

Forest Health

Technical Guidance

Forestry Professional Operators

&

Regulation (EU) 2016/2031

on protective measures against pests of plants

Responsibilities

Registration

Authorisation

Updated November 2023

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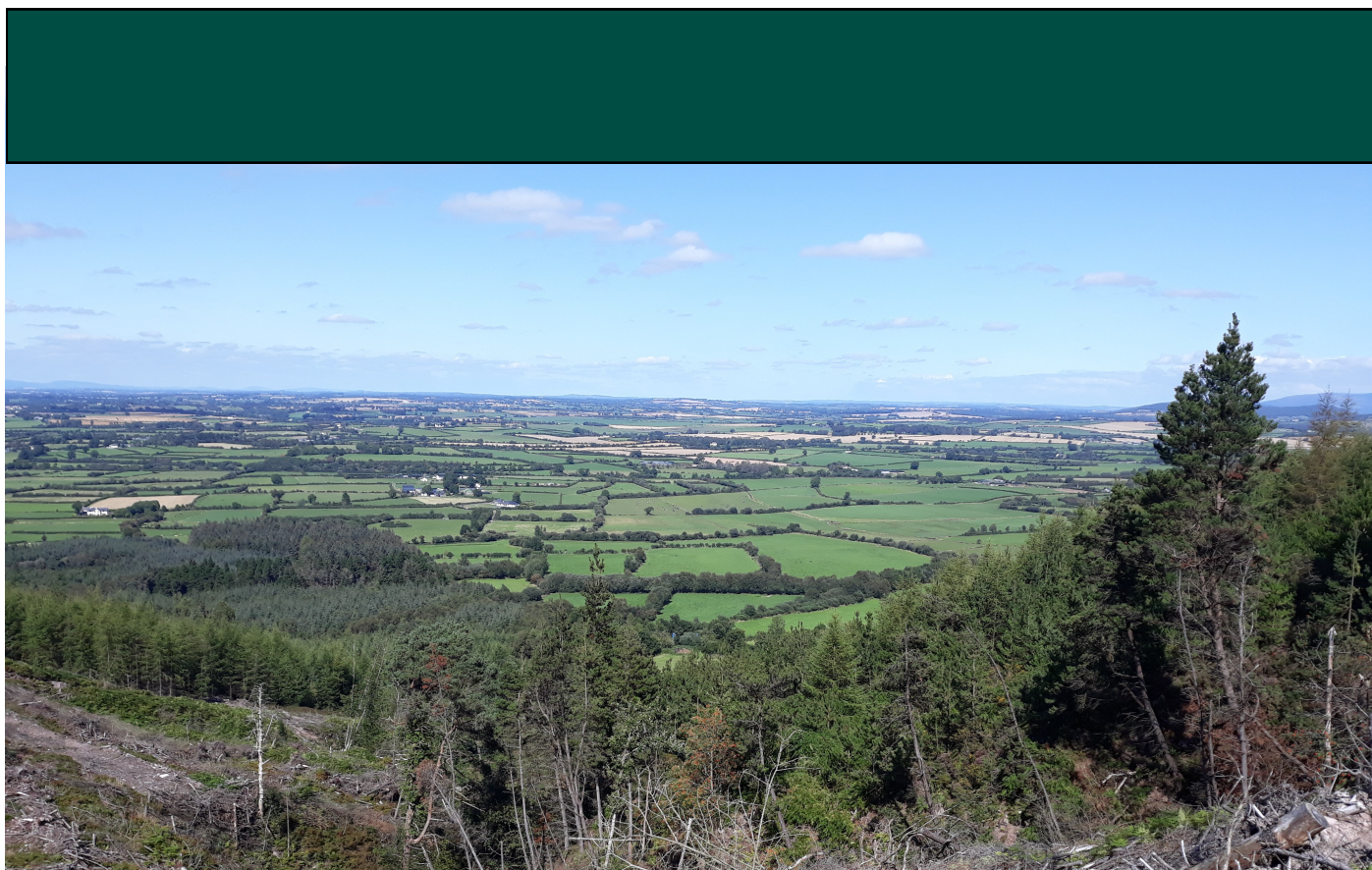
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Section 1:

Information for All Forestry Professional Operators

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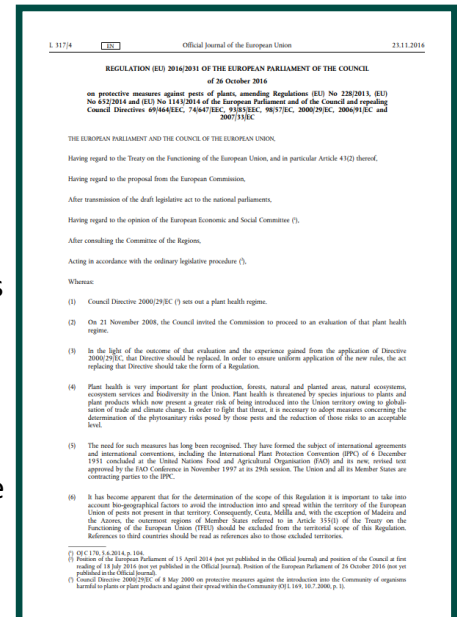
Overview

Plant Health Regulation EU 2016/2031 came into force on the 14 December 2019. This new Regulation has modernised the plant health regime, providing more effective measures for the protection of the Union's territory and its plants from destructive pests and aims to ensure safe trade, as well as mitigating the impacts of climate change on the health of our crops and forests.

Professional operators have responsibilities under the new plant health regulation.



EU 2016/2031 replaced The Plant Health Directive 2000/29/EC



What is a Professional Operator?

‘Professional operator’ means any person, governed by public or private law, involved professionally in, and legally responsible for, one or more of the following activities concerning plants, plant products and other objects:

- (a) planting;
- (b) breeding;
- (c) production, including growing, multiplying and maintaining;
- (d) introduction into, and movement within and out of, the Union territory;
- (e) making available on the market;
- (f) storage, collection, dispatching and processing;

Are you a Forestry Professional Operator?

Examples of Forestry Professional Operators are those engaged in the activities above, including but not limited to:

- Forest Growers / Forest Owners
- Companies involved in establishment
- Nurseries
- Importers and exporters of wood products
- Importers and exporters of forestry plants
- Companies / persons involved in the movement of wood products within Ireland
- Companies / persons involved in the movement of forestry plants within Ireland

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- Persons selling roadside timber
- Persons selling standing timber
- Firewood producers
- Woodchip producers
- Sawmills
- Bark producers
- Wood packaging material producers
- Companies / persons authorised to issue the ISPM 15 mark to wood packaging material
- Any other forestry activity that falls into the categories (a) – (f) listed under “What is a Professional Operator”



Registration

A cohort of Forestry Professional Operators **must** register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). DAFM is the Competent Authority within Ireland in regards to Plant Health.

Do you need to register?

Forestry Professional Operators who **must** register are those:

- involved in the movement of plants, plant products, wood products, and / or other objects for which a phytosanitary certificate or a plant passport is required;
- involved in the import or export of plants, plant products, wood products, and / or other objects for which a phytosanitary certificate or a plant passport is required;
- professional operators who are authorised to issue Plant Passports;
- professional operators who apply for Phytosanitary Certificates from DAFM;
- professional operators who are authorised to issue the ISPM 15 mark.



The registration procedure is detailed in section 2.

DAFM may over time instruct other cohorts of Professional Operators to register due to the pest risk presented by their activities.

Farm Forest Owners do not have a requirement to register if engaging with a Registered Professional Operator (e.g. a registered forester) to carry out the above activities on their behalf.

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Authorisation

A cohort of Forestry Professional Operators must be given formal authorisation by DAFM in order to carry out certain activities.

Do you need to be authorised?

Forestry Professional Operators must be authorised by DAFM in order to:

- issue plant passports to accompany the movements of forestry plants and wood products;
- mark wood packaging material in accordance with ISPM 15.



The process to become an Authorised Forestry Professional Operator is detailed in section 3.

