Importing Plants and Plant Product from the EU– Post Transition Period

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Introduction

❖ Plants and plant products moving from the EU to GB will be subject to phytosanitary controls from 1 January 2021.

❖ This is to ensure GB biosecurity.

❖ These phytosanitary import controls on EU goods will be phased in three stages:

- 1 January 2021
- 1 April 2021
- 1 July 2021

❖ EU plant passports will no longer be used to import goods into GB.

❖ Plants and plant products imported from the EU between 1 January and 1 July will not be subject to Customs controls but some goods will be subject to plant health controls.

❖ The import controls outlined in this webinar do not apply to Northern Ireland.

Phased import approach: 1 January 2021

❖ From 1 January 2021, new controls will apply to imports of **high-priority** plants and plant products from the EU.

❖ High-priority plants and plant products from the EU must have:

- a phytosanitary certificate (PC)
- a pre-notification submitted by the importer in England, Scotland and Wales on relevant IT system
- documentary, physical and identity checks

❖ Goods classified as high-priority include:

- all plants for planting
- ware and seed potatoes
- some seed and other plant/ forestry reproductive material
- some wood and wood products
- used agricultural machinery

❖ A full list of high priority plants and plant products can be found on GOV.UK.

❖ All other goods which are not on the high priority list will not be subject to the controls above.

Place of Destination (PoD) scheme

❖ Between January and July 2021, goods classified as high-priority will **<u>not</u>** be inspected at Border Control Posts (BCPs) but at Places of Destination (PoD) which are located inland away from the border.

❖ If you meet the certain requirements listed below, you can register your premises as a PoD.

- During transport to and storage at a PoD, consignments are sealed. The consignments and their packaging are not tampered with or subject to alterations
- Consignments remain at the PoD until the competent authority decides the goods can be released
- Inspectors are provided with a safe, demarcated area on site to conduct the checks
- Staff are available to present the consignments for inspection
- Have suitable equipment to enable inspections to take place such as a table and light source.

❖ GB plant health services (APHA and Forestry Commission) will then undertake the checks at registered PoDs.

❖ There is no limit to the number of PoDs you can register but each premise will require a separate registration form.

❖ There is also no limit on how far a PoD can be from the point of entry.

❖ While there is no deadline for PoD registration, we are encouraging businesses to register as soon as possible to ensure they are prepared for the post transition period.

❖ Further details on the requirements and how to you can register at a PoD can be found at GOV.UK.

Phased import approach: 1 April 2021

❖ From 1 April 2021 new import requirements will start to apply to all 'regulated' plants and plant products which include:

- all plants for planting
- root and tubercle vegetables
- some common fruits other than fruit preserved by deep freezing
- cut flowers
- some seeds
- leafy vegetables other than vegetables preserved by deep freezing
- used agricultural machinery

❖ A comprehensive list of regulated plants and plant products will be available on GOV.UK soon.

❖ These goods must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate (PC) and be pre-notified on the relevant IT system.

❖ During this phase, they will need to undergo documentary and identity checks but <u>not</u> physical checks. Original PCs will need to be posted to the relevant competent authority within three working days.

❖ Documentary, identity and physical checks on high-priority goods will continue to take place at PoDs.

Plants which are exempt from a phytosanitary certificate

❖ You will **<u>not</u>** need a PC to import these plants and plant products from the EU to GB from 1 April 2021 onwards as they are not subject to plant health controls:

- Pineapples
- Kiwis
- Coconut
- Citrus
- Kumquat
- Bitter orange
- Persimmon
- Durian

- Cotton (bolls)
- Curry leaves
- Banana and plantain
- Mango
- Dates
- Passionfruit
- Guava

❖ The two groups of products below will also not require a PC from 1 April onwards, due to the nature of the processing they undergo:

- fruit and vegetables that have been processed and packaged (salads, sandwiches, frozen material)
- composite products (nut or seed butters that contain processed fruit or vegetables)

Phased import approach: 1 July 2021

❖ All goods will be subject to checks at a frequency determined by the risk they pose. Additional information on frequency of checks will be distributed shortly on Plant Health Portal.

❖ All checks will now take place at Border Control Posts (BCPs). A list of authorised BCPs can be found at GOV.UK.

❖ For more information on how to register a premise as a BCP, inspection centre or control point, contact BCP.Enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Prohibited goods

❖ Some goods are currently prohibited from entering the GB from third countries as they pose too great a risk to biosecurity. These prohibitions will not apply to plants and plant products imported to the GB from the EU.

IT systems and pre-notification

❖ To import plants and plant products to the UK you must register with the PEACH system and Government Gateway.

❖ Once registered, you will be able to use the PEACH system to make a pre-notification and track the progress of your consignments.

❖ Pre-notification of goods on the relevant IT system will be required prior to arrival:

- 4 hours if being imported by air or via Roll-on Roll-off port
- 1 working day via other modes of transport

❖ The PEACH system will be changing to a new IT service in early 2021. Until then, you should continue to use the PEACH system to make pre-notifications. You will be contacted to register for the new service before the change.

❖ Further guidance on how to register and use the new IT system will be provided soon.

Fees and charges

❖ 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.

❖ HMT policy is that charges for statutory services should achieve full cost recovery. More details on current fees are available on gov.uk. Information about import inspection fees for goods originating in the EU will be published in due course.

❖ There are no direct costs to registering as a place of destination (PoD). However, there may be set up costs to make sure the POD meets the minimum requirements. Please check these requirements at GOV.UK.

Steps to take now to prepare for end of transition

To prepare for 1 January 2021 you need to:

❖ Familiarise yourself with phytosanitary import certificate requirements for different plants and plant products

❖ Register on PEACH as a professional operator

❖ Consider if you will register your premises as a place of destination (PoD) to carry out import checks on high priority goods

❖ Register with the relevant competent authority as a professional operator:

- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for plants
- or Forestry Commission for wood or wood products

❖ Check the separate guidance for importing plants and plant products to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Thank you for listening

Are there any questions?