

TRADER NOTICE No. 2 of 2021

2nd February 2021

To: All importers of plants or plant products and professional operators

Subject: Certain Restrictions on Importing *Quercus* into Ireland's Protected Zone

This is the season for importing *Quercus* plants or trees into the state. If you are importing these plants you are obliged to follow the requirements on the pre notification of Oak imports and the limitations which apply to these imports. Ireland has a Protected Zone for *Thaumetopoea processionae* (Oak Processionary Moth). From 14th December 2019, there are with strengthened requirements for the pest Oak Processionary Moth and its host *Quercus* L (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031).

After exchanges with other EU Member States (MS), it is the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine's (DAFM) understanding that other EU Member States **cannot** meet this new criterion. Therefore:

- a) **it is not possible to import *Quercus* with a girth of at least 8 cm measured at 1.2m above the root collar to Ireland,**
- b) only *Quercus* plants under 8cm girth when measured at 1.2m above the root collar can be imported from other EU Member States.

Furthermore, under S.I. 30 of 2020, anyone importing *Quercus* plants or trees of any size into the State must notify the Minister in writing at least two days in advance, giving the following particulars of each consignment:

- (a) the intended date of their landing into the State;
- (b) the intended destination;
- (c) the genus, species and quantity;
- (d) the identification number of the supplier of the plants;
- (e) the country from which they have been consigned.

These notifications should be emailed to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at the following email address: plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie

Failure to abide by the above criteria may result in the destruction of the *Quercus* plants.

Yours sincerely

Oliver McEvoy

Oliver McEvoy
Horticulture and Plant Health Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine