



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Scottish Government  
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To: IPP contact points

31 January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

## UPDATE ON UK DEPARTURE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU): IMPORTS OF PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS

Further to my letter of 25 March, I am writing to update you on the arrangements which will apply to the import of regulated plants and plant products into the UK following the UK's departure from the EU on 31 January 2020.

After 31 January 2020 there will be a transition period until the end of 2020, while the UK and EU negotiate additional arrangements. During this period the UK will continue to apply the current EU rules for the import of plants and plant products. In line with our commitment to maintaining high standards of biosecurity, the UK implemented the EU Smarter rules for safer food (SRSF) on 14 December 2019. As regards plant health the SRSF package comprises:

- Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products
- Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants.

They replace Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the EU of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the EU. The Official Controls and Plant Health Regulations are directly applicable in the United Kingdom. Any additional declarations on phytosanitary certificates during the transition period should continue to be made, as now, on the basis of those required in the EU legislation. Similarly, any prior notifications required (eg on pest free areas, treatments) should be made on the basis of the EU requirements. The only difference is that such notifications in future must be made directly to the UK, as well as to the European Commission. Any notifications made to date to the European Commission do not need to be re-submitted to the UK.

Queries or questions should be directed to the UK's IPPC Official Contact Point as outlined on the UK country profile page on the International Phytosanitary Portal. We will keep you informed of any further developments as regards the arrangements to be introduced after the current transition period.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Spence', written in a cursive style.

Professor Nicola Spence  
UK Chief Plant Health Officer  
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