Other non-forestry plant / plant products

For information relating to professional operators involved in activities with non-forestry plants / wood and wood products see:



www.gov.ie/en/publication/26813-plant-health-trade/

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Responsibilities


As a professional operator, you have responsibilities under the plant health legislation:



Pests relevant to Forestry are detailed later in this section.

- You MUST notify DAFM of the presence, or the suspected presence of any Union Quarantine Pest or Protected Zone Quarantine Pest.

⇒ Forestry Pests can be reported to
 forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

 +353 (0)1 607 2651

- You must take appropriate measures to eliminate the spread of the Union quarantine pest / suspected Union quarantine pest.

⇒ Appropriate measures are described later in this section.

What are Union Quarantine Pests, Priority Pests, Protected Zone Quarantine Pests and Regulated non quarantine pests?

Union quarantine pests: These are pests which are not present at all in the EU territory or, if present, just locally and under official control. Strict measures must be taken to prevent their entry or further spread within the EU due to their increased risk for plant health. These pests have to be eradicated immediately if detected.

Priority Pests: A subset of union quarantine pests have been identified and listed as Priority Pests as their potential economic, environmental or social impact is the **most severe** in respect of the Union territory

Protected zone quarantine pests: These are pests which are present in most parts of the Union, but still known to be absent in certain demarcated areas called 'protected zones'. These pests are thus not allowed to enter and spread within these protected zones. Measures are taken (such as prohibition or restriction of movement of host plants / plant products, surveys, etc.) to avoid the introduction of these pests into the protected zones or to ensure their eradication if found present in these zones.

Regulated non quarantine pests (RNQP): These are pests that are not quarantine pests but are subject to phytosanitary measures because their presence in **plants for planting** results in economically unacceptable impacts.

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Pests Relevant to Forestry (not an exhaustive list):

Pest	Scientific name	Main hosts	Categorisation	Info link (EPPO / EFSA)
Asian longhorn beetle	<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	<i>Acer, Betula</i>	Priority Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOLGL
Blight of chestnut	<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	<i>Castanea</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ENDOPA
Bronze birch borer	<i>Agilus anxius</i>	<i>Betula</i>	Priority Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AGRLAX
Brown spot needle blight	<i>Lecanosticta acicola</i>	<i>Pinus</i>	RNQP	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SCIRAC
Brunchorstia disease of pine	<i>Gremmeniella abietina</i>	<i>Pinus, Picea</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GREMAB
Chestnut gall wasp	<i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i>	<i>Castanea</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DRYCKU
Citrus longhorn beetle	<i>Anoplophora chinensis</i>	<i>Acer, Betula</i>	Priority Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOLCN
Conifer bark beetles (6 species)	<i>Dendroctonus micans, Ips amitinus, Ips cembrae, Ips duplicatus, Ips sexdentatus, Ips typographus,</i>	<i>Pinales (conifers)</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DENCM https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/IPSXAM https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/IPSXCE https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/IPSXDU https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/IPSXSE https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/IPSXTY
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agilus planipennis</i>	<i>Fraxinus</i>	Priority Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AGRLPL
European spruce sawfly	<i>Gilpinia hercyniae</i>	<i>Picea</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GILPPO
European web-spinning larch sawfly	<i>Cephalcia lariciphila</i>	<i>Larix</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CEPCAL
Hypoxylon canker of poplar	<i>Hypoxylon mammatum</i>	<i>Populus</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/HYPOMA
Oak processionary moth	<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>	<i>Quercus</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/THAUPR
Phytophthora ramorum	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	<i>Larix</i>	Union Quarantine Pest /RNQP	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYTRA
Pine processionary moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	<i>Pinus</i>	Protected Zone Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/THAUPI
Pine wood nematode	<i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i>	<i>Pinus</i>	Priority Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/BURSXY
Pitch canker of pine	<i>Fusarium circinatum</i>	<i>Pinus</i>	Union Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GIBBCI
Red band needle blight	<i>Dothistroma pini, Dothistroma septosporum</i>	<i>Pinus</i>	RNQP	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SCIRPI https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DOTSPI
Siberian silk moth	<i>Dendrolimus sibiricus</i>	<i>Abies, Pinus, Larix, Picea</i>	Priority Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DENDSI
Sitka spruce weevil	<i>Pissodes strobi</i>	<i>Picea</i>	Union Quarantine Pest	https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PISOST

