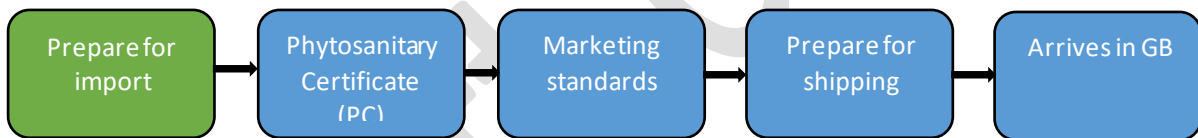**Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs**

Narrative Version
Import of Regulated Plant Produce (including Fruit and Vegetables and Cut Flowers)
Updated 16th December 2020

Index

| Prepare for import | → | Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) | → | Marketing standards | → | Prepare for shipping | → | Arrives in GB |

START	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-january-2021
1.0 EU exporter applies for an EU EORI number to export to GB.	**This action is for the exporter and importer** • This is a customs requirement. • Every EU business exporting goods will need an EORI number from a customs authority in the EU even if they use a forwarder or a customs agent for export declarations. A business can apply for an EORI number from customs authorities across the EU. https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/national-customs-websites_en • You need an EORI number that starts with GB to import goods into GB from 1st January • The link is here https://www.gov.uk/eori •

1.1
EU exporter checks GB requirements
	This action is for the EU exporter
	
	EU exporters will need to check:
	• **The requirement for a phyto sanitary certificate (PC)**
	  • From April onwards ALL regulated plant and plant material will need a PC
	  • Is my plant or plant material regulated? A list of regulated plants can be found at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-january-2021#importing-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-july-2021
	• **The requirement for pre-notification**
	  • Is my plant notifiable? Please refer to the Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 legislation - https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2020/9780348213706/schedule/10 Schedule 10 Part A sets out the list of plants and products that will need to be pre-notified from April. This same list will then require physical inspections at a BCP from July 2021.
	  • Physical checks are being introduced later than the notification requirements to give operators time to transition and get used to the new regime.

2.0 Exporter to register as a professional operator on EU CA system	**This action is for the Exporter** • Anyone who exports to GB will need to be registered with the EU CA. They need to contact their EU CA. Contact points are available for Member States (MSs) on the https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/all/list-countries/
2.1 From July Importer/exporter checks that the transport route and BCP is appropriate for the consignment	**This action is for the exporter/importer** • From July 2021 all risk based physical checks will be conducted on all regulated plant and plant products that need to be notified on the new plant health IT service plus a percentage of non-notifiable plant products that CHIEFS/CDS selects • These checks will then all be carried out at BCPs.
2.2 From April - Is the importer registered on the agreed import IT system?	**This step is for the importer** • The importer and importer's agent, needs to register on the relevant import notification system for plant health purposes prior to importing to ensure no delays to the consignment. • Even if your plant/plant product generally does not require pre-notification there is a possibility that CHIEF/CDS will select them for checking and then require pre-notification. • This additional requirement for pre-notification applies to a small sample of non-notifiable plants plus a small sample of GMS and a small sample of SMS fruit and vegetables (whether already notified or not) so it is prudent to have registered on the new plant health IT service as soon as practicable in order to reduce delays. • Please refer to the Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 legislation

	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2020/9780348213706/schedule/10 Schedule 10 Part B sets out which plants and product will be subject to the notification risk based regime from July 2021, i.e. a profiling mechanism will be introduced in CHIEF/CDS and will select a small sample of all plant commodities, alerting the importer that a plant notification is required and official controls at point of entry may also be required.
	• If your plants or plant product lands/arrives in England or Wales you will need to use the new plant health IT service to pre-notify
	• Please note, if it lands in Scotland the Scottish Gov do not use a plant health IT service so exporters would need to follow the relevant registration processes for Scottish Government.

From April onwards all regulated plants will require a PC (even if they don't require pre-notification)

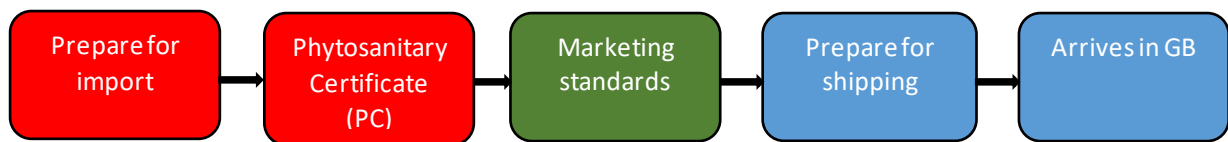| Prepare for import	→	Phytosanitary Certificate (PC)	→	Marketing standards	→	Prepare for shipping	→	Arrives in GB

