

Dear Stakeholder,

We are contacting you as we understand your business trades in plants and plant products. As you may already be aware, from 14 December 2019, a new set of European regulations – the Plant Health Regulation and the Official Controls Regulation – will be introduced. Collectively these will replace 70 existing European directives and regulations to modernise and improve plant health, animal health and food safety standards across the agri-food chain.

Smarter Rules for Safer Foods (SRSF) essentially introduces two new regulations from 14 December: the Plant Health Regulation (PHR) and the Official Controls Regulation (OCR).

The PHR will apply to all UK businesses involved in the production, manufacture, supply and regulation of plants, seeds, timber (including the manufacture and repair of wood packaging to international standard ISPM15) and plant products.

These regulations will apply across all EU member states from 14 December 2019 and will be implemented in the UK in-line with our commitment to maintaining high standards of biosecurity. You are receiving this communication now as we have been waiting for confirmation concerning the new SRSF systems and guidance.

What will be changing from 14 December 2019?

Plant Passports:

- The content and format of an EU plant passport, how it is attached to the consignment or plant, and the variety of businesses that need to be authorised to issue plant passports will change. More information and guidance [here](#).
- More regulated plants and plant products will require a plant passport for movement within the UK and the EU, a list can be found [here](#) under 'Lists of pests, commodities and plant health requirements' in Annex XIII and XIV.
- The list includes, but is not limited to, all plants for planting. This means: plants to be planted, plants that remain planted, or plants that may be replanted; some seeds; seed potatoes; wood and bark; some fruits with leaves.

The new PHR sets out a list of pests and their hosts (plants/seeds), known as **Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQPs)**, which will be regulated. The plants that may be hosts of RNQPs will require a plant passport and will have measures, which may include inspections, sampling and/or testing, concerning the presence of RNQPs. More information and guidance can be found [here](#) under 'Lists of pests, commodities and plant health requirements' in Annex IV and V.

Imports from third countries (outside the EU):

- All plants and certain plant products will require a phytosanitary certificate for import from third countries, unless they are one of these five tropical fruit species: pineapple, coconut, durian, banana, dates. The list can be found [here](#) in Annex II.
- A **new category of 'high risk' plants** will be introduced. The import of any 'high risk' plants and plant products will be prohibited from entering the EU from all third countries until a full risk assessment is conducted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). More information and guidance [here](#) under 'High risk plants'.

What do businesses need to do now?

What if my business moves plants, seeds and timber in the EU and the UK?

1. Check if you will require a plant passport under PHR.
2. Check that you are using the correct format for your plant passport, found [here](#). There are three formats: one as standard, one for Protected Zones (if you trade in plants for which the UK has Protected Zone status), and one merged with a certification label (if you trade in certified seed for which a passport is required).
3. Ensure you are registered as a professional operator with Defra and that you have applied for authorisation to issue plant passports.

To apply for authorisation to issue plant passports you must first become officially registered under the new plant health regulations. In order to do this, download the form AppReg (11/19) 'Application for Official Registration' and the form AppAuth (11/19) 'Application for Authorisation to Issue Plant Passports'. Complete both forms and send them to: plantpassportregistration@apha.gov.uk

Your application for registration and authorisation to issue plant passports will be processed and confirmation of registration and a letter of authority to issue plant passports will be emailed back to you within 5 working days.

More information and the application forms can be found [here](#).

You only need to be registered and authorised as a professional operator from the date that you need to commence issuing plant passports. Please allow at least 2 weeks to become registered and authorised. For queries regarding registration and authorisation please email: plantpassportregistration@apha.gov.uk

4. Check if you trade in products that have 'Protected Zone' status. A current list of 'PZ' products can be found [here](#). The new PZ codes can be found [here](#) under 'Lists of pests, commodities and plant health requirements' in Annex III.
5. If you trade in a forestry product, visit this GOV.UK [webpage](#) to find out more about plant passporting for timber and wood products.
6. Guidance will soon be made available if you trade in certified seed. Please continue to check the [Plant Health Portal SRSF page](#) for the latest updates.
7. Take note of what trade units you receive and supply to find out how to attach your plant passport to trollies, trays, or individual pots.
8. Ensure you can meet requirements around traceability and record keeping, please check the [SRSF GOV.UK page](#) where further information and guidance will be made available shortly.
9. Read guidance on what checks you may need regarding pests and diseases that your plants or plant products may be hosts to in order to issue a plant passport. Guidance may be found [here](#) under 'Lists of pests, commodities and plant health requirements' in Annexes V

and VIII. There may be further requirements for plants and plant products for which the UK has Protected Zone status for, and these may be found in Annex X.

10. Check if you are exempted under the new regulations, if you are exempted now, and if that will remain the case. For example, trade who supply small quantities of plants exclusively to final users through means other than distance contracts are exempted.

What if my business imports plants and plant products from countries outside the EU?

1. Ensure that your supplier is aware of the new requirements for [phytosanitary certificates](#).
2. Check that the products you import from third countries are not prohibited under the new high-risk plants list. More information and guidance found [here](#) under 'High risk plants'.
3. If goods that you import are now prohibited, encourage your supplier to contact their National Plant Protection Organisation in good time prior to the new regulations being introduced. Request they submit an application for exemption from the high-risk prohibition by providing specific information in a technical dossier to the European Commission. The European Food Safety Authority have specified the information and format required [to submit an application](#).

What if my business exports plants and plant products to countries outside the EU?

1. There will be no changes to existing requirements and processes, more information can be found [here](#).
2. Exporters are always advised to check with the relevant plant health authority in the importing country to find out exactly what controls will apply when exporting plants and plant products.

Where can I find more information?

- For more information on Plant Health Regulations, visit the [SRSF GOV.UK page](#)
- For more information on Plant Health Regulations and resources such as information on pests and diseases, visit the [Plant Health Portal](#)