

Regulated EU trade and plant passporting requirements

Within the EU single market the common plant health controls across EU countries mean that plant health regulations are generally more relaxed than they are between the EU and third Countries.

However, some pests which are present within the EU are still absent from other parts of the EU and these pest free areas can be granted protected zone status by the EU to prevent further spread. For example, the European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is endemic to mainland Europe but not present in the UK and we have protected zone status to protect us from the introduction of the beetle.

Within the EU, plant health checks must be made at the place of production by the producer. In Great Britain, the producer or subsequent trader responsible for the movement of regulated material to a protected zone within the EU must be registered with the FC to make these checks.

Registered trader obligations

1. Registration

Unless they qualify for exemption, producers and traders of controlled forestry material¹ in Great Britain must register with the Forestry Commission. They are then responsible for ensuring that any regulated forestry material that they deal with meets the plant health requirements. This must be done prior to consignment and, in the case of material received from a consignor within the EU, on receipt of controlled material which is intended for onward movement to a Protected Zone.

2. Plant passports

As evidence of the registration producers must, in certain cases, attach a plant passport to the goods, to their packaging or to the vehicle transporting them. Only those authorised by us to issue plant passports may do so and this authority only relates to the type of material declared in the application form at the time of registration. Goods sold from retail outlets do not need to have plant passports attached.

3. Checks on material

Once registered it is the statutory duty of registered traders to perform visual checks of material and to report any suspicious signs of disease or pest attack to a Plant Health Inspector. Producers and traders are responsible for ensuring that the details given in plant passports which are either issued or received and the details in any other plant health certificates are correct.

¹ Excluding plants for planting where registration is with APHA in England and Wales and with SGHMU in Scotland (see Annex 1 – Cut Trees)

Issuing of plant passports

A plant passport may only be issued for relevant material that has been the subject of a satisfactory inspection at its place of production. There is no standard format for a plant passport, but the following information must appear on the passport:

- the phrase "EC Plant Passport"
- country code of the member state in which the plant passport was issued
- "FC" (the code for the Forestry Commission the responsible official body in GB)
- a unique Forestry Commission registration number
- an individual serial, week or batch number, or invoice number
- botanical name of the plants
- quantity in the consignment
- the letters "ZP" and a Protected Zone code where necessary
- the letters "RP" if it is a replacement plant passport (see section on Replacement Plant Passports)
- country of origin of the consignment, if the plants and plant products have been imported from a non-EU country

The passport may be incorporated into a document (e.g. delivery note) or on a label attached to the plant or plant product or its packaging. The passport must travel with the plant or plant product.

There is a choice between the following three options when issuing plant passports:

- all of the information may appear on a delivery note or other document travelling with the consignment. This is the simplest option for many suppliers;
- passporting information may be split between labels attached to the plants or plant products and the delivery note or other document accompanying the consignment. In this case, full details must still appear on the delivery note or accompanying document while a shorter list can also appear on labels;
- all information may appear on labels attached to the plants, plant products or their packaging, without appearing on a delivery note or accompanying document. If you choose this option, there must be at least one label for each "tradable unit" (that is, plants or plant products of the same variety, grown or produced in the same lot, by the same producer and destined for the same customer). Your local plant health inspector can advise. You must keep a record of all plant passports issued.

Passporting information may appear on the same delivery note (or other document) as information on non-passported items. The passporting elements must, however, be clearly identifiable. Your local plant health inspector can advise on how best to incorporate passport details on your usual trade documents.

Passporting details are required regardless of the size of the consignment. For example, if a delivery consists of just one regulated product together with any number of non-passportable items, the details must still appear as described above.

Replacement Plant Passports

A replacement plant passport is necessary in certain circumstances where the original cannot be re-used because:

- the consignment received under cover of the original plant passport is to be broken up into smaller lots before being moved on
- the consignment is to be aggregated with others before being moved on
- the nature of the consignment, and thus its plant health status, is changed by you (e.g. wood is kiln-dried, or bark is treated).

A replacement plant passport is not required where:

- consignments received by you are moved on in their original state, and packaging where appropriate
- the plant health status is changed in such a way that the material no longer requires a plant passport (e.g. conifer wood with bark is either square sawn or bark-free)
- the material is consigned to retailers or to those who are not engaged in professional plant production

A replacement plant passport, in addition to your registration number, must identify the original producer or importer by the code "RP" followed by either his registration number or, where commercial confidentiality is of concern, a code assigned by you. A Plant Health Officer must be able to identify, through your written records, the original producer or importer.