2.3 EU exporter applies for PC from EU CA	**This action is for the exporter** • This will be a different process in different Member States (MSs) so the EU exporter will need to contact the plant health authority in your MS • The following steps and processes are largely similar in each MS
3.0 EU CA receive and process PC application	**These actions are for the EU Competent Authority** • Fees may be different in different Member States but processes will largely be the same.
4.0 EU CA carries out inspection	**These actions are for the EU Competent Authority**
5.0 Does EU CA issue PC?	**These actions are for the EU Competent Authority** • As a result of the inspection the PC may not be issued in which case the export cannot occur. • If yes go to next step. •
6.0 EU CA issues PC to EU exporter to include with the consignment	**These actions are for the exporter/importer** • Regulated plants and plant products must travel with an original phytosanitary certificate when one is required. • A scanned copy should be provided with any pre-notification of import GB CA required on the new plant health IT service Within 3 days of a consignment reaching the UK, the original PC must be provided to the plant health authority, if pre notified on the new plant health IT service • There are currently Covid-19 easements in place which recognize that original copies may be delayed as a result of disruptions in the country of dispatch.

6.1 EU exporter notifies GB importer	• The EU exporter provides a copy of the PC to the GB importer. • In general, the exporter will share the PC with the importer and they will provide it to their Customs Agent.

Prepare for import	→	Phytosanitary Certificate (PC)	→	Marketing standards	→	Prepare for shipping	→	Arrives in GB

MARKETING STANDARDS STEPS ADDED FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PLANT PRODUCTS (not cut flowers)

1 Jan – 30 Jun 2021
- Current third country processes remain the same for those countries, including those which have retained AIS status as per annex IV of EC reg 543/2011.
- For produce of EU origin, we will not be inspecting Specific Marketing Standards (SMS) or General Marketing Standards (GMS) fruit and veg during this time.
- An EU issued certificate of conformity will not be required for release into free circulation into GB.

1 July 2021 – 1 Jan 2023
- Using the notification that the importer makes on CHIEFS/CDS for customs, a small sample of imports from the EU (SMS and GMS) will be selected for checks to ensure they are complying with GB marketing standards.
- CHIEF / CDS will randomly select this small sample for GB certificate of conformity with an error report on the Customs entry – this means you need to have a marketing standards check. Traders will then apply through the new plant health IT service, if they have not already done so and these will be physically inspected at the border before release into free circulation can occur as edible fruit and vegetables.
- An EU issued certificate of conformity will not be required for release into free circulation into GB.

Between 1 Jan 2021 and 31 Dec 2022
- EU countries will be encouraged to apply to the UK to become listed as an approved inspection service (AIS) as under Art 15 of EU reg 543/2011

From Jan 23 onwards
- All SMS plant products and green bananas imported from the EU will need to be pre-notified for HMI purposes on the new plant health IT service
- All SMS will need to be accompanied by a certificate of conformity from an EU country that has AIS status or apply for one at the GB border.
- If the country does not have AIS status then the SMS plant product will be subject to a risk assessment within the new plant health IT service This assessment will either result in the issue of a GB certificate of conformity or flag to the HMI/Scottish government that a conformity check is needed at the border - this is akin to existing 3rd country process.
- For GMS products, a small sample of imports from the EU will be selected for checks to ensure they are complying with GB marketing standards.

- SMS commodities – apples, pears, grapes, kiwis, citrus, peaches, nectarines, strawberries, lettuce, tomatoes, sweet peppers
- GMS commodities - covers most other fruit and vegetables

Prepare for import	Phytosanitary Certificate (PC)

```
[Prepare for import] → [Phytosanitary Certificate (PC)] → [Marketing standards] → [Prepare for shipping] → [Arrives in GB]
```

7.0 From April importer/agent submits notification for some plants for plant health purposes to GB CA	**These actions are for the exporter/importer** • From April most, but not all, regulated plants will require pre-notification. Further information can be found in the importers guide (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plant-species-by-import-category/import-requirements-for-plants-plant-produce-and-products). • There will be a new plant heath IT service to facilitate the pre-notification of the imports of plants and plant products. • We will be providing comprehensive training and support for this new service. • From 01 January Scotland will use PEACH for EU imports. ROW imports will continue as current. • Consignments will have to be exported before the end of the validity period of a PC. • The GB CA in England and Wales is APHA and Scottish Government in Scotland.
8.0 Exporter sends goods with the PC and other documents	**These actions are for the exporter** • From April goods need to be accompanied by PC and normally the invoice, and commercial documents. • Quite often agents will provide other documents to APHA and Scottish Government to corroborate the info on a PC. This may include the Bill of Lading or an Airway Bill. These are commercial documents that contain references that primarily provide information to port operators.
9.0 From January – you need to complete an export customs declaration on EU MS Customs platform	**These actions are for the exporter** • You also need to submit a Safety and Security declaration and an export customs declaration through the MS platform • This is required at the point of export from the MS and before the point of import in GB
	These actions are for the importer
10.0 From July – you need to submit imports declaration on CHIEF/CDS	7

