



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# PHR – (EU) 2016/2031

## PLANT PASSPORTING UNDER THE NEW PLANT HEALTH REGULATIONS



Forestry Commission  
England



NATURAL  
ENGLAND



Environment  
Agency

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# Overview of plant passports under SRSF

- The scope has been widened to include all plants for planting, as well as some seeds and other plant products.
  - There is a new, clearer format to the plant passport to ensure better consistency and recognisability across the Union.
  - The scope within the supply chain has changed, with PPs required down to retail level, and in some instances to final users buying for personal use.
  - The system of authorisation to issue PPs, requirements around record keeping, as well as the labels themselves will improve **assurance and traceability** throughout the supply chain.
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# The widened scope of plant passports

# What is the purpose of the widened scope of plant passports?

- ❖ These new regulations are allowing us to move from a reactive approach in plant health, to a more proactive approach.
- ❖ The requirement for plant passports to be provided down to retail level and the capturing of distance sales means all traders of plants must be known to the competent authority, and will have plant health obligations, whether they are a nursery, a landscaper, a high street retailer, or selling solely online.
- ❖ Trade can lead to the spread of damaging pests such as Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) and *Xylella fastidiosa*.



# What plants and plant products will require a plant passport?

- Under the new regulations the scope of plant passporting will be wider than before.
- The new list will include all plants for planting other than seeds:  
'plants for planting' means plants intended to remain planted, to be planted or to be replanted (this includes turf).





# What plants and plant products will require a plant passport?

- The list for the UK includes plants and plant products for which a plant passport is required for a Protected Zone (PZ).
- This includes a lot of timber products, including firewood, bark and bark mulch of conifer or sweet chestnut (*Castanea*).



# The widened scope of plant passports: Movements now covered by the PP regime

- ❖ The widened scope of commodities is not the only change to the plant passport regime
- ❖ The widened scope in the movements of plants which are covered, this includes:
  - ✓ Distance sales
  - ✓ Timber movements within GB
  - ✓ Passports down to retail level





# Registration as a professional operator

# Registration as a professional operator

- ❖ Registration is required if you want to be authorised to carry out activities such as issuing plant passports.
- ❖ Registration is free, and involves filling out a form which outlines important information including:
  - A statement concerning your intention to carry out activities such as issuing plant passports or placing a mark on wood packaging material (WPM) which attests that the WPM is ISPM15 compliant;
  - Address of your premises and the location of land plots used by the operator;
  - The plants and plant products the operator trades in.
- ❖ These details must be updated annually.
- ❖ A registered operator must be able to identify who supplied each passported unit they receive and record such details for 3 years.



# Authorisation to issue plant passports



# Authorisation to issue PPs

- ❖ Authorisation is distinct from registration.
- ❖ It involves showing that you meet a minimum standard of plant health.
- ❖ You will not be charged for being authorised online, but you will be charged for audit inspections later in the year to check you are compliant.
- ❖ The new requirements are set out in the PHR, they include:
  - Operator knowledge of pest biology, best practice in pest prevention and eradication planning.
  - Operator must have systems and procedures in place to fulfil obligations regarding traceability of consignments.



# Authorisation to issue PPs

- ❖ We are already authorising operators to issue PPs, and developing an audit framework so they are audited consistently later in the year.
- ❖ We have rolled over the authorisation of existing operators (those authorised before 14 Dec 2019).
- ❖ Authorisation of retailers: retailers will need to be authorised if they wish to issue their own passports.
- ❖ Authorisation of co-operatives: co-operatives may be subject to a single authorisation if they are a legally recognised entity.

# What does authorisation to issue plant passports mean in practice?

- ❖ Anyone dealing professionally in plants and plant products must be registered with the competent authority.
- ❖ Only those issuing plant passports must be authorised to do so.
- ❖ In order to issue passports operators will be audited to ensure they have the necessary systems in place to identify and tackle pests of the plants they trade in.
- ❖ The operator must meticulously examine their plants before issuing a passport for them.

