



**Key considerations for importing and exporting plants and plant products if there's no Brexit deal**

**Overview**

Leaving the EU with a deal remains the UK Government's top priority. This has not changed. However, a responsible government must plan for every eventuality, including a no deal scenario. The Government is continuing with our no deal preparations to ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality. It is the responsible thing to do.

Our plant health biosecurity arrangements protect the environment from pests and diseases and we will continue to protect the nation's plant health biosecurity during and after our exit from the EU. Our work to prepare for EU Exit will ensure that biosecurity standards will continue to be met in ways that support trade and the smooth flow of goods.

**What processes will change and what will a 'no deal' scenario mean for the industry and my organisation?**

**Importing plants and plant products directly from third countries**

- For imports direct from third countries, there would be no change to current processes.

**Importing plants and plant products from the EU:**

- The majority of plants and plant products entering the UK from the EU will continue to enter without requiring any plant health controls. Plant Health inspectors will continue to carry out routine inland surveillance.
- The UK will lose access to the EU plant passport regime. Consignments of goods currently managed under the EU plant passport regime will require a phytosanitary certificate issued in the country of export. The relevant plant health authority will need to be pre-notified in advance of arrival in the UK. There is no set notice period, notice can be given at any time up to the point that the consignment enters the UK.
- Consignments of plants and plant products from EU countries would not be stopped at the border. The relevant UK plant health authority would carry out documentary and identity checks remotely. These checks would be charged for by the plant health authority.

What will importers need to do to import goods currently managed under the EU plant passport regime?

- Importers bringing in goods via a Point of Entry (PoE) in England and Wales will need to use the PEACH system online to pre-notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) of a consignment's arrival. For wood and bark, the [Forestry Commission](#) must be pre-notified. There is no set notice period - you can give notice at any time up to the point that the consignment enters a UK port.
- Businesses will need to provide scanned copies of the PC and relevant documents and supply the original copy of the PC before the consignment reaches the UK..

**Importing controlled plants and plant products coming from third countries via the EU:**

- Plants and plant products that come from third countries and receive plant health checks in the EU will be able to move onward to the UK as an EU import, as set out in the section above.
  - Where no health checks are carried out by an EU Member state, for example because they are placed into a Customs transit procedure, the consignment will be treated as third country imports. They will require plant health checks to be conducted on entry to the UK.
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## **Key considerations for importing and exporting plants and plant products if there's no Brexit deal (cont.)**

- To ensure frictionless trade and minimal business impact, businesses wishing to continue to bring third country goods into the UK via the EU at RoRo (roll-on roll-off) ports (Annex 1), will need to facilitate plant health checks inland at a Place of First Arrival (PoFA), or divert to a point of entry that can accommodate checks at the border.

What will importers need to do to import regulated third country goods entering the UK via the EU?

- Businesses wishing to authorise their premises as a PoFA will need to meet [certain standards](#) and [apply](#) to the relevant plant health authority for authorisation. This may take up to three months, but in the majority of cases will be shorter, and [guidance on how to apply](#) can be found on GOV.UK, along with the [application form](#).
- Businesses who are unable to register their own premises as a PoFA may agree a process by which they can use the PoFA of another business.
- If businesses cannot facilitate checks at an authorized PoFA, they will need to enter goods through a non-RoRo point of entry where checks can be carried out at the border.
- Businesses will need to pre-notify arrival of third country consignments which have not had plant health checks carried out in the EU to the relevant plant health authority and specify where the consignment will be held awaiting checks.
- The consignment must be held at the premises or port until the plant health authority has carried out the necessary checks and released the goods. These checks would be charged for by the plant health authority.

### **Exporting Plants from the UK:**

- When we leave the EU, the UK will become a third country, and will need to meet EU third country import requirements to export controlled plants and plant products to the EU, including controls on all plants for planting, wood, wood products or bark and all wood packaging material.
- For exports to third countries from the UK, there would be no change.
- For exporting regulated goods to the EU:
  - Phytosanitary certificates will be needed in order to trade regulated plants into Europe. Businesses will need to apply to the relevant plant authority to request a phytosanitary certificate
  - Checks on exported goods may take place at the country of destination.

