

Plants and Plant Products

In January 2021, import requirements for high-priority plants and plant products were introduced – see below. Further guidance on plants and plant products that fall within this category is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Since January 2022, all ‘regulated and notifiable’ produce and cut flowers have been subject to some import requirements. Further guidance on plants and plant products that fall within this category is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Since 1 June 2021, charges for plant health controls have applied to imports of EU high-priority plants and plant products in England, Wales and Scotland.

A selection of plants and plant products are exempt from phytosanitary controls. Guidance on the commodities exempt from import controls is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). This lists plant products which do not pose a risk to UK biosecurity and are therefore exempt from import controls.

Requirements

All regulated plants and plant products

Since January 2022, all notifiable produce and cut flowers have required import pre-notifications in advance of arrival.

An exhaustive list of all notifiable plants and plant products is available on the [Plant Health Portal](https://www.gov.uk). This includes:

- Root and tubercle vegetables.
- Some common fruits other than fruit preserves by deep freezing.
- Some cut flowers.
- Some seeds.
- Leafy vegetables other than vegetables preserved by deep freezing.
- Potatoes from some countries.
- Machinery or vehicles which have been operated for agricultural or forestry purposes.

Importers will need to submit import notifications at least four working hours prior to arrival for Roll-on/Roll-off and air movements, or at least one working day prior to arrival by all other modes of transport– along with the phytosanitary certificate.

Further information is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

High-priority plants and plant products

Since 01 January 2021, import controls have applied to imports of high-priority plants and plant products from the EU. This includes the requirement for:

- Goods to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate,
- Import pre-notification to be submitted by the GB importer,
- Documentary, identity and physical checks

An exhaustive list of the high-priority plants and plant products that require a phytosanitary certificate and pre-notification of import following 1 January 2021 is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). In addition, for solid fuel wood not otherwise regulated, pre-notification is required but a phytosanitary certificate is not.

All high-priority plants and plant products imported from the EU need to be

accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and may be checked upon entry into GB. A phytosanitary certificate is an official document that certifies that the material has been inspected, is considered free from quarantine and pests, and that it conforms to the plant health regulations of the importing country.

Exporters need to apply for a phytosanitary certificate from the relevant competent authority of the EU country of origin; this needs to be secured prior to the goods’ departure so that it can be sent to the importer for pre-notification purposes.

Importers need to submit import notifications at least four working hours prior to arrival for Roll-on/Roll-off and air movements, or at least one working day prior to arrival by all other modes of transport – along with the phytosanitary certificate.

Checks are carried out by Plant Health and Seed Inspectors (PHSI) from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Forestry Commission (FC) in England and Wales, and the Scottish Government and Scottish Forestry in Scotland. Physical inspections will take place at destination. Importing companies that intend to operate as a Place of Destination (PoD) need to register as such; in addition, importers also need to ensure that their premises have adequate facilities to enable the performance of any checks. Further information on the requirements for a Place of Destination (PoD), along with details on how to register are available [here](https://www.gov.uk).

Additional requirements for CITES-listed goods

Plants and plant products that fall under endangered species regulations (CITES/ UKWTR) have further requirements as detailed in **Section 1.2.2**.

Systems

For notifiable produce and cut flowers, the importer will need to have registered via the relevant IT system. The IT system used to facilitate the pre-notification of imports of plants and plant products is changing, moving from the current PEACH system to a new service building on IPAFFS technology. However, importers should continue to use PEACH until directed to register and use IPAFFS. The timing and sequencing of this migration will ensure a smooth and orderly transfer between systems and will allow sufficient time for importers to become familiar with the new service. We will be providing comprehensive training and support before, during, and after migration.

Locations of checks

Following January 2021, High-priority plants and plant products from the EU continue to enter at any point of entry and will now not need to enter via a point of entry with an appropriate BCP on 01 July 2022. Further announcements will be made in line with the announcement [here](https://www.gov.uk).

High-priority plants and plant products are subject to documentary, identity and physical checks. A documentary check entails the examination of official certifications, attestations and other commercial documents that are required to accompany the consignment.

An identity check entails a visual inspection to verify that the contents of a consignment correspond with the information provided in the accompanying documentation.