

Plant Passporting Updates No.22: October 2019

Dear Plant passporters, in this edition are items:

- Reminder about changes to the current plant passport scheme in 2000/29/EC, including *Bemisia tabaci*.
- The New Plant Health Law (SRSF).
- Changes to the plant passport format.

Reminder: Changes to EU Directive 2000/29/EC

A range of new plant health measures came into force on 1st September 2019. These have come about after the European Commission adopted the DIRECTIVE (EU) 2019/523 which updates the current plant health directive 2000/29/EC.

A summary is available on gov.uk, or read on for more detail:

Juglans (Walnut) and Pterocarya (Wingnut) have been added to plant passporting when being moved to other growers for growing-on. They are host to *Geosmithia morbida* ([Thousand cankers disease](#)) and its vector *Pityophthorus juglandis* (Walnut Twig Beetle).

The [Red Necked longhorn beetle, *Aromia bungii*](#) has been added to Directive 2000/29/EC banning the movement and spread of the pest in the EU. It is a major pest of *Prunus* already subject to emergency measures.

Plants for planting of *Quercus* have been added to the previous requirements for *Castanea* (excluding seeds) to be free of

[Cryphonectria parasitica \(Sweet chestnut blight\)](#) if they go to the Czech Republic, Ireland, Sweden or UK.

Plants for planting of Cedrus (Cedar) are now included along with Pinus as having import and movement requirements in relation to the UK protected zone against [Pine Processionary moth](#). The PZ code is: a15.1

Changes to enhance the requirements against Bemisia tabaci (Bt) for the movement of plant material into the protected zones of Ireland, certain parts of Portugal, Sweden and UK:

- Euphorbia pulcherrima (Poinsettia) cuttings without roots intended for planting;
- Plants of Euphorbia pulcherrima, intended for planting, excluding seeds, there are a range of options that plants can meet:
 - originate in an area known to be free from Bt;
 - or no signs of Bt observed at the place of production during official inspections carried out at least once each three weeks during nine weeks prior to marketing;
 - or where Bt is found treatments have been applied and no Bt found during official inspections carried out weekly during the three weeks prior to marketing.And, there is evidence that the above requirements have been met or for those plants at marketing with bracts or intended for direct sale to final consumer not involved in professional plant production, that the plants have been officially inspected and found free from Bt prior to their movement to retail point of sale.
- Plants of Begonia intended for planting, other than seeds, tubers and tubers, and plants of Ajuga, Crossandra, Dipladenia, Ficus, Hibiscus, Mandevilla and Nerium oleander, intended for planting, other than seeds must meet one of the following requirements:
 - that plants originate in an areas known to be free from Bt;

or no signs of Bt observed at the place of production during official inspections carried out at least once each three weeks during nine weeks prior to marketing;

or where Bt is found treatments have been applied and no Bt found during official inspections carried out weekly during the three weeks prior to marketing,

or there is evidence that the above requirements have been met or for those plants at marketing with bracts or intended for direct sale to final consumer not involved in professional plant production, that the plants have been officially inspected and found free from Bt prior to their movement to retail point of sale.

Northern Ireland has withdrawn its protected zone for the fungus Scleroderris canker of conifers (*Gremmeniella abietina*) which included requirements for import and movement of plants of *Pinus*, *Picea*, *Larix*, *Abies* and *Pseudotsuga*.

Northern Ireland and Ireland will have new protected zone status for [two leaf miner species](#): *Liriomyza huidobrensis* the South American serpentine leaf miner and *Liriomyza trifolii* the American serpentine leaf miner. Both pests feed on a wide range of protected ornamentals and food crops.

New Plant Health Law – Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF)

The smarter rules for safer food (SRSF) package is a set of EU regulations for the protection against animal disease and plant pests. The package will modernise, simplify and improve existing health and safety standards for the agri-food chain. It will take a risk-based approach to animal, plant and public health protection, introducing more efficient pest and disease control measures.

As well as the below item on new plant passport format, SRSF brings a number of other changes to your plant passport authorisation, so please read more on [Defra Plant Health Portal](#).

Reminder: changes to the plant passport format come into force in December under New Plant Health Law (SRSF)

In previous editions we have included details about the forthcoming changes to plant passport formats which are adopted and start on 14th December 2019. To view examples and get an explanation of what the format parts are, you can go to the [European Commission's website](#).

In summary, the EU flag must be in top left hand corner; the words 'plant passport' in top right hand corner; then the letters A, B, C and D, were:

A = plant botanical name

B = member state ISO norm code which means using letters 'GB' followed by the client registration number APHA issues

C = traceability code e.g. week number, lot, batch etc

D = EU country of origin or 3rd country origin again using the ISO norm code

For a Protected Zone, then the letters PZ must be next to the words 'plant passport' and then list the PZ annex codes (same as now) below the letters PZ.

The ISO country codes are on gov.uk and refer to the column 'ISO ALPHA 2'.

Get in touch

Always check your plants for symptoms. If you suspect disease, or have any queries, please speak to your local plant inspector or contact PHSI HQ (planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk or 0300 100 0313).

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