	• Import declarations for all plants/plant products are **deferred** for the first 6 months as plant health goods are not on the controlled list until July.
	• This means that between January and July you can choose to either make a simplified (frontier) customs declaration and provide a supplementary declaration within 6 months of import OR use existing customs process to complete a full imports declaration at the point of entry to GB.
	• From July 2021, a S&S declaration will also be required in addition to the import customs declaration submitted through CHIEF/CDS. This is not a delayed requirement, nothing is required before July so there are no retrospective S&S declarations needed to cover Jan – July

```
┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────┐   ┌──────────────┐
│  Prepare for │──▶│ Phytosanitary│──▶│  Marketing   │──▶│  Prepare for │──▶│ Arrives in GB│
│    import    │   │Certificate(PC)│  │  standards   │   │   shipping   │   │              │
└──────────────┘   └──────────────┘   └──────────────┘   └──────────────┘   └──────────────┘
```

	What to do when you get to the Border (GB) Import Controls
**Import Checks:** From April 2021, the requirement for PCs and document checks will be extended to include all regulated plants and plant products.   From April 2021 most but not all regulated plants will need to be pre-notified.   Plants that require pre-notification can be found on https://www.gov.uk/guidance/place-of-destination-checks-on-high-priority-plants-and-products-from-the-eu-from-1-january-2021#place-of-destination-requirements.   From July physical checks will be required for notifiable plants and will be performed at BCPs.
11.0 Goods arrive in GB	**Actions that need to be taken at the GB Border** • From July 2021 risk based physical checks will be required on all goods pre-notified on the new plant health IT service and will be carried out at BCPs.
12.0 From April GB CA conducts documentary check	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • For any goods pre notified on plant health systems the GB CA will carry out document checks on the PC in order to ensure that it conforms to the required standards and fulfils the criteria for the material imported. • This takes place at the office and is not a physical check
13.0 Do goods pass document checks?	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • If No, go to step 14 and if Yes go to step 16
14.0 Goods are held until correct documents can be produced.	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • If the PC fails the document check the importer will be given 5 working days in which to obtain a correct certificate.
15.0 Can correct documents be provided?	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority**

	• If they cannot – the GB CA will discuss potential compliance options with the importer
16.0 From July – goods may be selected for physical and identity checks	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • Physical and identity checks consist of visual inspections of goods to ensure they are pest free and to verify the content and labelling of a consignment. These checks also confirm the amounts of the goods, to ensure the correct quantity of the consignment. • From July all regulated plants that are pre-notified for plant health purposes will be subject to risk based physical and identity checks. • From July a small sample of plant/plant products that are not notified for plant health will be selected by CHIEFS/CDS and will be subject to physical checks and pre-notification on the new plant health IT service • In addition from July –the small sample of SMS and GMS plant selected by CHIEFS/CDS will also be subject to physical checks by HMI/Scottish government and pre-notification
17.0 Do goods require laboratory testing?	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • At point of destination GB CA may carry out laboratory testing to understand whether a pest or disease is present. As per specific sampling processes. The goods must be held on site without tampering until the results have been received. • If No go to next step. If Yes go to step 19.
18.0 Do goods pass physical and identity checks?	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • If No go to step 19 If Yes go to step 23
19.0 If lab tested goods are sampled and detained until results received.	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • GB CA record sample data on their system and a notice holding the goods is served on the person in control of the goods.
20.0 Do goods pass laboratory testing?	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority**

	• If No go to step 21 If Yes got to step 23
21.0 Non-compliant consignment updated on GB CA system	**Actions to be taken by the GB Competent Authority** • A statutory notice must be issued by the inspectorate to the person in control of the goods to notify them of the outcome and the action required in response to the non-compliance.
22.0 Goods seized, re-exported or destroyed	**This actions to be done by GB Border** • Occasionally goods may be processed to remove the risk. • If this is the case then this is the end of the process
23.0 GB CA updates system with outcome of inspection	**This action is for the GB Competent Authority**
24.0 GB system receives update and a decision is required if goods can be released	**This actions is to be done by GB Border** • If yes go to step 25. If no go to step 26.
25.0 Goods are released to importer.	**This action is to be done by the GB Border** • From January – July there is no holding for customs reasons • From July (when the goods are classified as controlled) an automated customs release of goods will be arranged – in Scotland this will be via a paper quarantine release certificate being issued until they are linked to the new plant health IT service
26.0 Goods may be held for other reasons, such as Marketing Standards fraud/smuggling/not paying a tariff	**This actions is to be done by GB Border**

	- This can include HMI, Scottish Government and other government agencies such as UKBF - This is relevant for goods that have had physical checks. - If this is the case, the process ends here
27.0 Goods arrive with customer	**This action is for the importer/exporter**
END	- **This is the end of the process.**