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Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of ill health of trees should be reported to DAFM using the contact details:

✉ forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

☎ +353 (0)1 607 2651

Signs and symptoms of ill health to look out for are:

Groupings of dead trees, such as seen on the below, can be indicative of **bark beetle damage**. Look out for this characteristic, along with larval galleries and resin tubes as illustrated in the pictures below.



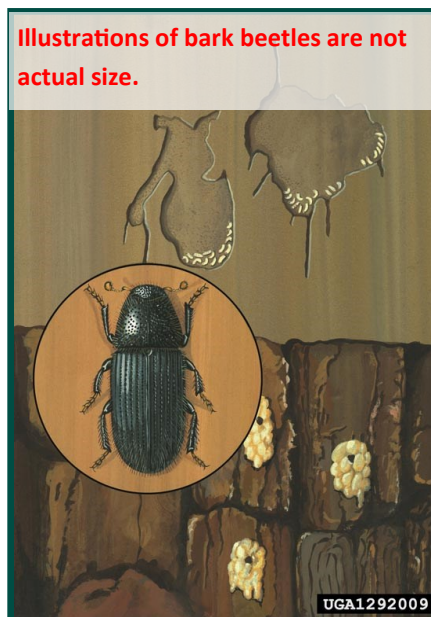
Groupings of dead trees

Six species of bark beetles for which Ireland has protected zone status:

- ⇒ *Dendroctonus micans* Kugelan;
- ⇒ *Ips duplicatus* Sahlbergh
- ⇒ *Ips typographus* Heer
- ⇒ *Ips amitinus* Eichhof
- ⇒ *Ips cembrae* Heer
- ⇒ *Ips sexdentatus* Börner



Resin tubes



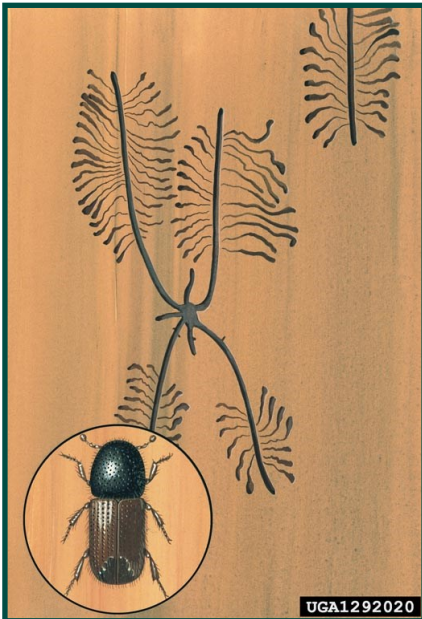
Dendroctonus micans



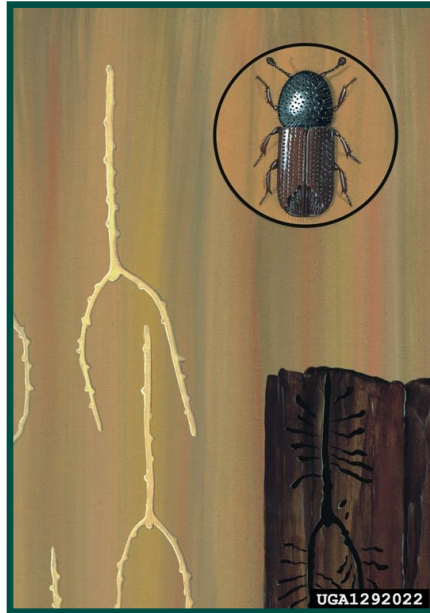
Dendroctonus micans with ruler to illustrate scale

