

Questions and Answers from Feasibility Testing Sessions for EU imports of High Priority Plants and Plant Products from 1 January 2021

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1. PREPARE FOR IMPORT

1.1 DEFINITIONS

1.1.1 What are 'high priority' plants and plant products? Why are they considered high priority?

We are describing this list of plants and plant products as 'high priority' since as noted, they pose the greatest potential risk to GB biosecurity. The list, which you can download [here](#), includes all those plants and plant products which are currently within scope of the EU plant passport regime, plus a small number of others which are otherwise subject to regulation.

1.1.2 What are regulated plants and where can I find a list of them?

Most plants and plant products are regulated in the EU and will continue to be regulated in GB after the end of the Transition Period. The list of regulated plants and plant products can be found on [gov.uk](#). A full list of regulated plants and plant products can be downloaded from the Plant Health Portal [here](#).

Regulated plants and plant products include:

- all plants for planting
- root and tubercle vegetables
- most common fruits other than fruit preserves by deep freezing
- cut flowers
- some seeds
- leafy vegetables other than vegetables preserved by deep freezing
- potatoes from some countries
- machinery or vehicles which have been operated for agricultural or forestry purposes

If your goods do not appear on the list of de-regulated plants and plant products on [gov.uk](#) then they will require a phytosanitary certificate from April 2021.

1.1.3 What is an EORI number?

Economic Operators Registration and Identification number. An EORI number 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. You need an EORI number that starts with GB to import goods into GB from 1 January 2021. You can apply [here](#).

1.1.4 Are "unrooted" cuttings and tissue culture, categorised as "Plants for Planting"?

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Yes. We've defined this in terms of its intended use. A 'Plant' means a living plant (including or tree) or a living part of a plant (including a living part of shrub), at any stage of growth.

1.1.5 Are all “plants for planting” included in the high priority list?

Yes, all plants for planting are on the high priority list.

1.1.6 Can you confirm what import controls are on seeds not on the high priority list?

Certain seeds are on the high priority list. Those that are not featured on the high-priority list will need a phytosanitary certificate and may need pre-notification from April. However, these regulated seeds will not be inspected until July at approved designated Border Control Posts (BCPs). The high priority list, which you can download [here](#), shows those seeds that are high priority.

1.1.7 Can you confirm what the HMRC commodity codes are? Could we have a definition of a crown and whether herbaceous plants would fit into that commodity code?

You can find HMRC commodity codes [here](#). If you are unsure what commodity code to use, you can contact HMRC [here](#).

1.1.8 Are potted bulbs bulbs or plants?

Bulbs if dormant, plants if in active growth. A 'Plant' means a living plant (including or tree) or a living part of a plant (including a living part of shrub), at any stage of growth.

1.1.9 Who is the exporter?

The exporter is the person in control or responsible for the consignment of plants and plant products at the time of export. This can be contracted to sell to a person in the UK. The inspection is done on the material that is bought together into a consignment, that person is the exporter.

1.1.10 Who is the importer?

The importer is the business responsible for importing goods into the UK.

1.1.11 What is a competent authority (CA)?

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In the UK, the competent authority for plants and plant products is the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and for wood and wood products it is Forestry Commission.

1.1.12 What defines a consignment?

This is the material that has been grouped together and is written on the phytosanitary certificate.

1.1.13 What is the difference between 'plants' and 'plant products'?

A full definition of 'plants', 'plant products' and 'plants for planting' can be found in Article 2 of the [Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031](#).

1.2 PLACE OF DESTINATION (POD)

1.2.1 When will we receive confirmation that our application to register as a PoD has been accepted?

Upon submitting your PoD registration form to the APHA email address, you will receive an automated email confirming receipt of your application. Your information will be processed and input on the IT system. Unless otherwise informed, your application will be approved, and you will be automatically granted PoD status. APHA will only get in touch directly if there are any issues that require resolving.

During registration with the Forestry Commission, the applicant receives automatic confirmation that their application has been received. The system also outlines the next steps and the contact point for any further questions. The FC administrative team will send an email to the applicant confirming that an acceptable application has been received and that PoD status has been granted.

In the first two weeks following launch of the PoD registration scheme, approximately 100 clients did not receive the automatic reply confirming application receipt, due to a system error. The error has now been resolved.

1.2.2 Are the PoDs only for high priority plants and not regulated plants?

Yes. They're only for high priority plants for the first six months.

1.2.3 How do I register as a place of destination, and what are the requirements?

If you wish to act as a place of destination for plant health physical inspections on EU-regulated high priority goods, you first need to register as a professional operator.

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You can do this for plants and plant products with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on PEACH, or for wood and timber products with the Forestry Commission.

Once you are registered as a professional operator with the relevant authority, you can then register the details of your place of destination premises with:

- APHA - email the completed plants and plant products [place of destination registration form](#) and email to PODRegistrations@apha.gov.uk
- Forestry Commission - [complete the register a place of destination form](#)

For details on registering as a place of destination in Scotland, email the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit at hort.marketing@gov.scot.

You can find more information about the requirements of a PoD at gov.uk.

1.2.4 Is there a charge to be a place of destination?

There are no charges associated with registering with the PoD scheme.

1.2.5 Can plants be watered and moved around at a PoD? What are the requirements of the demarcated quarantine area? Can the quarantine areas be temporary ie: move between different glasshouses/polytunnels in order to make the process smoother?

Regarding watering to keep plants healthy and not damage the products, this is fine, as long as the below points regarding the consignments are fulfilled:

The operator should make sure that during transport to, and storage at, the place of destination, the consignment is not tampered with or subject to any alteration or change of packaging, and closed and sealed properly to reduce the risk of pest infestation and contamination as reasonably possible.

1.2.6 How do we know whether to use PoDs or BCPs? Do businesses have a choice?

The PoD scheme has been developed by Defra to facilitate plant health import checks post customs clearance on EU regulated goods inland, to prevent delays and disruption at the border. Defra would encourage business to register as PoDs, to provide industry with upmost flexibility in where the physical checks are conducted.

Business may also arrange for the plant health controls on EU goods to be conducted at existing BCPs and control points post customs clearance. However, Defra is unable to reassure business that the existing BCPs and control points will have the capacity to facilitate these checks at the border. You will need to make arrangements with the BCP/control point as appropriate. The list of UK plant health BCPs and control points, including contact details, is available on gov.uk.

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1.2.7 How long can we use PoDs for?

The use of PoDs for conducting physical inspections on EU regulated goods will not be permitted once the inland BCPs are up and running after 01 July 2021. Business may consider registering their premise as a customs bonded control point inland if they wish to continue conducting import inspection on plant goods away from the border. However, the minimum requirements in order to qualify as a control point are more intensive than the PoD requirements and will include a physical site visit and audit to confirm that the requirements are in place.

