



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 Government's top priority. It remains the case that the only way to rule out no deal is to agree a deal – the PM has been consistent on this. An Article 50 extension would not rule out no deal. So, the Government will continue with its no deal preparations to ensure the country is ready for every eventuality.

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 freight services and transporters ?

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. However, there will be new controls on those higher-risk goods currently managed under the EU plant passport regime. These products will need to enter the UK accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, and the importer or their agent will need to pre-notify the relevant UK plant health authority in advance of arrival in the UK.

Plants and plant products from EU countries will not be stopped at the border. The relevant UK plant health authority will carry out documentary and identity checks remotely. Plant health inspectors will continue to carry out risk-based physical follow-up inspections as they do now.

How this affects you:

- This will result in no changes for freight services to processes at the border.

Importing controlled plants and plant products 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 and will be treated as an EU import, as set out in the section above. However, third country goods which travel to the UK via the EU without having plant health checks carried out by an EU Member State, for example because they are placed into a Customs transit procedure, will be treated as third country imports. They will require plant health checks to be conducted on entry to the UK.

If the goods are entering the UK at a Roll on Roll off (RoRo) port (Annex 1), they will either need to be checked inland at authorised trade premises known as a 'Place of First Arrival' (PoFA), or the goods will need to be diverted to a non-RoRo port where checks can be carried out at the border.

How this affects you:

If importers are using a PoFA for checks on third country material:

- There will be no changes for freight services to processes at RoRo ports
 - Freight services must ensure consignment is delivered to the agreed inland PoFA as per the notification to the UK plant health authority and within the agreed timescales
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What to expect on day one of a 'no deal' scenario: Importing and exporting plants and plant products

- Freight services must ensure that all controlled consignments within a mixed load are held for checks at first PoFA. If the consignments are destined for multiple customers, you will need to discuss this with customers in advance.

If the importer does not have an authorised Place of First Arrival (PoFA) facility to host plant health inspections:

- You will need to work with the importer to identify alternative routes to bring the goods into the UK via a non-RoRo point of entry or an 'alternative inspection post' [as listed on gov.uk](#) and follow existing plant health check procedures at the border.

Things you can do now:

- Contact your customers to understand whether they are importing third country material via RoRo ports, and whether they will be using the [PoFA Manual](#) to [apply for](#) approved PoFA status.
- Consider alternative trade routes where inland checks at PoFAs are not possible.
- Note that, in the case of multiple consignments in the same vehicle, all controlled goods will need to be checked at the first PoFA destination in the UK.

Exporting plants and plant products to the EU:

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.

Exporters will need to obtain a phytosanitary certificate for controlled plants and plant products in advance of export.

How this affects you:

- This will result in no changes for freight services to processes at the UK border. Consignments of controlled plants and plant products may be subject to checks at the EU border

Moving plants and plant products within the UK:

Plants and plant products currently covered by the EU plant passport regime when moved within the UK will be managed by 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.

How this affects you:

This will result in no changes for freight services to processes for transporting within the UK

Wood Packaging Material:

In the event of no deal, all WPM moving between the UK and the EU must meet [ISPM15 international standards](#) by undergoing treatment and marking. All WPM may be subject to official checks either upon or after entry to the EU.



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



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](#)
