



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Plant Passporting Updates No.24: December 2019

Dear Plant passporters, in this edition are items on:

- The New Plant Health Law (SRSF) and changes to the plant passport format
- Protected Zones – what are they, what you need to know & recent changes to the codes
- Plant Passporting fees
- Pest and disease information sources

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.

You will be aware from recent communications and publicity that the SRSF plant health regulations applied 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.

Authorised plant passporters under the previous Directive 2000/29/EC have received regular updates regarding the format of the new plant passport as required under these regulations.

We emailed businesses earlier in December to say that those businesses already officially registered and authorised to issue

plant passports need take no action before December 14th. Your existing registration and authorisation has 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, where:

- A = plant botanical name
- B = member state ISO norm code which means using letters 'GB' followed by your client registration number issued to you by APHA
- 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](#).

Protected Zones

- What is a Protected Zone?

Some member states have enhanced plant health status known as a Protected Zone (PZ) and other member states must ensure they achieve the higher levels of plant health status, before despatching the plants that are relevant to those relevant PZ's.

- Who can issue a PZ plant passport?

In order to issue a PZ plant passport your plants must have met certain requirements and inspection standards prior to issuing a PZ plant passport. Once PZ status is achieved, then the letters 'PZ' must be added just after the words 'plant passport' and then you must list the PZ codes immediately below the letters PZ.

- What are the PZ codes?

The EU Commission has published the new [Protected Zones in Annex III](#). For more detail look under the heading 'Lists of pests, commodities and plant health requirements'. Then click on 'Annexes' and go to annex III starting on page 11.

Or, to help with collating the information and easier reference for you, APHA has consolidated the details onto a [gov.uk](#) which brings together and includes the relevant host plants onto the list in annex III.

The preferred option is to use the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) code on the protected zone Plant Passport, but alternatively the scientific name of the pest or disease can also be used. The PZ codes (e.g. PZ-a1) may be subject to change and are now not the preferred way of displaying protected zones on a plant passport.

- Example from the PZ list for fireblight hosts (Malus, Pyrus etc) use:
Pest name – *Erwinia amylovora* or;
EPPO code – ERWIAM
PZ-a1 (not preferred option)
- For *Picea abies* plants (under 3 metres) to Ireland protected zone for European spruce sawfly would need following PZ from the list:

Pest name – *Gilpinia hercyniae* or EPPO code – GILPPO or (PZc5 (not preferred option)) and;

Pest name – *Gremmeniella abietina* or EPPO code – GREMAB or (PZ-b4 (not preferred option)).

- For Oak plants and Oak Processionary moth would be:
Pest name – *Thaumetopoea processionea* or;
EPPO code – THAUPR or;
PZ-c20 (not preferred option)

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.

- What is EPPO?

The [European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization](#) (EPPO) is an international organization responsible for cooperation and harmonization in plant protection within the European and Mediterranean region.

Plant Passporting fees

Plant Passporting is part of the EU Single Market arrangements whereby plant health checks are focused on the place of production. There are no border checks but spot checks may take place anywhere in the trade chain. A range of plants which host the most serious pests and diseases require a plant passport to facilitate their movement between and within the EU member states.

Plant passports facilitate trade and may only be issued by growers or traders who are registered and authorised for the purpose. Authorisation involves the provision of basic details about the business, followed by an inspection of the premises and plants by APHA plus inspections by the Person Responsible at the authorised site, keeping records of plant intake, despatch, treatments, plans in case of an outbreak, up to knowledge of relevant pests and diseases, bio-security practices etc. Once authorised, growers can issue as many plant passports as required. Visits by APHA are also necessary to maintain authorisation for businesses to issue plant passports. The number of these inspections will depend on the plant health risk associated with the particular plants grown and the size of the business. Generally these range from two to four visits during the year.

There are a fees for a range of official statutory plant health inspections, including plant passporting. The plant passporting inspection fees are £61.58 for each 15 minutes (or part thereof) with a minimum fee of £123.16. More information is available on gov.uk.

Is your business new to Plant Passporting?

To help gain an understanding of plant passporting please discuss with your inspector. You can also quickly get information from:

- The Plant health controls webpage on gov.uk
- The [Defra Plant Health Risk Register](#) for pests and disease risks or you can download it and search more specifically for pest and disease threats relevant to the plants you grow or trade in.

- The [Defra Plant Health Portal](#) where there are various fact sheets, for example on [Narcissus stem nematode](#) or [Potato Cyst Nematode](#).

Examples of recent pests and disease added to the Risk Register since March 2019:

- [Bagrada hilaris](#): the Bagrada bug, feeding mainly on Brassica hosts.
- [Chilli veinal mottle virus](#): virus of solanaceous plants which is native to Asia.
- [Chrysobothris femorata](#): the flat-headed apple tree borer, a polyphagous tree pest.
- [Lobiopa insularis](#): a polyphagous beetle pest causing significant damage to strawberries in some areas.
- [Pepper vein yellows virus](#): an emerging virus of pepper species.
- [Rose rosette virus](#): a virus of rose found in North America.
- [Singhiella simplex](#): whitefly pest of certain Ficus species present in the Mediterranean area and beyond.
- [Tomato brown rugose fruit virus](#): An emerging virus of tomato.
- [Tomato mottle mosaic virus](#): a virus of tomato and peppers.

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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