Swiss plant passports

Trade between the EU and Switzerland is subject to a separate agreement. Under this agreement, certain material that previously required a phytosanitary certificate when traded between the EU and Switzerland may now be traded with a Plant Passport. Contact your local Plant Health inspector to find out what material is permitted to be plant passported if originating from Switzerland.

Action on receipt of passports

If you pass the material on to another user then you must take a note of the plant passport details, and pass the plant passport on with the consignment. If you are permitted to issue replacement plant passports and you are splitting a consignment, then you must retain the original plant passport.

As the final user you must retain plant passports (including replacement plant passports) you receive for at least one year to enable your plant health inspector to trace back any outbreaks of pests or diseases.

Where your supplier has used the delivery note as the passport or has sent a split passport (with some information on the label and the remainder on an accompanying document) you need only retain the accompanying document.

If all the passporting information is on a label, the label must be kept. However, this is not always practical (for example, where labels are firmly glued to plant trays), and some labels are easily misplaced. In such cases, the passporting information may be copied onto a manual or computer log providing this is easily accessible for plant health inspection.

It is not necessary to retain the original supplier document (unless part of this forms the plant passport).

Protected zone codes

There is no EC legislation governing the format of "ZP" plant passports; in the UK three different systems are acceptable:

The code "ZP" may appear on the passport followed by:

- The country codes for all Member States which have a protected zone for that organism. For example, for coniferous wood to enter a Protected Zone for *Ips typographus* (eight toothed spruce bark beetle), the plant passport would include the following: ZP – UK, IRL. The consignment may then move freely throughout the UK and all other Protected Zones for *Ips typographus*.
- Just the country code of the consignment's intended destination. For example, to send conifer wood to Ireland, you could use the code ZP – IRL (see Annex II for PZ Country Codes). However, the consignment would not then be eligible to enter an *Ips typographus* Protected Zone in any other country.
- The Annex to the EC Directive lists Protected Zones (Commission Directive 690/2008). For example, in the Annex to the Directive, *Ips typographus* Protected Zones are listed as point a12. To send plants to a *Ips typographus* Protected Zone you could therefore use the code ZP – a12. Using this code, the plants could enter all *Ips typographus* Protected Zones (see Annex III for list of forestry harmful organism codes)

Annex I.

EU Protected zones – Conifers (wood and isolated bark of conifers)

Requirements: Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that

(a) it originates in an area known to be free from specific pests (below), or

(b) in the case of

i. wood, that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of 'Kiln Dried' or 'KD' put on the wood or its packaging

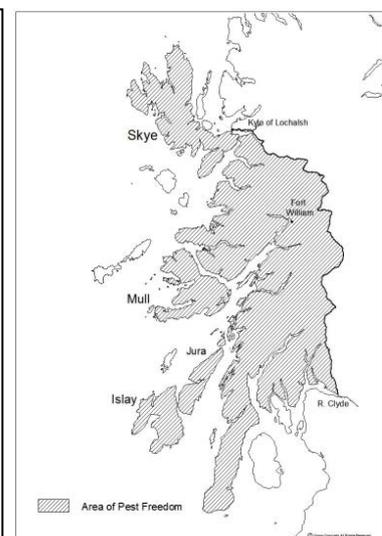
ii. isolated bark has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles

<u>Specific pests</u>	<u>Protected Zone</u>
<i>Ips amitinus</i>	All of UK, Greece and Ireland
<i>Ips duplicatus</i>	All of UK, Greece and Ireland
<i>Ips typographus</i>	All of UK and Ireland
<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>	UK (Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Jersey), Ireland and Greece
<i>Ips sexdentatus</i>	UK (Northern Ireland and Isle of Man), Ireland and Cyprus
<i>Ips cembrae</i>	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Isle of Man), Ireland and Greece

The movement of conifer roundwood with bark from the pest-free area in the west of Scotland can be permitted under plant passport authorisation. Authorisation can be applied for on a site by site basis and would be subject to the inspection of harvesting sites and felled timber meeting the landing requirements for Ireland and the North of Ireland above (no evidence of *Dendroctonus micans*, *Ips sexdentatus*, *Ips cembrae*, *Ips typographus*, *Ips duplicatus*, *Ips amitinus*).

Separate guidance for cut trees is at Annex IV -

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



Requirements:

Official statement (plant passport) confirming that

(a) it originates from an area that is known to be free from *Ceratocystis platani*, or

(b) in the case of wood that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of 'Kiln Dried' or 'KD' put on the wood or its packaging.