Contact bcp.enquiries@apha.gov.uk for more information on how to apply as a customs authorised control point for plant health purposes.

1.2.8 What are the benefits of being a PoD?

The PoD scheme has been developed by Defra to facilitate plant health import checks post customs clearance on EU regulated goods inland, to prevent delays and disruption at the border. Defra would encourage business to register as PoDs, to provide industry with upmost flexibility in where the physical checks are conducted. It means plant health import inspections can be conducted at a premise most suitable for industry in regards to resource and logistics.

1.2.9 Will the list of PoDs be made public?

The total list of all registered PoD premises will not be published on gov.uk due to GDPR requirements associated with the publication of private business details.

1.2.10 How many PoDs are needed for it to be a successful scheme?

We are continuing to monitor the uptake place of destination scheme and this will largely be dependent on how many businesses apply to be a place of destination. Using a place of destination is a business arrangement. The importers must register to use the services of a PoD.

1.2.11 Do I have to register as a PoD? What is the alternative?

The PoD scheme has been developed by Defra to facilitate plant health import checks post customs clearance on EU regulated goods inland, to prevent delays and disruption at the border. Defra would encourage business to register as PoDs, to provide industry with upmost flexibility in where the physical checks are conducted.

Defra is unable to reassure business that the existing BCPs and controls points will have the capacity to facilitate these checks at the border from 01 January 2021. Cross government infrastructure projects are in development to expand existing BCPs and develop new fit for purpose inland BCPs, to ensure adequate capacity at the border from 01st July 2021. As a result, EU plant

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goods will not be included on the HMRC customs-controlled list until 01st July 2021, although they may still be screened at the border by Border Force during import on a risk basis.

If you wish to use a BCP/control point for the purpose of physical inspections on EU high priority goods, you will need to make handling arrangements as appropriate with the premises or associated customs agents. The list of UK plant health BCPs and controls points, including contact details, is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

1.2.12 How will I know if my PoD has been chosen by another importer as an inspection facility?

PEACH will only show those linked to you. The purpose of the registration is to link yourself as an importer to a PoD premise. If you intend to use another PoD premise you can link yourself within the system in order to do this. You can use multiple PoDs but you would need to register to use multiple PoDs.

1.2.13 Is it possible to have multiple PoDs registered for one site?

Yes, you may register multiple PoDs for one importer. Each separate pre-notification will need to specify the relevant PoD.

1.2.14 Is it possible to apply for those several sites on the one registration or does each have to be a separate registration?

You will need to submit a separate registration for each PoD.

1.2.15 Do we have to use our own premise as a PoD or can we use a third-party premise instead?

As long as the third party is happy to accept the consignment and complies with the PoD requirements, you can register them as a PoD. However, you will need to use the importers details on the phytosanitary certificate and detail the PoD premises on the pre-notification.

1.2.16 Would an inspector come and look at site prior to first consignment? What happens if site is deemed not suitable, can PoD status be taken away?

The local plant health inspector will hold the consignment and explain what needs to be rectified in terms of the PoD criteria. They will take a risk-based call on their first visit.

1.2.17 Once goods have arrived and been inspected at a PoD under one phytosanitary certificate, can these then be forwarded on to final destinations using the plant passporting system.

The plant health import physical inspections for EU high priority goods may be conducted at first place of destination. You do not need to issue a UK plant passport if your goods will be sold directly at retail from the first place of destination e.g. if your place of destination is a garden centre. If you intend to move your goods onwards e.g. your place of destination is a depot, and you want to move them to a garden centre, please check whether they are subject to [UK plant passporting requirements](#).

If you import EU goods to the UK under a phytosanitary certificate, you only need to issue a UK plant passport for your goods if:

- you're moving them to another professional operator
- you're selling them to final users (those buying for personal use) by means of distance contract, for example online
- you're moving them to another of your own premises which is more than 10 miles from the premises where the consignment arrived
- the phytosanitary status of the consignment changes, for example, if it has been grown on, or if it has been reconfigured, for example, 2 plants in separate pots have been planted in a new pot together

1.2.18 When stock is held in isolation, does it need to be isolated from other imports?

Yes, the key thing is that you keep consignments separate where possible because if we do find a pest or disease related problem and separate consignments are in close proximity, they are at risk of pest contamination. We recommend keeping the at-risk stock separate from other imports or consignments.

1.2.19 If consignments are flagged for inspection, does a member of staff have to wait with the goods before the inspector arrives?

A member of staff does not need to wait with the consignment before the inspector arrives. However, a member of staff must be available upon the inspector arriving to make sure the goods are presented effectively, to guide the inspector to the inspection point and remain available until the inspection has been completed. What we are trying to achieve is the right balance between biosecurity and ease of trade. We may ask you to hold consignments securely overnight and into the next day if we have a particular interest in carrying out a physical inspection. The inspector would be able to call and book in for the next day.

1.2.20 What happens if an inspector is not available?

The PoD scheme is taking a pragmatic approach where we undertake inspections where we need to meet biosecurity standards.

Consignments can be inspected at registered places of destination 7 days a week.

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APHA will aim to inspect your consignment within four working hours of it becoming available provided you have given four working hours pre-notification of arrival in GB for goods arriving via Roll-on-Roll-off or air freight.

APHA will be providing a flexible approach to operations where possible following the end of transition period to help manage demand e.g. some out of hours coverage where resource allow.

APHA will regularly review the service standard provided at PoDs to make sure it stays fit for purpose and in order to facilitate trade as much as possible.

Physical checks will be conducted at place of destination on a risk-basis specific to UK biosecurity objectives.

Further details on the service level agreement for PoDs can be found in section 6 in this document.

1.2.21 How will PoDs be linked to PEACH?

This is an important part of the PoD registration process. The online PoD registration form is sent to APHA who build the link between the importer and the PoD within the PEACH system.

Therefore, it is important to supply accurate information on your PoD registration form, to allow these system links to be made effectively. All registered PoDs will be added to PEACH as a drop-down list available to the importer to choose from during the pre-notification process.

1.3 BORDER CONTROL POSTS (BCPS)

1.3.1 Where can I find a list of authorised BCPs?

Current BCPs approved to handle plant health commodities can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

1.3.2 Why are you changing from PoDs to BCPs in July?

The PoD scheme has been developed and introduced as part of post-transition period planning, to make sure the trade is not disrupted at the UK border once the transition period ends. It has been introduced in conjunction with the EU-UK phased plant import regime, which introduces the official controls on EU regulated goods in stages from 01 January 2021 to help business adapt to the changes.