# Record Keeping

❖ If a supplier sends a plant passport in the form of a label it may be stored physically or digitally.

1. If you have issued a plant passport you must record:

- the professional operator to whom the trade unit concerned was supplied;
- the information within the plant passport (this does not have to be a physical copy of the plant passport or an exact digital copy of the plant passport)

2. If you are a professional operator that has received a plant passport you must record who supplied you with any passport you receive.

3. If you are a professional operator that has supplied a plant passport you must record who you supplied that plant passport to.



# Content and format of the new plant passport



# What information is required for a standard PP?



## Plant Passport

- A [Botanical Name]
- B GB – [Registration Number]
- C [Traceability Code]
- D [Country of Origin]

# What information is required for a standard PP?

- ❖ The EU flag, which may be printed in colour, or in black and white, either with white stars on black background, or vice versa, and must be in the top left hand corner of the PP.
- ❖ The words 'Plant Passport' in English and, if relevant, in one other official language of the Union, to be separated by a slash.
- ❖ **Part A:** The botanical name(s) of the plant(s) concerned, we are asking for full genus and species name.



# What information is required for a standard PP?

- ❖ **Part B:** The two-letter code for the Member State in which the professional operator issuing the PP is registered. The alphabetical, numerical or alphanumerical national registration number of the professional operator concerned.
- ❖ **Part C:** The traceability code of the plant, plant product or the other object concerned.
- ❖ All passported plants require traceability codes if they are not ready and prepared for the final user.
- ❖ Some plants and plant products require traceability codes in all cases.



## Plant Passport

A	[Botanical Name]
B	GB – [Registration Number]
C	[Traceability Code]
D	[Country of Origin]

# What information is required for a standard PP?

## Part 3:

- ❖ **Part D:** Where applicable, the two-letter code of the Member State(s) or where applicable, the name(s) of the third country/countries of origin or its/their two-letter code.
- ❖ Information on when Country of Origin changes to GB can be found on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk), under Part D of 'Making a Plant Passport'.

### Other information:

- ❖ The PP may include a unique barcode, QR-code, hologram, chip or other data carrier, supplementing the traceability code. This requirement is optional.
- ❖ The information in PPs must be legible, but can be handwritten, as long as it is written in capitals.
- ❖ The PP must be distinct and separate from other information associated with the consignment, e.g. care instructions.



# What information is required for PPs for PZs?

## Part 2:

- ❖ The words 'Plant Passport – PZ' in English and, if relevant, in one other official language of the Union, to be separated by a slash.
- ❖ Scientific name(s) of PZ quarantine pest(s) or, alternatively, the EPPO codes specifically attributed to those pests.



Plant Passport - PZ  
[PZ Code]

A	[Botanical Name]
B	GB – [Registration Number]
C	[Traceability Code]
D	[Country of Origin]

# What information is required?

## For products which also require a certification label:

- ❖ The plant passport is merely combined with the certification label, with the EU flag, the words 'Plant Passport', and if applicable the PZ code, above the certification label information.
- ❖ A list of seeds for which a PP combined with a certification label is required will be available on the Plant Health Portal soon.



