for absence of symptoms does not always ensure absence of the pest, mainly because of the possibility of symptomless contamination of planting material.

Identity of the pest

D. dianthicola is a single taxonomic entity and it can be adequately distinguished from other entities of the same genus. Sensitive and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification and tests are available for the detection in planting material.

Distribution of the pest

The pathogen is currently absent in all MS in carnation except possibly Sweden (real distribution unknown) and Netherlands (only found once, in 2009). There is also a low reported occurrence worldwide. There are indications that *D. dianthicola* is currently very rare in carnation plant propagation premises in the EU. Information from the carnation industry suggests it can be present in Europe in carnation cut flower production, although with very low damage indices, but is absent from carnation cuttings production.

Potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area

EFSA concludes this is high in the open field but low in protected crops. *D. dianthicola* occurs in some other hosts (e.g. potatoes) where it is not under statutory control, but the risk to spread to carnation is unlikely. The probability of spread is moderate in the open field but low in protected crops. Following establishment, the pathogen has the potential to spread by both natural (water) and human-assisted means (movement of infected host planting stock, particularly asymptomatic plants, contaminated tools etc. or by plant debris in soil).

¹ Scientific basis for the recommendation: EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLH); Scientific Opinion on the risk of *Dickeya dianthicola* for the EU territory with identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. EFSA Journal 2013;11(1):3072. [115 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3072. Available online: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal

The pest can infect *Dianthus* L. plants systemically and with a potential latent infection stage, therefore the association with plants for planting is very high, compared with other sources of infection. Thus high infection would have an effect on their use, however due to existing cutting production techniques there have been very few cases reported in the EU recently.

Potential for consequences in the PRA area

EFSA concludes under current measures, the consequences of *D. dianthicola* on carnation are assessed as minimal since no crop losses on carnation and no additional costs due to *D. dianthicola* have been reported in the last 25 years. This scenario includes the voluntary certification and sanitation practices currently in place. In the absence of specific phytosanitary measures, the impact is also assessed as minimal if voluntary certification and sanitation are maintained. In the absence of any control measure (no phytosanitary measures, no voluntary certification, no sanitation and low hygiene in production sites), the impact on carnation is assessed as high. However withdrawal of these existing practices would seem unlikely.

There are no indications of environmental consequences associated with *D. dianthicola* and its control has minimal impact on the surrounding environment, and on biodiversity of other (host) plants or soil.

Impact of *D. dianthicola* on the intended use of the plants for planting is concluded as high because this is the main source of infection. Other mechanisms for introduction of the pest are unlikely under existing production systems.

Recommendation

The Working Group suggests that this bacteria does not meet the conditions for being listed as Union Quarantine Pest, as it is not present in a “limited part” of the EU, or that its presence is only “scarce, irregular, isolated and infrequent”, although on *Dianthus* L. it is now rare. Eradication measures are also not officially required in *Dianthus* flowering crops and crops such as potatoes for consumption.

Furthermore the symptoms of the organism are described as well as part of the potato marketing directives. The Working Group proposes listing this pest as a Union Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest. The pest may cause economic impact on the intended use of the plants for planting of carnation in flowering crops but is routinely managed successfully now by the use of voluntary certification schemes and other hygiene measures carried out by industry.

The pest has a strong association with plants for planting compared with other sources of infection, thus any infection would have an effect on their use.