We will continue to use existing BCPs from 1 January 2021 to implement the import control regulations required on non-EU third countries plants and products, which many importers are familiar with. In January the EU will become a third country and so will require import inspections. PoDs have been introduced for EU imports only as a temporary measure until July when larger BCPs will be available and able to deal with these increased numbers of imports.

The use of PoDs for conducting physical inspections on EU regulated goods will not be permitted once the inland BCPs are up and running after 01 July 2021. Business may consider registering their premise as a customs bonded control point inland if they wish to continue conducting import inspection on plant goods away from the border. However, the minimum requirements in order to qualify as a control point are more intensive than the PoD requirements and will include a physical site visit and audit to confirm that the requirements are in place.

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Contact bcp.enquiries@apha.gov.uk for more information on how to apply as a customs authorised control point for plant health purposes.

1.3.3 Will the extra inspection sites be ready in time? What is their capacity?

Border Control Posts (BCPs), buildings in which to undertake Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks for goods will be required to implement SPS controls for goods imported from the EU from July 2021.

There will be an Inland BCP for Eurotunnel at Sevington (Ashford) and another is also required for the Port of Dover. At Sevington there will be 22 unloading operational bays for plant inspections and at Dover the facility will have 18 unloading bays

BCPs are expected to be operational from July 2021. Defra is continuing to work cross-government and directly with ports and airports to prepare the necessary infrastructure, staff and IT systems for SPS checks.

Ports and airports around the country are developing new or extended BCP facilities, supported by the the investment fund of £705 million announced on 12 July 2020.

1.3.4 From Jan-July do we have an option to pass through BCPs, or do we need to use PoDs?

The use of PoDs for conducting physical inspections on EU regulated goods will not be permitted once the inland BCPs are up and running after 01 July 2021. Business may consider registering their premise as a customs bonded control point inland if they wish to continue conducting import inspection on plant goods away from the border. However, the minimum requirements in order to qualify as a control point are more intensive than the PoD requirements and will include a physical site visit and audit to confirm that the requirements are in place.

Contact bcp.enquiries@apha.gov.uk for more information on how to apply as a customs authorised control point for plant health purposes.

Current BCPs approved to handle plant health commodities can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

1.3.5 Will there be any delay with inspections at BCPs with increased imports needing inspection?

Defra is continuing to work cross-government and directly with ports and airports to prepare the necessary infrastructure, staff and IT systems for SPS checks.

1.3.6 Will BCPs have the right facilities for inspecting temperature sensitive and time sensitive plants?

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There is a Defra project about BCPs where we are addressing these measures. Including, bringing existing BCPs up to standard and making the new ones appropriate. For example, plug in points and temperature-controlled facilities.

There is a lot of work that has gone into planning and building BCPs in Kent to include these facilities. The inland BCP building in Kent will have temperature-controlled zones and there will be electric charging points in the parking area for refrigerated trucks to plug into whilst waiting to be served. Where necessary we will need to take samples out of these containers so if they are temperature controlled, we would need to breach this to undertake the inspection.

1.3.7 Will BCPs be able to guarantee batches of plants are kept separate to minimise risk of pest / disease spreading?

Yes, there will be processes in place to handle each consignment separately and there will be bio security measures. Including washing down handling points and stations and there will be bio-secure seals around the trucks where they abut against the building, ensuring there are no risk of spread of pests and diseases.

1.3.8 Will inspections at BCPs take place 7 days a week and 24 hrs?

We're committed to ensuring our border systems are fully operational after the end of the transition period. To meet this commitment HM Government is investing an unprecedented £705 million package of investment for border infrastructure, staff and technology in Great Britain, to ensure our border systems are fully operational after the end of the transition period. This funding will support inland sites and ports which have EU to GB SPS trade flows to build their own BCPs. This will apply to all ports which are successful in their funding application. To assist ports in their applications we have released the Port Fund Pack on 9 October 2020.

Where ports do not have the space on port to build, HMG is building inland BCPs to ensure capacity. Engagement is underway with ports and we are speaking to Local Authorities about potential inland sites. Final decisions on inland sites will not be made until we have established the extent of new infrastructure that will be delivered at ports.

Defra are working with Port Health Authorities, the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Food Standards Agency to ensure recruitment and training of the additional staff required is completed for each stage of the new import regime.

1.3.9 If there are multiple consignments on a lorry which is stopped at a BCP, will the whole lorry be stopped or can the consignments which do not require checks move on?

If the lorry contains multiple consignments and we need to look at any one, the vehicle will need to be unloaded to the extent necessary to access the consignment(s) selected for checks. BCPs will not be equipped to store goods after checks have been completed, except to detain non-compliant

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goods. Therefore, the vehicle must wait for the checks to be completed, and (assuming it's found to be in compliance) the consignment reloaded, before moving on from the BCP.

1.3.10 How can we build relationships with the BCPs?

Relationships with BCPs will be a commercial arrangement. You can find a list of all the BCP contact details on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

2. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE (PC)

2.0.1 What plants and plant products will require a PC and from when?

From 1 January 2021, there will be the requirement for pre-notification and phytosanitary certificates for plants and plant products that pose the greatest potential risk to GB biosecurity and which are already subject to regulation within the EU. They will also be subject to import checks away from the border at places of destination, until July 2021 when checks will move to BCPs.

We are describing this list of plants and plant products as 'high priority' since as noted, they pose the greatest potential risk to GB biosecurity. The list on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) includes all those plants and plant products which are currently within scope of the EU plant passport regime, plus a small number of others which are otherwise subject to regulation.

From April 2021, the requirement for pre-notification and phytosanitary certificates will be extended to include all regulated plants and plant products. The list of regulated plants and plant products can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). A full list of regulated plants and plant products can be downloaded from the Plant Health Portal [here](#).

From July 2021, an increased number of physical checks will be carried out on regulated plants and plant products occurring at Border Control Posts (BCPs)

The level of checks will also take account of the level of checks imposed by the EU on GB goods of similar risk status.

2.0.2 What is the validity period of a PC?

It is 14 days from the point of which it leaves the country of export.

2.0.3 Will all of the high priority plants need a PC and checking before being released from the site?

Yes, all high priority plants and plant products need a phytosanitary certificate. Good will be inspected or released within 4 hours of arriving at place of destination, provided prenotification has

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been provided. We will be publishing information on the frequency of checks on the plant health portal shortly.

2.0.4 What are the Covid easements on phytosanitary certificates?

Usually, original PCs should accompany the consignment. A scanned copy of the PC may be uploaded to the PEACH system in light of the current Covid situation. However, within 3 days of your consignment reaching GB, you must post the original phytosanitary certificate to APHA for audit and compliance purposes. For consignments landing at Heathrow or Gatwick send the certificate to: Animal and Plant Health Agency.