Plant Passport

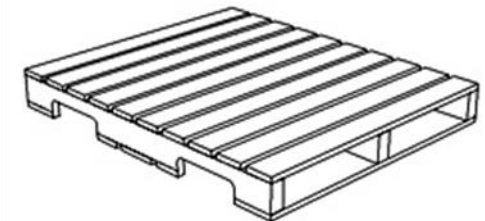
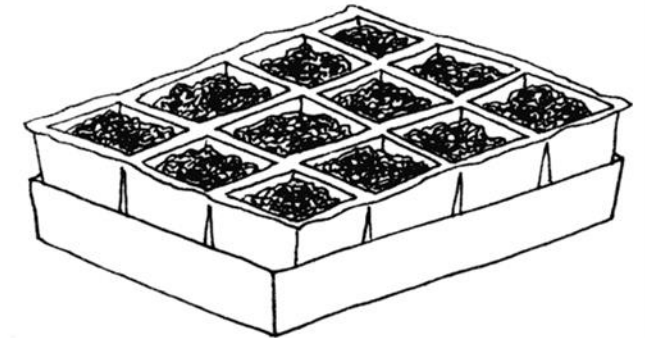
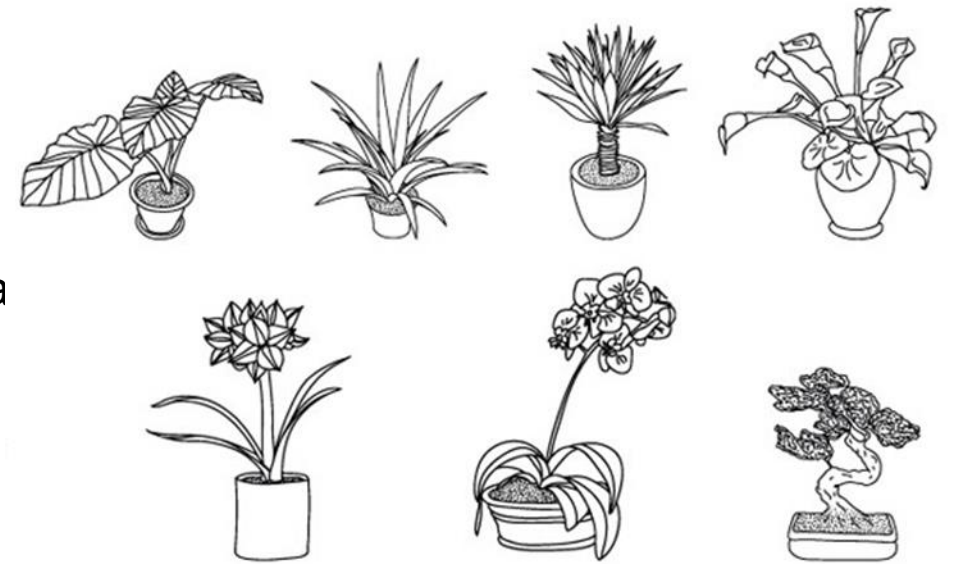
[Information needed for the certification label]



