



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Smarter Rules for Safer Foods

Plant Health Regulation – Plant Passports & Seed Potatoes

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The new Plant Health Regulation (PHR) became applicable in the UK from 14 December 2019. This fact sheet outlines what will be changing for Plant Passports (PP) as they apply to seed potatoes, and what UK businesses need to do to.

These changes apply to UK businesses involved in activities such as the production, processing and supply of seed potatoes.

What is the Plant Health Regulation?

- The PHR is part of a wider set of changes which have been introduced under the Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF) package of regulations.
- Plant health helps agriculture and forestry sectors remain sustainable and competitive, as well as protecting domestic biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Globalised trade and climate change now present a greater risk to these sectors. The new PHR sets out controls and restrictions that will apply to imports and internal movement within the UK and the EU of certain plants, plant pests, and other materials like soil; helping to reduce these risks.
- The PHR applies in the UK during the transition period, these regulations will be retained by the Withdrawal Act and will continue to apply subject to any amendments Parliament may agree.

Updates in the following areas:

- Farmed saved seed potatoes will not require a PP, nor will ware potatoes.
- However, if you are responsible for the movement of seed potatoes, you will need to be registered with the competent authority.
- Due to the current Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS) you will not be required to become authorised to issue PPs, this will be done by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on your behalf due to the nature of the SPCS.
- The PP will be combined with your certification label. For Information, examples can be found in the [Plant Passport Introductory Guide](#) on pages 16-18.

What has changed?

Plant Passports:

- The content and format of the PP, how it is attached to the consignment or plant, the number and variety of businesses that need to be authorised to issue PPs have changed. More information and guidance around the [issuing of plant passports](#) can be found by visiting GOV.UK and the [Plant Health Portal](#).
- Seed potatoes will require PPs. Ware potatoes and farm saved seed potatoes will not require PPs.
- The PHR sets out a list of **Union Quarantine Pests (UQPs)** as well as a list of pests and their hosts (plants/seeds), known as **Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQPs)**, which are regulated.

- Plants that may be hosts of RNQPs require a PP. These plants are also subject to a range of measures to control the presence of RNQPs including inspections, sampling and/or testing. More information and guidance can be found in [Annexes IV and V](#).

Registration:

As stated above, PPs for certified seed potatoes will be issued by APHA, meaning you will need to be registered with the competent authority, but not authorised to issue PPs.

- Registration is a free and simple process and requires the form for registration to be completed. Businesses whose principle place of business is in Scotland or Northern Ireland should contact the competent authorities in those territories for further advice on registration and authorisation.

Attaching PPs to products:

- Under the new regulations the PP must be attached to the smallest tradeable unit.
- All online and sales through distance contracts must have a PP provided to the final consumer.

Record keeping:

- Your records must allow APHA to investigate any plant pest or disease outbreak. You must keep records of all PPs for three years.
- If a supplier sends you a PP in the form of a label, you may store this physically or digitally. You don't have to keep supplier documents.

What does your businesses need to do now?

1. Further information can be found on [plant passports](#) on GOV.UK and on the UK [Plant Health Portal](#).
2. Ensure you are registered as a professional operator with APHA.
3. Check if you trade in products that have '[Protected Zone](#)' (PZ) status.
4. Ensure you can meet requirements around [traceability and record keeping](#).
5. Read guidance on what checks 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](#) and [SRSF GOV.UK](#) page for updates.

Where can I find more information?

- For more information on Plant Health Regulations, visit the [SRSF GOV.UK page](#) or the [Plant Health Portal](#)
- For more information on plant health controls and resources such as information on pests and diseases, visit the [Plant Health Portal](#)
- For any technical help, you can email your questions to: Apha_srsfmailbox@apha.gov.uk