2.0.5 Once the Covid easement ends, for some companies this will involve hundreds of originals arriving, is there an opportunity to bulk them up and send in rather than sending every day?

Yes, you can bulk up certificates. Send on a weekly basis.

2.0.6 Are there penalties for not supplying PCs in the 3 day time period?

PCs should be forwarded in a timely manner for the purposes of audit. Failure to forward documents will increase the likelihood of further investigation.

2.0.7 Why do we have to present the original PC?

All regulated plants and plant products imported from the EU will need to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and may be checked upon entry into GB. A scanned copy of the PC may be submitted to the competent authority as per import notification requirements, provided the original PC is posted to the competent authority within three days of the consignment reaching GB.

Scanned copies can be used for clearance processes at the border but under the legislative requirements an original must be checked to ensure it is a legitimate document produced by the sending National Plant Protection Organisation.

2.0.8 What happens if lorry drivers lose certificates and original is not there to be presented?

This is up to the Competent Authority in the exporting country. The importer can always track back to the competent authority in the respective EU Member State and make sure there is an original copy. APHA will investigate further if there is reasonable grounds for suspicion of a non-conformity.

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2.0.9 If we're bringing consignments from EU with a PC direct to stores on a weekly basis, not using a distribution centre. Can we just have one PC for all consignments?

New guidance on multidrop consignments can be found [here](#).

2.0.10 If you had a consignment made up of five different growers from NL, would a separate PC be needed for each supplier? And is a separate PC needed for each place of destination?

It is up to the competent authority which issues the PC to determine the scope of goods which can be covered by a single certificate.

It is not necessarily the case that a separate PC is needed for each Place of Destination. New guidance on multidrop consignments can be found [here](#).

2.0.11 What measures are being taken to ensure that phytosanitary certificates are looked after when they arrive with customers at a PoD? Many customers may not understand the importance of the certificate.

Importers should ensure the PoD receiving their goods are aware of the requirements to retain and forward the Phytosanitary certificates.

2.0.12 Are PCs raised in the country of origin only? What happens for a rooted cutting bought from Holland which started in Ethiopia for example?

From 01 January 2021, plants and plant products from non-EU third countries that enter into free circulation in the EU (having been subject to plant health checks) before travelling on to GB, will be treated by GB as if they were an EU import.

If plants and plant products are imported directly or under transit arrangements, such as CTC, from non-EU third countries to GB then those goods will require a PC and pre-notification from the 01 January 2021.

2.0.13 Why are plant health checks necessary in the UK if a PC has been authorised by the competent authority in the exporting country? Do we not trust these PCs to be correct?

At the end of the Transition Period, GB will be treated as a third country by the EU, and vice-versa. This means there will be an increased requirement to conduct plant health inspections of goods imported from the EU to GB and inspect and issue phytosanitary certificates for exports of goods to the EU.

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2.0.14 What work have you done to ensure that the exporting countries in the EU have enough capacity to issue PCs from 1 April? What happens if exporting country doesn't have capacity to produce all the PCs needed?

We have been liaising closely with EU Member States and have facilitated several stakeholder workshops. We are doing practical testing with some EU countries to ensure they are confident with the process.

2.0.15 Why are we not introducing ePhytos? Isn't now the perfect opportunity as we are moving to a new IT system?

The UK is aiming to introduce the capability to exchange ePhytos during 2021. Discussions between Defra and the [IPPC ePhyto Solutions](#) IT team are on-going.

Once connected to the ePhyto solution Defra will begin bilateral negotiations with the National Plant Protection Organisation of trading partners who are using the ePhyto solution to seek agreement for the exchange of ePhytos with the UK. Until agreement has been reached paper PCs will continue to be required for exports and imports.

For those countries not using the ePhyto solution paper PCs will continue to be required for exports and imports.

2.0.16 What is the mailing address for sending the PC and will we get the original back?

Phytosanitary certificates should be sent to:

Animal and Plant Health Agency Foss House,

1st Floor Kings Pool,

1-2 Peasholme Green

York

YO1 7PX

The original PC is an NPPO document and will be held by the authorities but we can provide you with a certified copy.

2.0.17 If one PC covers more than one truck on more than one ferry or train, do we need to make two declarations with the same PC?

There is nothing to prevent one PC covering the goods in more than one vehicle. However, the entire consignment must be available at the time of inspection to enable a representative sample to

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be taken upon which a reliable check can be performed. It therefore advisable to ensure vehicles carrying the consignment arrive at the same or similar time.

3. PREPARE FOR SHIPPING

3.1 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (PEACH)

3.1.1 Where can I find guidance on how to register and use PEACH?

You can find the PEACH user guide on gov.uk.

You can access and register for PEACH here <http://ehmipeach.defra.gov.uk/>.

You can also find a PEACH user guide on the resources section of the [Plant Health Portal](#). Please note this guide is currently being updated but you may still find this version useful as a new user.

3.1.2 Is there a PEACH test system available? Where can I access it?

The test system is only available for the IT team while they are creating the new IT system. However, you can do a practise run on PEACH by filling out an application and not clicking submit. Confidence will grow with familiarity with the system but if you have any concerns or encounter any issues, please contact PeachEnquiries@apha.gov.uk.

3.1.3 Does the importer or customs agent need to register on PEACH?

Both parties would need to be registered. You would have to give permission for an agent to make declarations on your behalf. Further guidance can be found on gov.uk.

3.1.4 Could you please advise how a business can access the CSV file mentioned?

The CSV is available for download from gov.uk.

3.1.5 How accurate do we need to be on the CSV file as there are so many different ways of setting names out.

The purpose of the CSV file is to verify the data. PEACH does the Latin name verification, but it does allow you to put free text in.

3.1.6 Will PoD details be added to PEACH?

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Yes, there will be a drop-down menu of the PoDs associated with your account. Other PoDs which are not linked to your PEACH account will not be available to view on the IT service.

3.1.7 Will certified seed potatoes imported from the EU be subject to pre-notification in PEACH from January?

Seed potatoes from the EU are high priority goods so they will require pre-notification on PEACH from 1 January 2021. You can find the high priority goods list here [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

3.1.8 Is there a high level of confidence that the PEACH system will cope with the much increased activity until the new software is rolled out? If it crashes what is the plan B?

We have been stress testing the existing IT systems with the levels we expect to come in. We have overloaded the system to beyond what we need and are confident it will be able to cope with the increased volumes of imports. Throughout trade systems there are standard contingency plans to use where there is a system failure, at the point at which any systems cannot facilitate trade then 'Manual Fallback' is invoked, this is emailed to users of systems and National Clearance Hub procedures are set up by Customs.