Specific Pests

Protected Zone

Ceratocystis platani

Ireland (until 30 April 2018) and all of UK

EU Protected Zones *Castanea* (including Sweet Chestnut) (wood and isolated bark of *Castanea*)

Requirements:

The wood shall be bark-free or accompanied with an Official statement (plant passport) confirming that

(a) it originates from an area known to be free from *Cryphonectria parasitica*, or

(b) in the case of

i. wood that it has been [kiln dried](#) to below 20% moisture content and a mark of 'Kiln Dried' or 'KD' put on the wood or its packaging

ii. isolated bark that it has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against *Cryphonectria parasitica* approved by the EU

Specific Pests

Protected Zone

Cryphonectria parasitica All of UK, Czech Republic, Ireland and Sweden

Annex II. EU Country Codes

- Austria: A
- Belgium: B
- Bulgaria: BG
- Corsica: F (C)
- Cyprus: CY
- Czech Republic: CZ
- Denmark: DK
- Estonia: EE
- Finland: FI
- France: F
- Germany: D
- Great Britain: GB (ex)
- Greece: EL
- Guernsey: UK (GU)
- Hungary: HU
- Ireland: IRL
- Isle of Man: UK (IoM)
- Italy: I
- Jersey: UK (JE)
- Latvia: LV
- Lithuania: LT
- Luxembourg: LU
- Malta: M
- Netherlands: NL
- Northern Ireland: UK (NI)
- Poland: PL
- Portugal: P
- Romania: RO
- Slovakia: SK
- Slovenia: SI
- Spain: E
- Sweden: S
- Switzerland: CH
- United Kingdom: UK

Annex III – Zones in the Community recognised as ‘protected zones’, in respect of harmful organism(s) listed against their names

Host material	Protected Zone	Special Requirements	EC code
Coniferous <u>wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of conifers.	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Jersey) plus: Greece and Ireland	Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Dendroctonus micans</i> , or (b) in the case of i. <u>wood</u> , that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of ‘Kiln Dried’ or ‘KD’ put on the wood or its packaging ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles	a.4
Coniferous <u>wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of conifers	United Kingdom plus; Greece and Ireland	Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Ips duplicatus</i> , or (b) in the case of i. <u>wood</u> , that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of ‘Kiln Dried’ or ‘KD’ put on the wood or its packaging ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles	a.10
Coniferous <u>wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of conifers	United Kingdom plus Ireland	Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Ips typographus</i> , or (b) in the case of i. <u>wood</u> , that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of ‘Kiln Dried’ or ‘KD’ put on the wood or its packaging ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles	a.12
Coniferous <u>wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of conifers	United Kingdom plus Greece and Ireland	Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Ips amitinus</i> , or (b) in the case of i. <u>wood</u> , that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of ‘Kiln Dried’ or ‘KD’ put on the wood or its packaging ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles	a.8
Coniferous <u>wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of conifers	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Isle of Man) plus Ireland and Greece	Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Ips cembrae</i> or (b) in the case of i. <u>wood</u> , that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of ‘Kiln Dried’ or ‘KD’ put on the wood or its packaging ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles	a.9
Coniferous <u>wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of conifers	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland and Isle of Man) plus Cyprus and Ireland	Wood shall be bark-free, or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Ips sexdentatus</i> , or (b) in the case of i. <u>wood</u> , that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of ‘Kiln Dried’ or ‘KD’	a.11

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subjected to fumigation or other appropriate treatment against bark beetles 	
<u>Wood</u> of <i>Platanus</i> including wood which has not kept its natural round surface originating in the Union	Ireland (until 30 April 2018) United Kingdom	Official statement (plant passport) confirming that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Ceratocystis platani</i>, or (b) in the case of <u>wood</u> that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of 'Kiln Dried' or 'KD' put on the wood or its packaging (c) originates from a Protected Zone listed in the left hand column 	c.01
<u>Wood</u> and <u>isolated bark</u> of <i>Castanea</i>	UK plus: Czech Republic, Ireland, Sweden	Official statement (plant passport) confirming that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) originates in an area known to be free from <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>, or (b) in the case of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>wood</u> that it has been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content and a mark of 'Kiln Dried' or 'KD' put on the wood or its packaging ii. <u>isolated bark</u> has been subject to fumigation or other treatment against <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i> approved by the EC 	c.02

Annex IV - 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*, *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 at –

http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosafety/legislation/emergency_control_measures_en.htm

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’](#)

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 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls>) and Scottish Government in Scotland (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>)