

To: All registered professional operators, importers & exporters of plants and plant products

Subject: Assessment of Competency to Issue Plant Passports

Since 14 December 2019, all plants for planting require a plant passport when moved from one professional operator to another professional operator or sold online to final users. Plant passports attest to compliance with the plant health requirements and can only be issued by professional operators who are authorised to do so by DAFM. Professional operators play a key role in detecting harmful plant pests and protecting Ireland's favourable plant health status.

Professional operators must satisfy DAFM that they have the required knowledge of plant health to issue plant passports. DAFM has introduced changes to the method of assessing the competency of professional operators to issue plant passports, as required by Regulation (EU) 2019/827. The new authorisation process includes an online training course and an on site inspection by a DAFM inspector. The process will be as follows:

1. Professional Operators view training modules via the link available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8e660-plant-passports/>
2. Professional Operators answer multiple choice questions on the content of the training modules. The assessment is available on the EU Survey website at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/auth_professional_assessment. The pass mark is 80% and the result will be generated automatically. There is no limit on the number of attempts.
3. Upon successful completion of the course, operators will be provided with confirmation of their result by email. Full name, full email address and Plant Health Registration number of the Professional Operator will be required to complete the training.
4. Professional Operators complete an application form to be authorised to issue plant passports (attached) and return to DAFM **together with a copy of the confirmation email** referred to at point 3.
5. DAFM inspector will conduct an on-site assessment to confirm that the operator has the necessary equipment and facilities to perform examinations and the capacity to carry out the measures necessary to prevent the presence and spread of harmful pests.
6. If the inspection stage is successful, a certificate of authorisation to issue plant passports will be provided to the Professional Operator.

The attached application form, together with the email confirming successful completion of the online assessment, must be submitted to the address below by **30th April 2021**.

Horticulture & Plant Health Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
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W23 X3PH

Email: plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please email plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie or phone at (01) 5058885.

Yours sincerely

Barry Delany

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