3.1.9 PEACH often encounters technical problems and maintenance, how will this be communicated to us?

PEACH is sometime inaccessible when there are updates. Planned downtimes will be communicated to all those registered with the service. Any unexpected technical problems will be communicated with trade as soon as they are identified and IT staff will work as quickly as possible to resolve the issues. Throughout trade systems there are standard contingency plans to use where there is a system failure, at the point at which any systems cannot facilitate trade then 'Manual Fallback' is invoked, this is emailed to users of systems and National Clearance Hub procedures are set up by Customs.

3.1.10 What Country of Origin should we use if we have material from multiple countries in one consignment?

We suggest using the Country of Origin that the PC has been issued from. For example, for goods originating in Ethiopia but inspected in Holland and issued a PC in Holland, you would put Holland as the Country of Origin.

3.1.11 Can the PEACH declaration be amended once submitted, for example, if the shipment is delayed?

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The example given of a delay to the shipment is accounted for in the PEACH application, and you will be able to update this after you have submitted the application. Provided we have not completed all checks any application can be amended, there is no need to cancel the previous application, the system does this for you. The system indicates to us that an amend has occurred so there is no requirement to inform us of a change.

3.1.12 How will I be notified that my goods have been selected for inspection?

There is a traffic light system on PEACH:

Orange balls = (currently) decision awaited on inspection

Red balls = commodity selected for inspection or 'Held' because of a problem. If held you will be contacted about the problem

Green balls = commodity cleared

Red ball with white horizontal line = commodity refused entry because of a problem, in which case you will be contacted by the plant health service with more information.

3.1.13 How should imports not intended for commercial use be managed on PEACH?

This is considered a Private Import and normal rules apply, registration, notification, import activity and fees associated.

3.1.14 Do we need to register for PEACH if we are importing goods to Scotland?

No – if the goods are imported direct to Scotland. See answer below if the goods land in England and then move to Scotland.

3.1.15 What if my goods are landing in England but then going on to Scotland?

Discussions about this are still on-going. We very much recognise the urgency to provide clarity to businesses and are aiming to get information out as soon as we can.

3.1.16 Will a courier be considered an agent on PEACH?

It is up to the courier business, if they are to put on the notifications then they would be the agent.

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3.1.17 For goods that require both a CHED-D and CHED-P, do we have to complete two separate applications, or can we complete a joint one?

Yes, you will have to complete 2 separate applications, as there is different information captured for each and different agencies performing the inspections.

3.2 IPAFFS

3.2.1 Will IPAFFs allow for bulk uploads?

Yes, that will be available on IPAFFS. You can upload multiple lines of commodities. IPAFFS can clone an application as on PEACH. You can then edit this cloned application for a new consignment.

3.2.2 Weight is an issue for plants, which is often variable. Quantity is much more appropriate and more useful for plant health inspectors. Why is weight being used on IPAFFS?

You will need to declare the weight on IPAFFS as this is a HMRC requirement and enables us to make the link with the Customs system to identify the correct notification. You will also be asked to provide the quantity as well.

3.2.3 If it's Customs that require the weight, why can't we unlink from this?

It is used as one of the key pieces of information the system uses to identify the correct notification. To change this would require multiple systems to factor in the technical change.

3.2.4 What are the implications of putting in an incorrect weight?

If the weight on the IPAFFS pre-notification does not match the Customs weight, your import will not clear through Customs and no systems match will be able to be made. Furthermore, goods may fail the documentary checks if the pre-notification and phytosanitary certificate do not match.

3.2.5 Do we need to register for IPAFFS? When can we do this?

Yes, you will need to register with IPAFFS when prompted to do so.

3.2.6 Will the IT system be used for importing plants for non-commercial scientific research?

This document is considered correct as of 14/12/2020 and may be subject to change

No, this wouldn't be notified on IPAFFS. This is done via our Scientific Licence Service remaining on Edomero.

The rules and processes for importing goods that require a scientific licence are the same regardless of the origin of the commodity. There will be no change at the end of the transition period for these consignments, therefore you will need to apply for a scientific licence as per existing processes.

3.2.7 Will there be a CSV file on IPAFFS as there is with PEACH?

Yes, a CSV file will be available and you will be able to have the option to bulk upload.

3.2.8 Do we need to provide genus and species or just genus?

On the whole, the more accurate you are the better. IPAFFS will only require genus, and species is optional. However, you may want to consider the following. If you were to only provide the genus of the consignment, you risk the entire consignment being checked, even if only one species within the genera requires plant health inspection. If you provide the species of the consignment, this would mean other species within the same genus included in that consignment could be cleared while the particular species being stopped for checks is taken for inspection.

3.2.9 Where do you get your taxonomic data? What if my plant is not included on your list because it's very obscure?

We use globally recognised databases of plants that are updated regularly.

3.2.10 What happens if the new IT system can't cope with the volumes of imports? What is the contingency plan?

We have been stress testing the existing IT systems with the levels we expect to come in. We have overloaded the system to beyond what we need and are confident it will be able to cope with the increased volumes of imports. Throughout trade systems there are standard contingency plans to use where there is a system failure, at the point at which any systems cannot facilitate trade then 'Manual Fallback' is invoked, this is emailed to users of systems and National Clearance Hub procedures are set up by Customs.

3.2.11 How will IPAFFS link to CHIEF?

The link to CHIEF is being built with the same capability as PEACH and CHIEF. This link has now been made.

This document is considered correct as of 14/12/2020 and may be subject to change

3.2.12 How much support will be offered for new users ?

We are planning engagement sessions with businesses involved with importing plants and/or plant products from the EU. We will be providing videos and user guidance along with guidance for users on registering for the new service. We will provide videos and user guides and guidance on the process of raising a notification for import agents and those responsible for the load, as well as decision process for Border Control Points and Inspectors. We will be holding webinars for new users to give additional demo of the new service and allowing Q&A sessions with Subject Matter Experts.

3.2.13 Will there be a transition period when we move to IPAFFS?

The implementation of IPAFFS will be detailed to importers.

3.2.14 Will the details of the PoD that we are using be transferred from PEACH to IPAFFS or will we have to fill out all the details again?

You will need to re-register.

3.2.15 Can a report from our IT system be generated with a list of commodity codes rather than plant name or with our own plant name and then uploaded via CSV?

Yes, but genus / species will still need to be added in CSVs which will be compatible with the new system. The new format will be available on gov.uk when IPAFFS is launched.

3.3 CUSTOMS

3.3.1 Why are import declarations for Customs being deferred until July?

Following on the concerns raised by logistics industry HMRC has made allowances to enable our sector to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and plan effectively so that we can continue to trade effectively with Europe.

3.3.2 Is it optional for import declaration to be deferred? Can it be done from January?

Yes, this is optional.

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3.3.3 If you're paying a customs agent to submit customs declaration, surely they would do that on your behalf from January anyway. Why would I want to defer until July?

You can submit a customs declaration from January if you want to.

3.3.4 Why are goods referred to as 'controlled' by Customs and not by Defra?

The term 'controlled' from a Custom perspective pertains to whether a full Customs declaration is required. For plant health purposes we refer to goods being 'regulated' instead of controlled, so it is clear which import processes apply to those goods.

3.3.5 Who is responsible for obtaining a safety and security declaration? Is it the importer of the customs agent?

It is the responsibility of the Importer, however they are waived for 6months for EU Imports.

3.3.6 What exactly is needed for the safety and security declaration?

You can find information about the S&S [here](#).

3.3.7 Please clarify the differences between EIDR and SDP, will both options be available if deferring for 6 month or only EIDR?

SDP is the provision of a simplified declaration & EIDR is entry into the declarants' records (no declaration is submitted prior to movement).

If you submit a simplified declaration, they are in effect following the process for controlled goods (and the process high risk traders must use); a supplementary declaration is required and must be submitted by traders or their agents on the 4th working day of following month after arrival of the goods.

If they are eligible and want to follow the staged customs approach and submit supplementary declarations in the 6 month window, they need to follow the EIDR process.

4. ARRIVES IN GB

4.1 DOCUMENT CHECKS

4.1.1 Will everything need a documentary check?

APHA plan to carry out document checks on everything that is declared to them.

4.1.2 If the goods fail the documentary checks do the rest of consignments with the failed goods get held as well?

If the phytosanitary certificate relates to the entire consignment, then the whole consignment will be held pending a new PC being issued. Where there are multiple consignments under separate phytosanitary certificates on one truck, only the one consignment that has failed will be detained at a PoD/BCP and the others can move on. As the importer, you will need to take into consideration how you move the rest of the consignment on.

4.2 PHYSICAL CHECKS

4.2.1 Where will the responsibility lie for unloading imports for inspection?

The responsibility is on the importer to present the goods in a way they can be inspected. If goods are being inspected at a place of destination, you will need to ensure the premises complies with the minimum requirements for inspection to take place.

4.2.2 What are pest checks and why are they needed on some goods?

The purpose of the phytosanitary certificate is to confirm that the goods are free of pests and diseases when checked by the competent authority in the exporting country.

In order for the exporting country to meet the Phytosanitary requirements they must undertake testing of the goods and or physical checks.

Some pest checks take place depending on the season. For example, where material is exported with no leaves on, there are viruses that can only be determined when the plant is in growth. Growing season inspections would be undertaken by the sending country to check for freedom from these quarantine organisms. Dormant material can then be exported in February as it has undergone a check in the previous growing season and this record can be checked to verify that the plants can be exported from the sending country.

On Import into GB pest checks are carried out to ensure goods are free from quarantine pest and diseases. These checks are the same as those which are currently carried out on non-EU third country imports.

4.2.3 Where can I find more information about pests and diseases that pose a threat to biosecurity?

You can find information about current pests and diseases on the [Plant Health Portal](#).

4.2.4 Are plants allowed to be given any treatment prior to inspection?

As long as they're contained within the isolated area, they can be watered and sprayed as long as the spray doesn't prevent the inspector carrying out plant health checks and poses no risk to health and safety. We would advise checking with your local plant health inspector before treating any plants prior to inspection if you are unsure.

4.2.5 If the plants are subjected to lab test in UK, how soon they will be released?

The physical inspections on import into GB are largely visual inspections. If the inspector suspects there is a quarantine organism present they will send a sample off to have it officially verified by the accredited laboratory. Goods are held pending diagnosis. Currently for non-EU third country imports, results are returned within 24 hrs to 3 – 5 days dependent on the type of pest requiring diagnosis and the tests required. If goods need to be held for longer, this will be communicated with you. The plants will need to be held in isolation until they are cleared.

4.2.6 Do goods that require lab testing have to travel with a phytosanitary certificate?

The plant health service of the exporting country will ensure appropriate lab testing or growing season inspections have occurred so that the goods meet GB's phytosanitary import requirements.

4.2.7 What happens to the rest of the consignment if goods are held for lab test results?

We will only hold genera which are known to be affected by the suspected pest or disease and if the plant health inspector has reason to believe they may have become contaminated. Otherwise, the rest of the consignment is free to move on. However, you will need to take into account how you will move the held consignments once the lab test results are confirmed.

4.2.8 Is FERA planning on recruiting more staff to carry out increased numbers of lab tests?

Yes, FERA launched an external campaign to recruit more staff. They received applicant numbers higher than expected for some specialist roles.

4.2.9 When stock is held in isolation, does it need to be isolated from other imports?

It is essential that isolated consignments are kept separate from other consignments. This is to prevent any potential further contamination which may delay the onward travel of other consignments.

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4.2.10 How long do consignments have to be isolated for?

As long as it takes to establish that there is no biosecurity risk.

4.2.11 How long does it take from when the goods arrive at the PoD or BCP before an inspector can inspect?

Consignments can be inspected at registered Places of Destination 7 days a week, 7am-7pm. APHA will aim to inspect your consignment within four working hours of the time given for inspection by the importer as part of their pre-notification.

In order for this Service Level Agreement to apply, importers must provide pre-notification of import at least four working hours before the goods are landed (i.e. arrive into a Point of Entry) in GB via Roll-on-Roll-off (RoRo) or air freight via the PEACH system. The importer should aim to provide as much pre-notification as they are able to in order to receive a decision on whether a physical check will be required as soon as possible. In addition, the time given for inspection must be accurate.

In the event that APHA are unable to inspect the goods within 4 working hours, APHA will release the goods. There are some very limited exceptions. For example, if there is an identified risk with a specific consignment, such as a recent interception of a harmful pest or disease having been made on the same plants from the same supplier, then those goods will be detained until an inspection has been carried out, even if that goes beyond the 4 working hour window. There may also be cases where inspections are arranged outside of the 4-working hour window by mutual agreement between APHA and the operator of the respective Place of Destination.

APHA will be providing a flexible approach to operations where possible following the end of transition period to help manage demand e.g. some out of hours coverage where resource allow. APHA will regularly review the service standard provided at Places of Destination to make sure it stays fit for purpose and in order to facilitate trade. Physical checks will be conducted at Places of Destination on a risk-basis, specific to GB biosecurity objectives.

Forestry Commission will inspect consignments of wood, wood products and isolated bark at places of destination throughout GB, including Scotland. Forestry Commission's Service Level Agreement will continue to be the standard three-day turnaround period regardless of freight type, provided you have given four working hours pre-notification of arrival in GB for goods arriving via Roll-on-Roll-off (RoRo) or air freight. Forestry Commission standard working days are Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm.

