**The UK plant health declarations submissions**

There had been several changes to the [UK’s plant health import controls](https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/trade/helpful-content/specific-commodity-guidance/) from 1 January 2021, communicated by letters from the UK Chief Plant Health Officer, which resulted in a request for certain technical information to be provided to the UK via a template. Once the templates are received by the UKNPPO they are recorded [here](https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/trade/imports/third-country-declarations/) on our Plant Health Portal. A template to provide these notifications is available as a Microsoft Word document [here](https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/united-kingdom/publications/2021/04/technical-information-which-needs-to-be-provided-to-the-uk-nppo-by-third-countries-exporting-to-the-uk/), the column titled ‘Review’ does not need to be completed. Once the template is completed it should be emailed to UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk.

In 2021 the UK has introduced [new regulations](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/136/contents) for Xylella fastidiosa, which 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 it would be preferable if this information is provided in advance.

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.

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.

Please note that certain notifications may have been made to the EU while the UK was a member state, based on EU legislation. These notifications are no longer applicable to the UK as certain requirements have changed. 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](https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/legislation/plant-health-rules_en) will continue to apply to imports into Northern Ireland.