# Attachment of plant passports

# Where do I attach my PP?

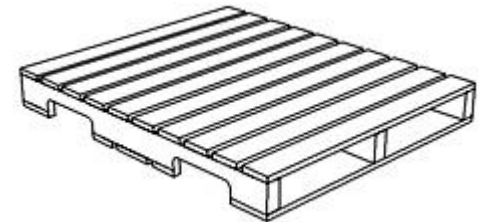
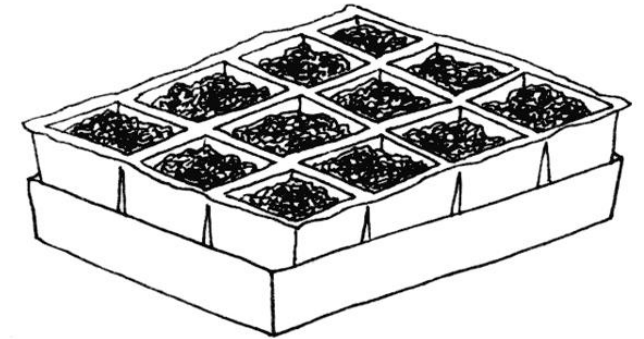
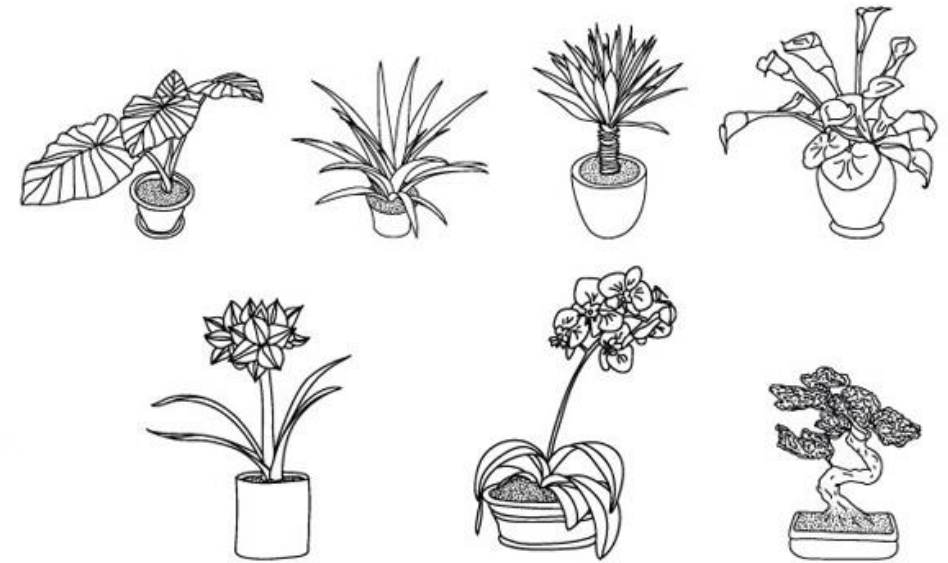
- ❖ In most cases a PP will not need to be attached to each individual
- ❖ If a business sells the same commodity on pallets, trays, or in the PP must be attached to each of those individual units.
- ❖ However if there are multiple commodities on the same pallet or tray then the PP must be attached to the individual units, e.g. bundles or bags, on that pallet.





# Where do I attach my PP?

- ❖ If you are supplying **directly to retail** a single plant passport can cover a single trolley of plants as long as traceability can be maintained for the plants and plant products on that trolley.
- ❖ Trolleys moving at other stages in the supply chain could be covered by a single PP only if the plants on that trolley were of the same species, and going to the same destination.
- ❖ If commodities are moved in a van from a **contractor's yard to a site** (assuming the site is the final destination) then a single plant passport can accompany the van, as that movement is the final one in that supply chain.
- ❖ If you are selling through distance contracts (e.g. online), and must supply a final user, the PP may be attached to the box or the plant pot in question.