The Forestry Commission will aim to tell businesses if their goods had been selected for inspection before the end of our 3-day turnaround period. If goods arrive outside of the working hours of the competent authority, then goods may be held overnight pending a physical inspection. This could entail a wait until the following Monday, if they arrive on a Friday out of hours.

Forestry Commission will regularly review the service standard provided at PoDs to make sure it stays fit for purpose and in order to facilitate trade as much as possible. Physical checks will be conducted at place of destination on a risk basis specific to UK biosecurity objectives. 100% documentary checks will take place on high priority material.

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The Service Level Agreement for each authority starts when the goods have arrived at place of destination and are presented ready for inspection to the relevant competent authority.

If your goods arrive outside of the working hours of the competent authority, your goods may be held overnight pending a physical inspection. However, APHA and FC will take a pragmatic and proportionate approach to holding goods based on biosecurity risk.

The SLA for BCPs can be found at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

4.2.12 Will all the goods have to be unloaded for inspection even if they don't need a physical check?

The purpose of the phytosanitary certificate is to help the inspector to identify which goods will require a physical check. After checking the certification, they may only ask to see certain elements of the consignment so you will not need to unpack the whole consignment.

4.2.13 Is there a list of species which are most likely to need physical inspection?

We will have the information on the frequency and reduce check regime shortly published on the plant health portal.

4.2.14 Does the release system apply to goods under scientific licencing procedures?

Scientific licences and procedures will continue as they are now. There will be no change.

4.2.15 What happens with goods arriving by post?

Online plant sales are a complicated area including mail-order via papers/magazines, internet auction sites and direct to customer trade, each sector presenting its own challenges. Online trading will continue to feature as a significant means of selling plants and will need to meet the same requirements as all other imports of plants and plant products.

4.3 MULTI-DROP CONSIGNMENTS

4.3.1 Will we need separate phytosanitary certificates for consignments which are separated and dropped at multiple different PoDs?

Guidance on different multidrop models (distribution centre model, direct delivery model) can be found on the Plant Health Portal [here](#).

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4.3.2 My plants are arriving in the UK in one lorry, however I have a number of different consignments that I would like to drop off at different places of destination. How can I do this?

Guidance on different multidrop models (distribution centre model, direct delivery model) can be found on the Plant Health Portal [here](#).

4.4 PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORS (PHSI)

4.4.1 Will there be enough plant health inspectors to deal with the higher volume of imports needing inspection?

APHA is well advanced in its recruitment of Plant Health & Seed Inspectors (PHSIs) and is on track to have on-boarded 99% of the resources required to support the import and export controls for the end of the transition period (TP).

The full nature of the trade volumes and flows post TP contain some uncertainties. There is some indication that volumes from January could be higher than predicted. Further recruitment campaigns are being launched in December which would enable adaptation if volumes do prove to be higher than anticipated, and as part of phased intakes for the imports risk-based regime. Resources will be phased in for Jan 21, April 21 and July 21.

Additionally, APHA are also engaged in contingency planning which involves; re-prioritisation of services; securing temporary resources and application of the Plant Health Export Audited Trader Scheme (PHEATS) which is expected to reduce PHSI burden, to ensure no disruption to trade after the TP.

4.4.2 Is training underway for new plant health inspectors?

Import inspectors will be trained under a programme accredited under ISO 17020. As a result of Covid we have faced challenges and have needed to develop online training which is then supplemented by on-the-job shadowing. We are confident they will be competent to carry out inspections.

5. FEES AND CHARGES

5.0.1 Given the increased financial burdens to businesses, is it still the intention for plant health inspection fees to increase from April 2021?

Inspection fees on plants and plant products imported from the EU will be delayed in England and Wales until 1 April 2021 to help businesses adapt to the new import regime. These fees will start from the 1st of April as they are now for non-EU third countries. The inspections fees are reviewed on a yearly basis. Information about import inspection fees for goods originating in the EU will be published soon.

5.0.2 How much does it cost to register as a place of destination?

There are no charges to register as a PoD. However, there may be set up costs to ensure the PoD meets the minimum requirements. Please check these requirements at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

6. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLAs)

6.0.1 What are the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for place of destination from 1 January 2021?

Consignments can be inspected at registered Places of Destination 7 days a week, 7am-7pm. APHA will aim to inspect your consignment within four working hours of the time given for inspection by the importer as part of their pre-notification.

In order for this Service Level Agreement to apply, importers must provide pre-notification of import at least four working hours before the goods are landed (i.e. arrive into a Point of Entry) in GB via Roll-on-Roll-off (RoRo) or air freight via the PEACH system. The importer should aim to provide as much pre-notification as they are able to in order to receive a decision on whether a physical check will be required as soon as possible. In addition, the time given for inspection must be accurate.

In the event that APHA are unable to inspect the goods within 4 working hours, APHA will release the goods. There are some very limited exceptions. For example, if there is an identified risk with a specific consignment, such as a recent interception of a harmful pest or disease having been made on the same plants from the same supplier, then those goods will be detained until an inspection has been carried out, even if that goes beyond the 4 working hour window. There may also be cases where inspections are arranged outside of the 4-working hour window by mutual agreement between APHA and the operator of the respective Place of Destination.

APHA will be providing a flexible approach to operations where possible following the end of transition period to help manage demand e.g. some out of hours coverage where resource allow. APHA will regularly review the service standard provided at Places of Destination to make sure it stays fit for purpose and in order to facilitate trade. Physical checks will be conducted at Places of Destination on a risk-basis, specific to GB biosecurity objectives.

Forestry Commission will inspect consignments of wood, wood products and isolated bark at places of destination throughout GB, including Scotland. Forestry Commission's Service Level Agreement will continue to be the standard three-day turnaround period regardless of freight type, provided you have given four working hours pre-notification of arrival in GB for goods arriving via Roll-on-Roll-off (RoRo) or air freight. Forestry Commission standard working days are Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm.

The Forestry Commission will aim to tell businesses if their goods had been selected for inspection before the end of our 3-day turnaround period. If goods arrive outside of the working hours of the competent authority, then goods may be held overnight pending a physical inspection. This could entail a wait until the following Monday, if they arrive on a Friday out of hours.

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Forestry Commission will regularly review the service standard provided at PoDs to make sure it stays fit for purpose and in order to facilitate trade as much as possible. Physical checks will be conducted at place of destination on a risk basis specific to UK biosecurity objectives. 100% documentary checks will take place on high priority material.

The Service Level Agreement for each authority starts when the goods have arrived at place of destination and are presented ready for inspection to the relevant competent authority.

