

TRADER NOTICE No. 9 OF 2021

22 April 2021

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

Subject: Import of potatoes from a Member State where the harmful organism *Epitrix* is known to occur

This is a reminder to importers of potatoes from Spain and Portugal that:

- All imports of potatoes from Spain must be **washed** and **pre-notified** to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in writing at least 2 days before the consignment arrives in the State,
- All imports of potatoes from Portugal must be **pre-notified** to DAFM in writing at least 2 days before the consignment arrives in the State.

Epitrix (potato flea beetle) is a flea beetle which attack potato plants and tubers, *Solanum tuberosum*, causing significant damage to the tubers and it poses a significant risk to the indigenous potato sector. For more information on this beetle click on this link:

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/20201126153159/https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/planthealthandtrade/EpitrixPotatofleabeetle.pdf>

Ireland has national legislation (Statutory Instrument No. 80 of 2017) in place, which impose certain importation requirements in respect of potato tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* originating in an area (other than a demarcated area) of a Member State where the harmful organism *Epitrix* is known to occur. There are currently two countries in the EU where *Epitrix* is known to occur: Spain and Portugal. When importing potatoes from these Countries your attention is drawn to the following points:

Spain

- Imports of Potatoes originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Spain **must be notified** to DAFM in writing at least two days in advance of their arrival in the State.
- Imports of Potatoes originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Spain **must be washed** so that there is no more than 0.1% of soil present.

A list and map of the *Epitrix* demarcated areas of Spain is attached.

Portugal

- Imports of Potatoes originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Portugal **must be notified** to DAFM in writing at least two days in advance of their arrival in the State.
- Imports of Potatoes originating outside of the *Epitrix* demarcated area of Portugal **are not** required to be washed.

Notifications of imports must contain full particulars of each consignment including the proposed point and date of entry and the intended use. These notifications must be e-mailed to **plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie**

Paragraph 5 of S.I. No. 80 of 2017 details that any tubers of *Solonum tuberosum* landing in the State in contravention of the above points shall be either refused entry into the State or destroyed.

In the event that you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact this office either by emailing **plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie** or alternatively by telephone (01) 505 8885.

Yours sincerely

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