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To: IPPC Contact Points for Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Date: 20 April 2021

cc: Dorothee Andre and Harry Arijis, European Commission.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you of the plant health declarations required by the UK in advance of the import of *Xylella fastidiosa* host material and to provide updated details about our phased approach to import controls.

For EU member states, declarations are only required regarding the status of *Xylella fastidiosa*. EU member states do not need to provide any other declarations in relation to Annex 7-part A and B of the [Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#).

The UK Emergency Measures, which may be found [here](#), for *Xylella* include a requirement for countries to provide written notification confirming which option they intend to use if that is country freedom or where relevant a list of pest free places/sites of production.

In order to prevent undue delays of consignments at our border this information should now be provided if it has not already been submitted.

A template to provide these notifications can be found in the Annex to this letter. Once completed it should be emailed to UKNPPPO@defra.gov.uk. The column titled 'Review' does not need to be completed. The table can also be returned as an email.

Although not a legal requirement to provide details in advance, where the pest free area option is available and is to be used, you may find it helpful to provide details of the area(s) concerned to the UK NPPO, to minimise time to check phytosanitary certificates received in GB.

Furthermore, under some options it is necessary to provide details of pest free places of production or sites of production to the UK NPPO. Where required, details of the relevant places or sites which plan to use these options need to be sent to us in advance of plants being imported. The details can be sent directly to

UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk, rather than via a template. For the same reasons as mentioned above, in those cases where such details do not need to be provided in advance, they may still be provided to aid import inspection process.

Furthermore, we would also like to provide an update regarding our phased imports regime.

On the 31 December 2020 the UK's transition period with the EU came to an end and I am writing to notify you that there have been further changes to the phased import regime we are adopting for imports of plants and plant products from the EU (including Switzerland and Liechtenstein), and some changes to our phytosanitary import controls.

GB has developed a risk based phased import regime to ensure that its SPS regime remains appropriate to address the risks it faces. This staged phased import regime for plants and plant products from the EU has changed to the following:

- Since 1 January 2021, phytosanitary certificates have been required to accompany imports of [high-priority plants and plant products](#). Documentary, identity and physical checks of these goods have been carried out at Places of Destination (PoD).
- From 1 January 2022, physical and identity checks of high priority plants and plant products will move from Places of Destination to Border Control Posts (BCPs).
- From 1 January 2022, the requirement for pre-notification and phytosanitary certificates will be extended to all regulated plants and plant products (i.e. not just those which are 'high-priority').
- From March 2022, the UK's Border Operating Model will be fully operationalised with physical and identity checks on all regulated plants and plant products being carried out at BCPs.

For further guidance on the phased import regime and checks please view the updated [Border Operating Model](#).

The changes being made to the phytosanitary import controls are based on the principles set out in the WTO-SPS Agreement and full details can be found at:

- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1482/contents/made>
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1527/contents/made>

These changes only apply to imports into Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). Northern Ireland remains within in the European Union's (EU) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) area, so EU import requirements will continue to apply to imports into Northern Ireland. Please note that there are currently some flexibilities to the special requirements which can be found on the [Plant Health Portal](#).

The IT systems used to facilitate the pre-notification of imports of plants and other regulated articles will be changing, moving from the current PEACH system to a new service. However, trade should continue to use the existing system until they are

directed to register for the new service. The timing and sequencing of this migration will ensure a smooth and orderly transfer between systems and will allow sufficient time for exporters to become familiar with the new service. Technical support will be available during, and after migration. For any direct imports to Scotland, importers should continue to notify the Scottish Government until the new GB wide IT system is rolled out.

Further details on the UK's phytosanitary import controls will be available on the United Kingdom's IPPC portal.

Any questions regarding this letter or the changes being made should be directed to the UK's IPPC official contact point via UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Spence', written in a cursive style.

Professor Nicola Spence

Chief Plant Health Officer for the UK

Nicola.Spence@defra.gov.uk

Annex – Template for *Xylella fastidiosa* declaration

	<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Wells et al.)				
	pest free country	pest free area	Pest free place/site of production*	Date of latest communication	Review
Plants for planting, other than seeds that belong to the genera and species listed here (table 5) other than: <i>Lavandula sp.</i> , <i>Nerium oleander</i> , <i>Salvia Rosmarinus</i> , <i>Coffea sp.</i> , <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> , <i>Olea europaea</i> and <i>Prunus dulcis</i>		**	**		
Plants intended for planting other than seeds, of <i>Coffea sp.</i> and <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> L.					
Plants intended for planting other than seeds, of <i>Lavandula sp.</i> L., <i>Nerium oleander</i> L. and <i>Salvia Rosmarinus</i> (Spenner)			*		
Plants intended for planting other than seeds of <i>Olea europaea</i> L. and <i>Prunus dulcis</i> (Mill.) D.A. Webb			*		

* if using this option, a list of pest free places/sites of production must have been provided in writing to the UK NPPO in advance of imports.

** option to provide details of individual pest free areas/places/sites in writing to the UK NPPO to facilitate import inspection processes.