If your goods arrive outside of the working hours of the competent authority, your goods may be held overnight pending a physical inspection. However, APHA and FC will take a pragmatic and proportionate approach to holding goods based on biosecurity risk.

6.0.2 When does the 4 hours countdown start for PoDs?

The four-hour SLA for place of destination will start when the vehicle has arrived, and goods are presented ready for inspection.

6.0.3 What are the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for BCPs?

The SLA for BCPs can be found at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

6.0.4 Within 4 hours SLA, will the IT system alert driver that goods need to be inspected?

Yes, that's why we have introduced these SLAs, to ensure nothing is held up at BCPs or PoDs. If your goods are automatically cleared via the relevant IT system, then your goods will not be held up all.

7. PLANT PASSPORTS

7.0.1 When do goods need a plant passport between January and July next year?

It needs a passport for any onward movement from the place of destination. Please note that a plant passport is not an alternative to a phytosanitary certificate (PC). If goods are moving between Great Britain and EU, they will need a PC.

7.0.2 Can you comment on affixing UK PPs to trays by our EU suppliers - this is currently a temporary permission - for our business model it will be important that this is extended.

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It is correct that at the moment this is only going to be six months, we will review this after this six months, but information from the trade regarding if an extension is helpful is useful to know for internal discussions going forward.

7.0.3 Are EU growers allowed to apply labels with an UK plant passport to their plants at their nursery, and can labels contain both EU and UK plant passports at the same time?

Yes, you may affix UK plant passports in an EU member state for first six months. This is just affixing NOT issuing. The operator in GB who is responsible for the First Place of Destination of the relevant consignment will need to be authorised to issue the UK plant passport, and it is the GB operator's registration no. that will go in Part B of the plant passport. This allowance is only to aid the movement of goods in GB, as affixing labels at First Place of Destination in GB may be impractical.

As long as the UK plant passport is distinct from the EU plant passport this is fine. We're pragmatic that we will see EU plant passports on the pots, especially coming from the Netherlands. EU plant passports moving to GB from an EU member state will be automatically considered invalid once in GB, you do not need to remove them or invalidate them.

7.0.4 Would there be any objection to having an EU and GB PP on one product?

No, the UK PP will attest it's met our standards and we will be going under non-EU third country checks. The EU PP will be automatically invalid once in GB, and will be ignored so long as the UK PP is present as well.

7.0.5 What requirements are needed to issue plant passports?

You will need to demonstrate you understand the plant passport system and have the necessary traceability systems in place. You will also need to provide contact details of a responsible person at each site where you intend to issue plant passports, and details of the plants you trade in.

Further guidance on how to become authorised and the relevant forms can be found here on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). You will need to fill in the form on registration a professional operator (*Application for official registration under SRSF*), and on authorisation to issue plant passports (*Application for authorisation to issue plant passports under SRSF*).

Further information on the plant passport system is available on the Plant Health Portal [here](#) and [here](#).

7.0.6 When goods which have travelled with a phytosanitary certificate have reached their destined PoD and are not travelling any further, is a plant passport needed?

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No, as long as it's not being moved on. If it is then you'll need to attach a UK PP. As long as you are selling face to face to final users (those buying for personal use) at that First Place of Destination, no plant passports is required. If you were to sell to final users by means of distance contract (e.g. online), then passports would need to be provided to those final users.

If you are moving goods from the First Place of Destination to individual retail outlets, a single UK plant passport can cover a trolley of mixed plants to that retail outlet as long as it is travelling without being reconfigured on its way to that final retail outlet and traceability is maintained for the plants on the trolley.

7.0.7 Due to Covid, we are left with surplus packaging which has the current EU plant passport format. Is there going to be a grace period to use up this packaging with the EU passport, rather than having to dispose of this packaging?

We cannot have an official grace period as we have no right or legal basis to issue EU plant passports from 1st January. From 1st January 2021 we should be issuing UK PPs. Transitional measures cover plants being moved before 1st January on an EU plant passport, and they can continue to move on that EU plant passport after the 1st January.

When enforcing the regulations, delivery bodies such as APHA and FC will deal with non-compliance fairly and proportionately in line with the department's enforcement policy. In most cases this will start with businesses or individuals being given notice of any non-compliances, advice on corrective action and a time period within which these actions must be completed. Further cases of non-compliance would lead to further actions by the plant health authorities

We would recommend using up stocks of EU PPs before the end of the year.

8. SCOTLAND

8.0.1 What are the requirements in Scotland for pre-notification and how will this be done?

Based on the current system where notification at the moment is an application form we send out which importer or agents complete and Scottish Government (SG) works with importer at the BCP. We issue quarantine release certificates which are given to the importer, back to HMRC and then release of the consignment.

Scottish Government is working with UK Government on access to IPAFFS, which would help the process, but no date has been confirmed yet when access will be available.

8.0.2 If my goods are intended for Scotland but land in England, do I have to register on PEACH?

Yes. You will need to submit your pre-notification for the country where your goods land.

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8.0.3 How do I pre-notify goods if my PoD is in Scotland, but goods are landing in England?

Discussions about this are still on-going. We very much recognise the urgency to provide clarity to businesses and are aiming to get information out as soon as we can.

8.0.4 Will Scotland have any service level agreements?

This is our PoD registration form <https://www.sasa.gov.uk/document-library/place-destination-pod-registration-form> which has our working hours on it. Our pre-notification period is different as it always has been with 4 hours notification by air and RoRo and 1 day by sea. Everyone who has so far registered with us has agreed to this by virtue of signing off the form.

Consignments can be inspected between 8:30am and 5pm from Monday to Friday (except [Scottish Government bank holidays](#)).

The Scottish Government will inspect your consignment within one working day of it becoming available, providing you have given the adequate notice period of landing (4 hours for arrival by RoRo or air, 1 day for sea).

9. CITES

Information on CITES can be found at [gov.uk](#) and [Species+](#).

New guidance can be found on the Plant Health Portal [here](#).

9.0.1 Do CITES species need declarations from 1st Jan?

Yes, the usual CITES declarations on CHIEF and CITES permits need to be presented to UK Border Force on arrival for endorsement.

9.0.2 CITES controlled goods are restricted to entry via specific BCPs. Who decides/controls this?

CITES designated ports are determined by Defra Secretary of State (and can be done by declarations in effect, e.g. stating on Gov.uk), but we are only designating ports that Border Force and the port operations agree to so that they can actually be used operationally.

10. EXPORTS AND NORTHERN IRELAND

This document is considered correct as of 14/12/2020 and may be subject to change

This document only covers information on plant imports. A Q&A from the exports feasibility sessions will be circulated shortly.

Further information about Northern Ireland Protocol will be released shortly.