



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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

26th May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Extending import requirements to *Solanum tuberosum* plants

I am writing to notify you of several planned changes to import requirements of *Solanum tuberosum* (potato) plants. These changes should take effect by May 2024.

Background

Since the 1st January 2021, certain requirements have been in place in Great Britain for the importation of potato tubers for planting from the EU¹, under The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020². These requirements were established to prevent the introduction of certain pests and diseases associated with potato plants that pose a significant risk to the biosecurity of Great Britain.

Issue

Trading volume data has shown that not all imported EU potato plants for planting arriving in Great Britain are tubers. Instead, these imports consist of other commodities, such as micro plants, that could similarly be associated with high-risk pests and diseases. Additional measures are required to prevent the risk of harmful pests and diseases being introduced to Great Britain via these imports and causing unacceptable impacts to GB potato production.

Solution

We plan to tackle this biosecurity risk by extending the import requirements as laid out in entries 20 and 21 of Annex 7 of The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 to cover not only tubers but all plants for planting of potato

¹ References to the EU also include Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

² [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/2020/1122)



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(other than seeds). Consequential amendments are then made to entries 22 and 29 to exclude potatoes which are already subject to entries 20 and 21. Finally, an error in entry 21 is corrected to include Liechtenstein in the requirements, as previously intended. Please view Appendix A to see the intended legislative changes in full.

Any comments should be sent to plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk by 18th August 2023.

Comments provided in response to this letter, 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 comments. 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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Appendix A³

20	<p style="color: red;">Plants Tubers of <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L., for planting, other than seeds.</p>	<p>EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland</p>	<p>The plants tubers must be accompanied by an official statement:</p> <p>(a) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) they originate in an area, which in accordance with the measures specified in ISPM4, is known to be free from <i>Clavibacter sepedonicus</i> (Spieckermann & Kotthoff) Li <i>et al.</i>, or (ii) they originate in a place of production established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM10 as a place of production that is free from <i>Clavibacter sepedonicus</i> (Spieckermann & Kotthoff) Li <i>et al.</i> or is considered to be free from <i>Clavibacter sepedonicus</i> (Spieckermann & Kotthoff) Li <i>et al.</i> as a consequence of the implementation of the procedures set out in EPPO PM 9/2, <p>(b) that they originate in a place of production established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with ISPM10 as a place of production that is free from <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Schilbersky) Percival or is considered to be free from <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Schilbersky) Percival as a consequence of the implementation of the procedures set out in EPPO PM 9/5,</p> <p>(c) that they originate in an area in which <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Smith) Yabuuchi <i>et al.</i> emend. Safni <i>et al.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) is known not to occur, or (ii) is known to occur, and the tubers originate from a place of production found free from <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Smith) Yabuuchi <i>et</i>
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³ All text in red denotes the planned legislative changes to Annex 7.

al. emend. Safni et al. or considered to be free from *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith) Yabuuchi *et al. emend. Safni et al.* as a consequence of the implementation of an appropriate procedure aimed at eradicating *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith) Yabuuchi *et al. emend. Safni et al.*,

(d) that:

- (i) they originate in an area in which *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* Golden *et al.* (all populations) is known not to occur,
- (ii) they originate from a place of production which has been found free from *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* Golden *et al.* (all populations) based on an annual survey of host crops by visual inspection of host plants at appropriate times and, **in the case of tubers**, by visual inspection both externally and by cutting of tubers after harvest from potato crops grown at the place of production, or
- (iii) **in the case of tubers**, after harvest, they have been randomly sampled and checked for the presence of symptoms after an appropriate method to induce symptoms has been applied or laboratory tested, as well as inspected visually both externally and by cutting tubers at appropriate times to detect the presence of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* Golden *et al.*, and in all cases at the time of closing of the packages or containers before movement, and found to be free from symptoms of that pest, and

(e) they originate in a site of production where the procedures to combat *Globodera pallida* (Stone) Behrens and *Globodera rostochiensis* (Wollenweber) Behrens set out in EPPO PM 9/26 have been implemented.

21	<p>Plants Tubers of <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L., for planting, other than seeds, and other than tubers of those varieties officially accepted on to the GB Variety List pursuant to the Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) Regulations 2001</p>	<p>EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland</p>	<p>The tubers plants must be accompanied by an official statement that:</p> <p>(a) they belong to advanced selections,</p> <p>(b) they have been produced in an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland, and</p> <p>(c) they have been derived in direct line from material which has been maintained under appropriate conditions and has been subjected in an EU Member State, Liechtenstein or Switzerland to official quarantine testing and has been found in those tests to be free from GB quarantine pests.</p>
22	<p>Tubers of <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L., other than those mentioned in column (1) of entries 20 and 21</p>	<p>EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland</p>	<p>There must be a registration number on the packaging, or in the case of loose-loaded tubers transported in bulk, on the accompanying documents, demonstrating that the tubers have been grown by an officially registered producer, or originate from officially registered collective storage or dispatching centres located in the area of production, indicating that:</p> <p>(a) the tubers are free from <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Smith) Yabuuchi <i>et al.</i> emend. Safni <i>et al.</i>,</p> <p>(b) they originate in a place of production which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has been found to be free from <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Schilbersky) Percival, or (ii) is considered to be free from <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Schilbersky) Percival as a consequence of the implementation of the procedures set out in EPPO PM 9/5, <p>(c) they originate in a place of production which:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has been found to be free from <i>Clavibacter sepedonicus</i> (Spieckermann & Kotthoff) Li <i>et al.</i>, or (ii) is considered to be free from <i>Clavibacter sepedonicus</i> (Spieckermann & Kotthoff) Li <i>et al.</i> as a consequence of the implementation of the procedures set out in EPPO PM9/2(2), and <p>(d) they originate in a site of production where the procedures to combat <i>Globodera pallida</i> (Stone) Behrens and <i>Globodera rostochiensis</i> (Wollenweber) Behrens set out in EPPO PM 9/26 have been implemented.</p>
29	Seeds of <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L., ('true potato seed')	EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland	<p>The seeds must be accompanied by an official statement that the seeds derive from plants complying, as applicable, with the requirements set out in entries 20 and 21, and</p> <p>(a) that the seeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) originate in areas known to be free from <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (Schilbersky) Percival, <i>Clavibacter sepedonicus</i> (Spieckermann & Kotthoff) Li <i>et al.</i>, and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (Smith) Yabuuchi <i>et al.</i> emend. Safni <i>et al.</i>, or (ii) have been produced in a site where, since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation, no symptoms of disease caused by the GB quarantine pests referred to in point (i) have been observed and where the following actions have been taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) staff and other items, such as tools, machinery, vehicles, vessels and packaging material, from other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Potato spindle tuber viroid have been prevented from coming into contact with the site or other

			<p>appropriate hygiene measures have been taken to prevent infection by staff working, or items used, at other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Potato spindle tuber viroid,</p> <p>and</p> <p>(bb) only water free from those pests has been used.</p>
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