Source: Bugwood.org

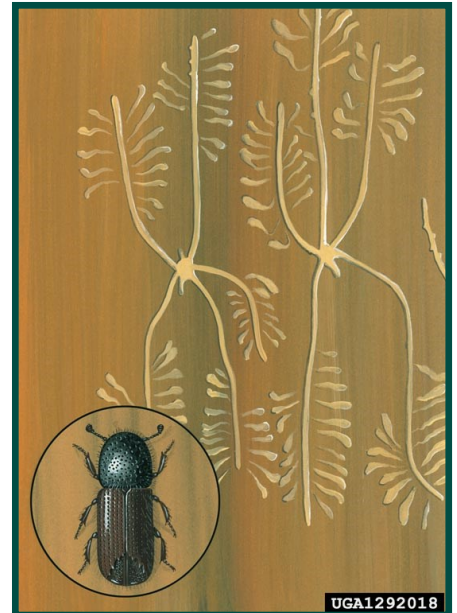
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Ips cembrae



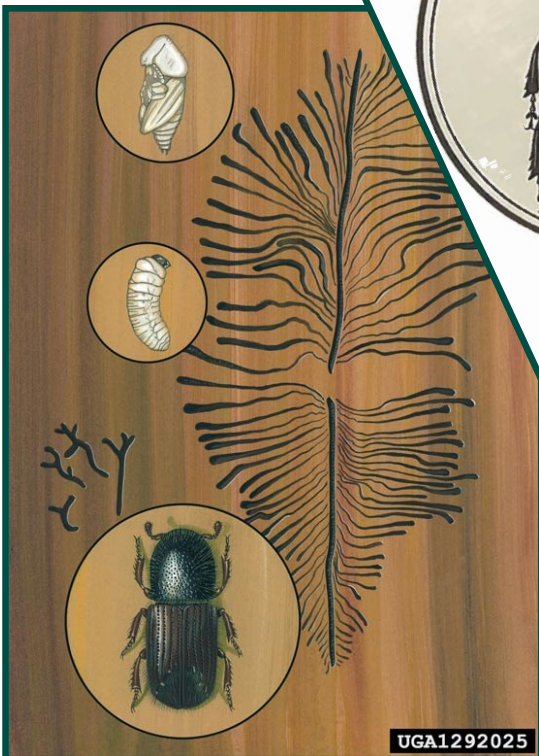
Ips duplicatus



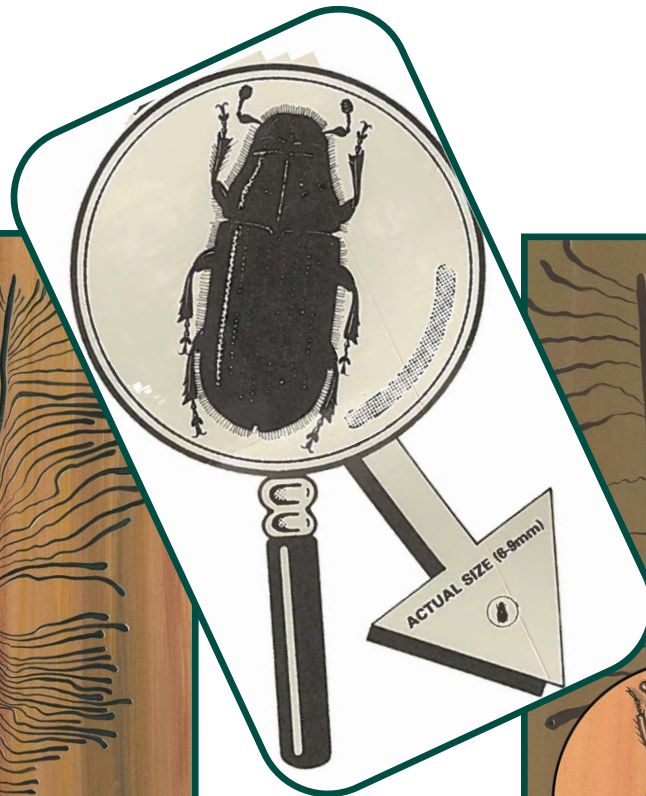
Ips amitinus

Illustrations
are not

of bark beetles
actual size.



