



Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Horticultural Trade Association (HTA) Edition

Date published: 11/12/2020

1. Can you tell me which plants are more likely to attract an inspection?

Defra have recently released new import guidance on the [New EU to GB Import Guidance page on the Plant Health Portal](#). The guidance under section GB Reduced Check Regime and Frequency of Physical Checks for Regulated Imports provides details of the frequency of checks and the risk hierarchy. The Risk Hierarchy for EU imports, identifies [Xylella hosts](#) and Platanus (canker stain of plane) as those of the highest risk and are most likely to receive physical inspections at a frequency of 100% from 1 January 2021.

2. Are CC trolley shelves exempt from requiring an ISPM15 stamp?

Yes, wood components permanently attached to freight vehicles and containers are generally regarded as being of low risk and are exempt from ISPM 15 requirements. This exemption extends to the shelves of CC trolleys.

3. If I have a delivery to more than one of my premises, can they be imported under one phytosanitary certificate? If so, how do I show that on my PEACH notification?

Defra have recently released new guidance on [phytosanitary certificate and pre-notification requirements for Place of Destination \(PoD\) 'multi-drop' consignments on the Plant Health Portal](#). This guidance outlines the requirements for four scenarios, depending on the logistics model of the importer/exporter. We recommend checking this document to understand the phytosanitary certificate and pre-notification requirements that match your business scenario.

The scenario outlined in the question suggests scenario four: One lorry contains plant consignments for one importer intended for multiple PoDs, under the 'direct delivery' logistics model. For this scenario the importer may use one phytosanitary certificate to accompany the consignment and require one pre-notification for only one PoD. The importer must select either the first customer/retailer in the sequence of deliveries to act as the PoD, or if there are higher risk species in the load, the first drop in receipt of those higher risk species. The importer is responsible for making sure the correct PoD is notified to the relevant plant health service, if higher risk species are present in the consignment.

For further guidance, including Plant passporting requirements for onward movement, please visit the [Multi-drop guidance on the Plant Health Portal](#).

4. When the plants arrive and some of them have been chosen for an inspection does the whole load have to be quarantined?

The composition of the consignment must be maintained until an inspector contacts you and indicates if the entirety of the consignment needs to be made available for inspection or if they only need access to certain elements of the consignment.

5. Can you tell me what is happening with compost? (meaning what do I need to do to import it or export it)

Exports to the EU: The EU has stated that after the end of the Transition Period, GB exports to the EU will be subject to the EU's import requirements, including existing prohibitions on soil and growing media exported as a commodity. This means you will not be able to export soil or growing medium to the EU and NI as a commodity.

For growing media attached to plants there are currently special requirements that will need to be met at the time of planting and since planting to enable exports.

Imports to the UK: At the end of the Transition Period soil and growing media will be allowed to be imported as a commodity into GB from the EU, Switzerland and Lichtenstein as they have been listed as countries to which an exception from the general prohibition applies. From January 2021 imports of these commodities from those aforementioned countries will not require a phytosanitary certificate or pre-notification.

For growing media attached to plants there are no special requirements that apply to the EU, Switzerland and Lichtenstein. There will, however, still be the requirement for a PC and pre-notification to be made from 01 January 2021 for the plants the growing media is attached to.

Some growing media may need to meet requirements other than those related to phytosanitary requirements before export.

6. Is it true that I can't send any acer or oak trees to the island of Ireland?

Yes, EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary law will apply to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol, upholding the longstanding status of the island of Ireland as a single epidemiological unit. The EU prohibits the import of high risk plants for planting, other than seeds, in vitro material and naturally or artificially dwarfed woody plants for planting, of *Acer L.* and *Quercus L.* in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/2019](#).

7. Why can't I send my plants to my Irish customers if I've grown them in a bark-based peat-free compost?

EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary law will apply to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol, upholding the longstanding status of the island of Ireland as a single epidemiological unit. The EU has stated that after the end of the Transition Period, GB exports to the NI will be subject to the EU's import requirements, including existing prohibitions on soil and growing media exported as a commodity. This means you will not be able to export soil or growing medium to the EU and NI as a commodity.

For growing media attached to plants there are currently special requirements that will need to be met at the time of planting and since planting to enable exports. For compost that is bark based there may be other requirements the growing media has to meet if the bark is a regulated species

and hasn't undergone any form of treatment. Please contact your [local plant health inspector](#) for further advice, relevant to the specifics of the growing media (attached to plants) you intend to export.

8. My Dutch supplier has insisted I give their agent authority to act as the importer on my behalf. I've already appointed a customs agent who is doing my PEACH notifications on my behalf. Can my supplier do this?

We have provided guidance on UK professional operator registration, including the use of a UK based 'proxy' customs agent, as part of plant health import requirements. Defra cannot advise on what customs agent services an importer should use, only that the arrangement meets the professional operator requirements. Guidance can be found [here](#).

9. I have Northern Ireland customers purchasing from my UK company, will they need to be registered on the TRACES system?

Yes. When exporting GB goods to the EU or NI the importer and the importers agent will need to register on TRACES NT in order to pre-notify the import to the relevant competent authority.

10. How do we supply to Northern Ireland if the systems aren't ready for 1st January, and what do I do if I can't get a PHSI to sign off my delivery in time?

The current IT system, eDomero, will be used to submit applications for export phytosanitary certificates until you are directed to migrate to a new service in early 2021. We are confident eDomero can withstand the volume and capacity of new users from 1 January 2021. Pre-notification of goods arriving in Northern Ireland and the EU will be submitted using the TRACES NT system.

APHA and Fera have been undertaking significant recruitment to increase the number of plant health inspectors and diagnosticians in order to support export and import inspections. We are confident that we have sufficient resources to meet demand from 1 January 2021 and ensure minimal disruption to trade. In order to ensure your business receives the PC on the date requested you will need to provide 7 working days' notice in advance of the export. Allowing time for the inspectors to visit, inspect, and take samples if required for lab testing and to issue the phytosanitary certificate. Without the PC the goods will not be able to be exported.