



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Plant Passports and the Post-Transition Period

11/11/2020

The Plant Health Regulation (PHR) became applicable in the UK from 14 December 2019, introducing widespread changes to the UK's plant passport regime. This EU legislation has continued to apply to the UK during the transition period which ends on 31 December 2020. From 1 January 2021, the UK plant passport regime will change to reflect post-transition period plant health regulation.

This factsheet outlines what will be changing for Plant Passports (PP) and what actions businesses in Great Britain (GB) need to take to be ready for 1 January. These changes apply to GB businesses involved in activities such as: the production, manufacture and supply of plants, seeds, timber and plant products. This is because Northern Ireland (NI) will remain part of the EU's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) zone after the end of the transition period.

Information regarding the plant passport regime on our [Smarter Rules for Safer Food](#) guidance page remains applicable, with the exception of the changes listed in this factsheet. That guidance remains live as EU legislation applies to the UK until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020.

Changes to GB legislation to prepare businesses for the post-transition period can be found on the Post-Transition Period guidance page on the [Plant Health Portal](#) and on [GOV.UK](#).

If you are already authorised to issue PPs, **you do not need a new authorisation to issue UK PPs**. However, authorisations must be renewed on an annual basis, an audit inspection to check for compliance is also carried out on an annual basis. This is not affected by EU Exit.

From 1 January 2021:

- EU PPs cannot be attached in GB.
- For the first 6 months of 2021 UK PPs may be affixed in EU member states, this is not the same as issuance. Further detail can be found in Section 5 of this factsheet.
- An operator in the EU will not be able to issue a UK PP because they will not be authorised to do so under the GB Plant Health Regime.
- A PP is not just a traceability document but attests that the plants covered by that PP have met the plant health standards of GB.

Changes will happen in the following areas:

1. The content and format of the plant passport will change to differentiate EU from UK plant passports;
2. Guidance on when country of origin changes to UK will change for some commodities;
3. There will be changes to Protected Zones;
4. PPs will no longer be applicable for movements from GB to NI;
5. Imports from the EU will require a phytosanitary certificate (Plant Health certificate or PC). This means that if you move goods on an EU PP now without issuing your own plant passport for them, you may need to be authorised from 1 Jan 2021 to issue your own UKPPs.

1. Content & Format:

- The content and format of the PP will be changed in order to differentiate UK PPs from EU PPs, as the EU PP will no longer be recognised as an official label in GB.
- A summary of changes is listed below, with illustrated templates in **Annex I**.
 - There will be no flag on UK PPs;
 - The words 'Plant Passport' will be replaced with 'UK Plant Passport';
 - Section A (botanical names) will remain the same;
 - Section B (registration number) will no longer be prefixed with 'GB' because this prefix was only necessary on EU PPs to differentiate between member states;
 - Section C (traceability codes) will remain the same;
 - Section D (country of origin) will remain the same except for some plants for which we have national measures. Further details on this change can be found below in **Section 2**.
- There will also be changes to 'Protected Zone' PPs. More detail can be found below in **Section 3**.
- Where a PP is combined with a certification label, the only changes to the Plant passport section will be the removal of the EU flag, and the words 'Plant Passport' will be replaced with 'UK Plant Passport'. The certification part of the label will remain the same apart from: the wording "EU Rules and Standards" will be replaced by "GB Rules and Standards" (with the exception of fodder seed which remains "UK Rules and Standards").
- Existing EU certification labels can continue to be used for the duration of 2021, therefore the requirement to state GB or UK Rules and Standards won't be necessary from 1 January 2021 while existing EU certification labels are continued to be used during 2021.
- For some ornamental and vegetable propagating material you will need a supplier document, this is an existing requirement and will remain in place after 1 January 2021. More information can be found on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk) under the heading 'Supplier document'.
- For Conformitas Agraria Communitatis (CAC) fruit material you also need a supplier document in addition to the UK PP, this is an existing requirement and will remain in place after 1 January 2021. More information can be found on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk) under the heading 'Supplier document'.
- Old EU PP labels will remain valid if in circulation before 1 January 2021. From 1 January 2021 UK PPs should be issued to state compliance with GB's post-transition period plant health regulations.

