

# Forest Health

## What we do.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is Ireland's National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) and is responsible for the implementation of the Plant Health Regulation ([Regulation \(EU\)2016/2031](#)) and the Official Controls Regulation ([Regulation\(EU\)2017/625](#)). The Forestry Inspectorate is responsible for implementing the forestry aspects of these Regulations.

This work involves import controls of certain wood commodities and wood packaging material (WPM) to prevent the potential introduction of harmful tree and forest organisms, export certification, surveys of the national forest estate for a range of harmful organisms and the oversight of the national scheme for the production of ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging material for export.

Import Controls are carried out to prevent the introduction of harmful organisms and to ensure wood and wood products meet EU phytosanitary entry requirements. DAFM Import Controls Operations Division and the Forestry Inspectorate conduct import inspections of wood and wood products and on wood packaging material (WPM) including wooden pallets, crates and boxes which may be associated with goods of any kind.

Ireland has "Protected Zone" (PZ) status within the EU for 14 forestry related harmful organisms (HO) which recognises in legal terms the freedom from their presence, despite having conditions which are suitable for their establishment. Annual mandatory surveys are conducted for the presence of these HO (to continue to prove their absence) which is critical for both the health status of the forest estate and also for the forest industry. In addition to the Protected Zone surveys, other mandatory surveys are carried out annually for a range of HO which are of EU wide importance, known as EU priority pests, including pinewood nematode, Asian longhorn beetle and emerald ash borer.

In November 2019 DAFM launched its [Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy](#). This strategy outlines the importance of plant health biosecurity for Ireland, and will help ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the risks to plant health in Ireland, and their role and responsibilities to reduce those risks. Capacity, preparedness and awareness are three key principles of the DAFM Strategy.

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