# Auctions & Shows



# Auction

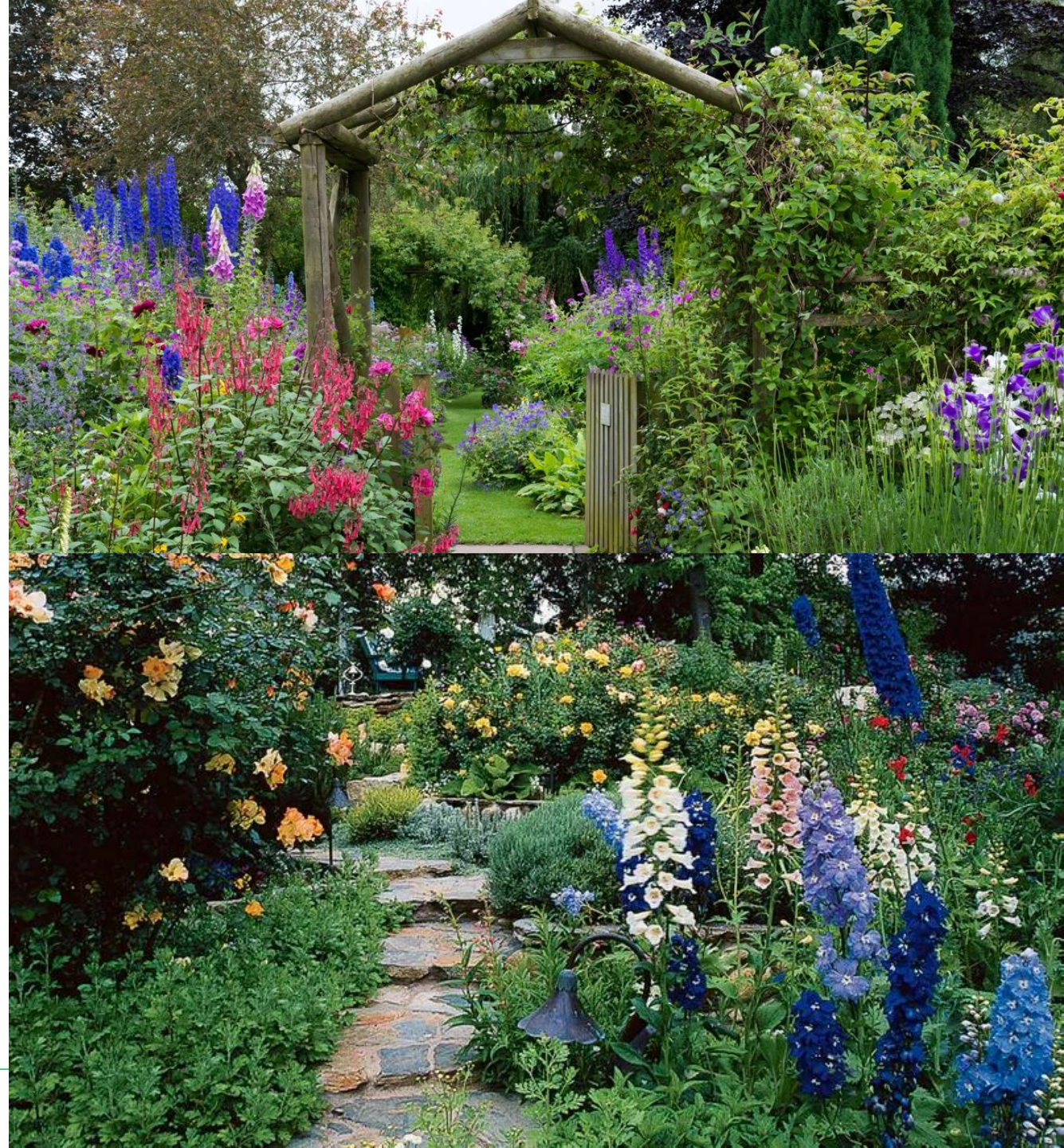
- ❖ For passported material, units may be marked 'Retail sale only – not for resale'.
- ❖ An operator would then not need to passport this material to final users, only to the auction which is acting as a retail outlet
- ❖ This would not apply to material being sold to other operators through the auction.





# Shows

- ❖ A professional operator supplying to an exhibitor would need to issue a passport, but the exhibitor would not be required to provide a passport for the movement to the event.
- ❖ If the plants are delivered by a supplier to the exhibitor direct to the event, then that movement needs a passport.
- ❖ If a business is selling to another professional operator at the show, then they would be expected to passport that movement.







# Going forward



# Our approach to non-compliance

- ❖ We acknowledge the challenges that industry are facing, and are working to ensure our policies are pragmatic whilst maintaining high levels of biosecurity.
- ❖ Defra will deal with non-compliance fairly and proportionately in line with the department's enforcement policy.
- ❖ In most cases this will start with business or individuals being given notice of any non-compliances, advice on corrective action and a time period in which these actions must be completed.

# Comms Resources

1. GOV.uk guidance on the Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF) package of regulations available [here](#). SRSF includes the new Plant Health Regulations.
2. GOV.uk guidance on issuing plant passports available [here](#):
  - This includes information on how to become authorised and links to the list of plants and plant products which require a plant passport.
3. [Plant Health Portal](#):
  - A. Flowcharts
  - B. Factsheets
  - C. Introductory Guide
  - D. External Q&A