### **Movements within the UK:**

Plant and plant products currently covered by the EU plant passport regime when moved within the UK will be managed with UK plant passports rather than EU plant passports. Businesses moving such goods will need to amend their plant passport documentation to replace references to 'EU' with 'UK'. Plant passport rules and processes will otherwise stay the same.

### **Wood Packaging Material:**

All Wood Packaging Material moving between the UK and the EU must meet the ISPM15 international standards (heat treated and marked). WPM may be subject to official checks either upon entry to the EU or after entry.

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## **What do businesses need to do now? 10 Steps:**

1. Read the government's existing guidance on importing plants and plant products into the UK from third countries & on importing wood and timber products.
  2. Consider the volume of trade you do with the EU and any potential supply chain impacts that changes may have. If necessary, put steps in place to renegotiate commercial terms to reflect any changes in customs and excise procedures, any additional requirements for checks and any new tariffs that may apply to UK-EU trade.
  3. Take account of the commodities you are trading with the EU. If you are importing goods currently managed under the EU Plant Passport regime, you will need to follow the process outlined on the previous page to import these goods from the EU on day one.
  4. Consider the country of origin of commodities that you trade with the EU. If you currently bring in material from the EU that originates in third countries and is not checked by an EU member state then your consignment will require plant health checks (Annex II)
  5. Take account of where your goods enter the UK. If you are bringing in controlled plant material from non-EU countries via a roll-on roll-off (RoRo) port, plant health checks cannot take place at the port. You should consider one of the following options:
    - I. Consider if your premises meet the new [Point of First Arrival \(PoFA\) standards](#) and [apply for authorisation](#), allowing you to facilitate plant health checks inland.
    - II. Consider if you could work with others to have access to an authorised PoFA
    - III. Consider alternative authorised points of entry for products, avoiding RoRo ports.
  6. For imports into the UK, register on the PEACH website (England & Wales) or with the Forestry Commission as a registered trader. Exporters in Scotland and Northern Ireland should refer to local guidance.
  7. For exports out of the UK, register for the eDomero IT system or with the Forestry Commission as a registered trader. Exporters in Scotland and Northern Ireland should refer to local guidance.
  8. If you export out of the UK into the EU, check with the plant health authority in the destination country of your goods to find out if consignments would need a health certificate ('phytosanitary certificate').
  9. Consider how you will submit customs declarations for EU trade, if required, including whether to engage a customs broker, freight forwarder or logistics provider or whether to get the right software and authorisations to do it yourself.
  10. Take account of the commodities that you are moving within the UK. Where you currently move goods with a plant passport, you will need to replace references to 'EU' with 'UK' in plant passport documents. Some goods require plant passports for onward movements in the UK after import.
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## **Guidance**

Defra published the following guidance which will be kept up to date:

Search

“Importing and exporting plants and plant products if the UK leaves the EU without a deal” on Gov.uk

Or click [here](#).

## **Find out more**

Read the [HMRC Partnership Pack](#) preparing for changes at the UK border after a 'no deal' EU exit (Plant and timber imports and exports, Pages 62-67)

View a list of [places you can bring consignments of plants, seeds and produce into the UK](#)

Review current rules on [importing plants, fruit, vegetables or plant material to the UK](#), including information on inspection fees, controlled material, notification systems and phytosanitary certificates.

Find out more information on preparing yourself and your business for EU Exit [here](#).

Contact the Defra Biosecurity and Food EU Exit Projects team:

Email: [BFPEUExit@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:BFPEUExit@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

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## **Annex 1: Ro-Ro Terminals in the UK**

Avonmouth/ Bristol  
Belfast  
Dover (Eastern Docks, excluding the Dover Cargo Terminal and Eastern Arm)  
Felixstowe  
Fishguard  
Grimsby  
Harwich  
Heysham  
Holyhead  
Hull  
Immingham  
Killingholme  
Liverpool  
Newhaven  
Pembroke  
Plymouth  
Poole  
Portsmouth  
Purfleet  
Sheerness (Medway)  
Teesport  
Tilbury  
Tyne  
Euro-Tunnel (Cheriton Channel Tunnel Terminal at Folkestone)

For a full list of Points of Entry, go to Annex III of the [PoFA Manual](#)

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# Annex II: 3<sup>rd</sup> country transit