2. Country of Origin

- Current guidance on country of origin and when it can be considered to change to 'GB' can be found on **GOV.UK** under Part D of 'Make a plant passport'.
- The two-letter code 'GB' applies to the whole of the UK, including NI.
- Our guidance will change post transition period for the following list of commodities:
 - Hosts of *Xylella fastidiosa*:
 - Plants, other than fruit or seeds of *Olea europaea* (olive), *Coffea* (coffee), *Polygala myrtifolia*, *Prunus dulcis* (almond)
 - Plants, other than seeds, intended for planting, of *Lavandula sp.* (lavender), *Nerium oleander*, *Rosmarinus officinalis* (rosemary).
 - Hosts of *Ceratocystis platani* (*Canker Stain of plane*):
 - Plants of *Platanus L.*, intended for planting, other than seeds.
- The change means that these commodities must have been in the UK for a whole year following their import before a PP issued for their movement can list 'GB' as the country of origin. This applies regardless of whether they have been grown under protection or not in the UK. Therefore, you must keep records of importation date and other details to then amend the country of origin to GB twelve months after importation.
- You can still market your plants for the first year after import, however during that first year they should only travel on a PP with the original country of origin listed in Part D, rather than 'GB'.

- All of the commodities listed above have national measures that will apply to them from 1 January 2021. More information on these measures can be found on our [Plant Health Portal](#).
- **This policy will apply to the whole of the UK, including NI.**

3. Changes to Protected Zones

- GB will no longer use the EU designation of Protected Zones (PZs) after the transition period, and instead use the internationally recognised term of Pest Free Areas (PFA).
- Protected Zone pests will either become GB quarantine pests (which are absent throughout GB), or PFA pests (which are absent in only part of GB).
- Commodities which are hosts of GB quarantine pests will require standard UK PPs for their movement within GB.
- Commodities which are hosts of PFA pests will require PFA UK PPs for their movement within GB.
- The content and format of PFA UK PPs compared with the current PZ EU PP is illustrated in [Annex I](#). The 'pest codes' will remain the same as before, either the scientific name of the pest or its EPPO code are appropriate.
- For movements within GB, PFA UK PPs will only be required regarding oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*). The EPPO code for oak processionary moth is 'THAUPR'.
- For the oak processionary moth PFA, the relevant commodities and the special requirements for their movement will remain the same as they are for the existing Protected Zone.
- A PFA also exists in the West of Scotland for three bark beetles (*Ips cembrae*, *Ips sexdentatus* and *Dendroctonus micans*), however commodities which are hosts of these pests will not require PFA PPs. This is because there are no special requirements on the movements of those commodities, but the PFA status means we can take statutory action if one of these pests is discovered in the PFA. This is consistent with the current PP regime for that PFA.
- More information can be found here on [GOV.UK](#) under 'Plant Passports' and 'Pest Free Areas'.

4. Movements from GB to NI

- These movements will require PCs, not PPs, from 1 January 2021, further information is available on [GOV.UK](#) under point 5.
- This is because NI will remain part of the EU's SPS zone post-transition period.
- For information on how to obtain a PC for your goods, please see our [GOV.UK](#) guidance.
- Information on plant health requirements on movements from NI to GB will be released soon.

5. Imports with EUPPs

- Imports from the EU which currently arrive into GB with an EU PP will have to be imported with a PC post-transition period. More information about imports from the EU from 1st January 2021 can be found on [GOV.uk](#).
- The process for replacing a PC with a PP will remain the same, and the replacement should take place at the First Place of Destination.
- If the commodities you trade in require a PP now, but you simply move them on under their existing EU PP, from 1 January 2021 you may need to be authorised to issue a UK PP for them. If you are already authorised to issue PPs then you don't need a new authorisation to do this. More detail regarding cases where you need to issue a UK PP are below.
- EU PPs do not need to be invalidated when they enter GB, as the format is different to the UK PP they can easily be differentiated, and the EU PP considered invalid automatically.

