

helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

30 August 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Ips typographus* (eight-toothed spruce bark beetle)

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Ips typographus*. A link to the rapid PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.

In submitting any comments you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The objective of this consultation is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

Background

Ips typographus is a bark beetle, and major pest of conifers in its native and introduced ranges. The primary host is *Picea*, but recorded hosts include *Pinus*, *Abies* and *Larix*.

Native to Europe, the beetle is normally absent from the UK, but occasionally adult beetles have been trapped during routine monitoring. In 2018 a breeding population was found by routine survey in Kent and further incursion sites have since been detected, not believed to be connected with the initial population. Evidence indicates that natural dispersal across the English Channel from continental Europe is the pathway by which incursions were initiated, following large population peaks in Belgium and France. All localised populations are currently under eradication.

Adult beetles are often associated with windblown, damaged and recently felled spruce trees, but may move to attack nearby live trees if the population is large enough.

Recommendations for action

Statutory action through regulation as a quarantine pest in Great Britain and regulated protected zone quarantine pest in Northern Ireland. The conclusions support continuation of current policy / actions. These actions include:

- Measures in place against introduction via imported wood products – to aid further pest exclusion
- A demarcated area (DMA) established in south-east England, encompassing all incursion sites – intended to contain the beetle from establishing and spreading beyond.
- Removal and destruction of affected trees.
- Inspections and approvals to felling or proposed movement of spruce trees within the DMA.
- Surveillance and monitoring to mitigate against risk of natural dispersal, enabling rapid response and commencement of eradication measures
- Mitigation of risk of dispersing populations by management of spruce forests in high risk areas through sanitation felling and removal of susceptible material

All responses should be sent to plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk

Responses should be received by **22nd November 2023.**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully

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