

Pine processionary moth measures Q&A

Q1. What are the new measures and when do they come into force?

Emergency legislation in the form of a Statutory Instrument (SI), will restrict the importation of pine and cedar trees into Great Britain.

The bolstered measures will only permit imports of these species, both of which are host species of Pine Processionary Moth, from:

- Countries officially confirmed by the National Plant Protection Organisation as free of Pine Processionary Moth.
- Officially designated pest-free areas
- Nurseries where the trees have been grown under complete physical protection for their lifetime.

This instrument will extend the current restrictions to apply to plants and their constituent parts, including live foliage and plants for planting, and remove the current option to import *Pinus* and *Cedrus* trees from a pest free place of production, which along with its vicinity has been inspected and found free from PPM. This will impact all third countries that currently import these goods to GB under this option.

The SI will be laid on Thursday 28 April and will come into force on Friday 29 April.

Q2. Why are you introducing this emergency legislation?

We constantly review whether further safeguards are needed and have a scientific process to assess the changing threats to plant biosecurity.

This emergency legislation is being introduced in response to a recent interception of Pine Processionary Moth on *Pinus* trees imported from France. This measure will further protect against the introduction and establishment of Pine Processionary Moth in GB.

Q3. How do these measures impact trade?

Imports of recognised hosts of Pine processionary moth will only be permitted into Great Britain under certain conditions. The controls apply to all businesses which import living plants and their constituent parts, including live plant foliage and plants for planting, into Great Britain.

Q4. Will these measures impact timber?

The controls apply to all businesses which import living plants and their constituent parts, including live plant foliage and plants for planting, into Great Britain. The restrictions do not apply to processed plant products, such as timber, wood chips and packaging materials.

Q5. Why is the 21-day rule not applying in this case?

In order to immediately prevent the potential for introduction of PPM into GB, amendments to the current legislation via this statutory instrument will come into force the day after it is laid.

Q6. Which countries will no longer be able to import pine and cedar to GB?

Under the new measures pine and cedar can only be imported to GB from nurseries in countries which are free from PPM, from designated pest-free areas or from nurseries where the trees have been grown under complete physical protection for their lifetime. As a result, this legislation will impact current imports of pine and cedar from France and Italy and other European and North African countries where the pest is present, utilising the pest free place of production option.

Q7. Why are these measures being applied only to GB and not the whole of the UK?

Under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol, Northern Ireland continues to apply Sanitary and Phytosanitary-related EU regulations. However, Great Britain and Northern Ireland administrations continue to work closely together on plant health issues and Northern Ireland continues to play a full and comprehensive role in technical and policy decisions that affect the UK as a whole.

Q8. What regulations apply to Northern Ireland?

NI remains subject to EU regulations on this pest, under which they are designated as an EU Protected Zone (along with ROI). This means they have a certain level of protection against the pest, although GB is introducing more robust requirements. The new GB regulations do not affect trade in host trees between NI and GB.

Q9. Why are you taking a different approach to the EU?

Great Britain is now focusing on pests which pose a risk to Great Britain, rather than to the EU. PPM is classified as a quarantine pest in GB but not in the EU.