

Importation and movement of Christmas trees and their foliage for decorative purposes

The guidance is produced primarily for Christmas tree traders although it can also be used by private individuals who import trees.

For this note trees (cut and rooted) and their foliage of all firs, pines and spruces are considered to be “relevant material”.

The rules, which apply to all relevant material, are as follows:

Material originating in any country outside Europe

All relevant material is prohibited.

Material originating in European countries (except Switzerland) which are not part of the EU (including Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Ukraine, but does not include Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkey)

Trees under 3 metres in height are not controlled

Trees over 3 metres in height must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate confirming that the place of production is free from *Ips amitinus*, *Ips duplicatus* and *Ips typographus*.

Cut tops and foliage from trees over 3 metres, must also be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate confirming that the place of production is free from *Ips amitinus*, *Ips duplicatus* and *Ips typographus*.

Material originating in other EU countries and Switzerland

Trees under 3 metres are not controlled (Except where they originate in Portugal or other areas where Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) is known to be present* where they are required to be accompanied by a plant passport – see [Commission Implementing Decision 2012/535 Annex III section 1](#) for requirements)

Trees over 3 metres in height must be accompanied by a plant passport confirming that the place of production is free from *Ips amitinus*, *Ips duplicatus* and *Ips typographus*. (Additional PWN plant passporting controls also apply)

Cut tops and foliage from trees over 3 metres, must also be accompanied by a plant passport confirming that the place of production is free from *Ips amitinus*,

Christmas Trees

Ips duplicatus and *Ips typographus*. (Additional PWN plant passporting controls also apply)

Our experience is that it is only the Republic of Ireland and Spain that will be able to meet these plant passporting requirements.

***EU PWN Areas**

Details of Pine Wood Nematode demarcated areas within EU member states can be found [here](#).

Material originating in Great Britain (GB)

There are no restrictions on the movement of material within GB.

There are no restrictions on material less than 3 metres in height moving from GB to parts of the UK or other EU countries.

Trees over 3 metres in height and cut tops and foliage from trees over 3 metres must be accompanied by a plant passport if they are to be moved to certain other parts of the British Isles (Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey and the Republic of Ireland). The rules for movement of trees over 3 metres in height and cut tops and foliage from trees over 3 metres are for protection against introducing conifer bark beetles from Great Britain to countries or regions of countries where they are not present. Before trees are moved to these other Protected Zones, traders must be registered with the Forestry Commission Cross Border Plant Health Service and be authorised to issue plant passports to accompany their consignments.

Material imported for personal use

Information on importing Christmas trees and foliage for personal use can be found in the Border Force leaflet '[Bringing fruit, vegetables and plant products into the UK](#)'

Christmas Trees

For more information on passporting large Christmas trees please contact:

Forestry Commission
Cross Border Plant Health Service
Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh EH 12 7AT

T: 0300 067 5155

F: 0131 316 4344

E: plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

For information on rooted trees intended for planting or growing on please contact:

The [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) (APHA) in England and Wales [and Scottish Government](#) in Scotland.