

## **Plant Passporting Updates No.23: December 2019**

Dear Plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- The New Plant Health Law (SRSF) & changes to the plant passport format.
- Oak Processionary moth (OPM) – review and action for trade.
- Pest & disease on the Plant Health Risk Register.

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### **New Plant Health Law – Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF) and plant passport format.**

Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, Official Registration and Authorisation to issue Plant Passports.

To all businesses currently authorised to issue plant passports you will be aware from recent communications and publicity that the SRSF plant health regulations apply from 14th December 2019.

These regulations require professional operators who produce and market plants and certain specified seeds for planting to be officially registered and authorised to issue plant passports. You will have received regular updates regarding the format of the new plant passport as required under these regulations.

With regards to being officially registered and authorised to issue plant passports under the new plant health regulations you need take no action before December 14th. Your existing registration and authorisation will be rolled over and you should apply to

renew your authorisation in 2020 in the same way as you do now.

From 14th December 2019 you will now need to attach passport labels to the smallest tradeable unit for each species within your consignments. Examples of smallest tradeable unit include plant, tray, bundle etc.

To view examples of plant passport format, 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 your 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 e.g. for The Netherlands is NL.

The ISO country codes are [available on gov.uk](#) and refer to the column 'ISO ALPHA 2'.

For a Protected Zone, then the letters 'PZ' must be just after the words 'plant passport' and then you must list the PZ annex codes below the letters PZ. The current PZ codes will change under SRSF.

Further information on the SRSF plant passport regime can be found on the [Defra plant health portal](#).

During 2020 further information will be made available regarding the duties of persons authorised to issue plant passports and your local plant health and seeds inspector will contact you to discuss and assist in the fulfilling those responsibilities.

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## OPM – review and actions for trade

During 2019 oak processionary moth was intercepted at over 70 planting sites in the UK Protected Zone. All infested trees and material were rapidly destroyed to eradicate the pest. The cases highlight the need for continued vigilance from industry and government to protect the UK's trees. Read more on the [Forestry Commission's website](#).

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## New disease on the Risk Register

- [Phellinus everhartii](#) – fungal pest of oak species in North America

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## Pests & Disease recently reviewed on the Risk Register

- [Chilli veinal mottle virus](#) – virus of solanaceous plants which is native to Asia.
- [Singhiella simplex](#) – whitefly pest of certain Ficus species present in the Mediterranean area and beyond.

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## 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](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk) or 0300 100 0313).

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