- If you brought in goods under a PC, you only need to issue a UK PP for your goods if you are:
 - a. Moving them to another professional operator;
 - b. Selling them to final users (those buying for personal use) by means of distance contract, e.g. online;
 - c. Moving them to another of your own premises which is more than 10 miles from the premises to which the consignment arrived;
 - d. If the phytosanitary status of the consignment changes, for example, if it has been grown on (more information on what is classed as growing on can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) under Part D of 'Make a plant passport'), or if they have been reconfigured (e.g. two plants in separate pots have been planted up in a new pot together).
- For the first 6 months of 2021, we will allow UK PPs to be affixed in an EU member state. This approach will be reviewed after 6 months. Those UK PPs should be in the correct format (outlined in Section 1 and Annex I of this factsheet) and should be attached correctly. Guidance on attachment is available on [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and our [Plant Health Portal](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-portal).
- However, it should be noted that this extends only to the act of affixing a UK PP. EU operators will not be authorised to issue UK PPs. This means that it will be the GB operator who is responsible for the First Place of Destination of the relevant consignment who will need to be authorised to issue those plant passports and would be audited under the plant passport regime. It is also the GB operator's registration number that will go in Part B of the UK PP.
- The UK PPs will have no legal status until they reach that First Place of Destination in GB. Non-compliances will be the responsibility of the GB operator and may prevent plants from being able to move on from the First Place of Destination.
- Information on how to become registered and authorised to issue PPs can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). This process will not change post-transition period.

What does your businesses need to do now?

1. Check if you trade in products that require a UK PP post-transition period, the current list is available on **GOV.UK**.
2. Ensure you are registered as a professional operator with the relevant plant health authority and that you have applied for authorisation to issue PPs if necessary.
3. Ensure you are aware of the new UK PP format that is required from 1 January 2021. See **Annex I** for examples and the **Plant Health Portal** for templates.
4. Read guidance on what inspections you may need regarding pests and diseases that your plants or plant products may be hosts of in order to issue a PP. Check the Defra Plant Health Risk Register for updates. A Pest and Disease Index is being developed to make it easier to find the relevant information.

Where can I find more information?

- For information about plant health and the post transition period visit **GOV.UK** and the **Plant Health Portal**.
- For more information on Plant Health Regulations, visit the **SRSF GOV.UK page**
- For more information on plant health controls and resources such as information on pests and diseases, visit the **Plant Health Portal**
- For more information on issuing plant passports visit **GOV.UK**
- For any technical help in England and Wales, you can email your questions to: **planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk**
- For Scotland please contact **SASA**
- For Northern Ireland please see contact **DAERA**
- For queries on timber plant passporting contact: **plant.health@forestrycommission.gov.uk**

Annex I

The new format of UK Plant Passports compared to the format of existing EU Plant Passports

**New UK format to be used from 1
January 2021**

**Current EU format to be used before
1 January 2021**

Standard format - example

UK Plant Passport	
A	[botanical name]
B	[Reg. no.]
C	[traceability code]
D	[country of origin]

Standard format

	Plant Passport
A	[botanical name]
B	GB - [Reg. no.]
C	[traceability code]
D	[country of origin]

PFA format

UK Plant Passport - PFA	
[EPP0 code/scientific name]	
A	[botanical name]
B	[Reg. no.]
C	[traceability code]
D	[country of origin]

PZ format

	Plant Passport - PZ
[EPP0 code/scientific name]	
A	[botanical name]
B	GB - [Reg. no.]
C	[traceability code]
D	[country of origin]

Combined PP/ certification label

UK Plant Passport
[certification label info]

Combined PP/ certification label

	Plant Passport
[certification label info]	