Ips typographus



Ips sexdentatus

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Other signs and symptoms :



Defoliation by larvae



Death of shoots



Areas of dead bark



Weeping from bark



Fungi present



Evidence of insects



Insects observed

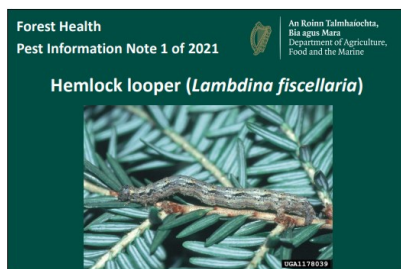
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Pest Information Notes:

Information notes on pests relevant to Irish Forestry are available, and updated, on the gov.ie website at the link below:



www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#pests-and-diseases



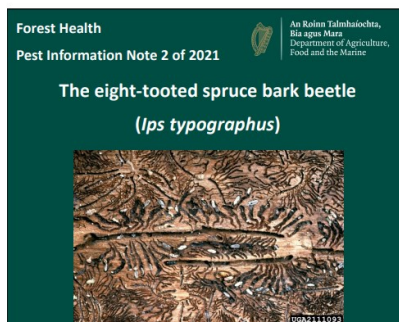
Summary
The hemlock looper (*Lambdina fiscellaria*) is a North American moth, which due to its wasteful feeding and rapid population growth, make it a serious defoliator of conifer tree species. The pest is not present in the EU. A recent Pest Risk Analysis of *Lambdina fiscellaria* for Ireland identified a previously unknown pathway for introduction into the EU: the trade of mosses and lichens for ornamental displays. As a result of this Pest Risk Analysis, *Lambdina fiscellaria* has been added to the Alert List of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation.

Description and damage
Note: *Lambdina fiscellaria* consists of three subspecies, which are categorised based on the feeding preferences of the larva, but which have no morphological differences. These are: *Lambdina fiscellaria fiscellaria* – eastern hemlock looper, *Lambdina fiscellaria lugubris* – western hemlock looper, *Lambdina fiscellaria somnaria* – western oak looper (EPPO).

The hemlock looper is a moth, found in North America, whose larval (caterpillar) stage is a polyphagous defoliator. The larvae are described as wasteful feeders, that is, the insect only eats a small portion of individual leaves / needles, but causes enough damage for the entire leaf / needle to die. Because of this, the insect may be more damaging than other pests which consume the entire leaf (Natural Resources Canada).

Eggs (over wintering stage) are laid within moss and lichens on the bark of trees, or stumps / logs. During the larval stages, the insect feeds on needles and leaves. As the larvae grow, they become highly active, causing defoliation, and can be seen dropping from trees onto the ground via silk threads, and ascending the trunks of nearby trees irrespective of size or species. The insect pupates in dry, decayed stumps, bark crevices, and among lichens on trees. Adults emerge in late August and early September (Carroll 1956).

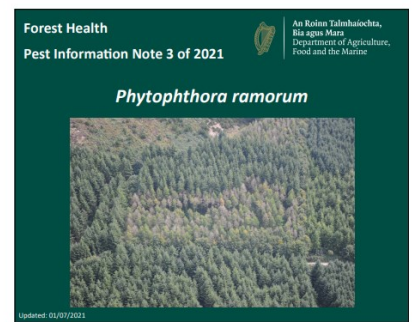
Populations of the pest can increase rapidly in an area when climatic conditions allow (known as an outbreak year) and can cause tree mortality in a single year (USDA).



Summary
The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is widespread across Europe. However it is absent from Ireland. Ireland has protected zone status against this pest. In December 2018 it was found for the first time in the wider environment in Kent in England.

The pathway of significant introduction potential of *Ips typographus* is through the importation of untreated wood with bark from areas where the pest is known to occur. This wood may be imported as a commodity or as Wood Packaging Material (WPM). DAFM implements import provisions and inspections relating to timber, wood packaging material (pallets, crates etc), forest plants, Christmas trees and other forest products, and conducts surveys of the national forest estate for quarantine forest pests and diseases including *Ips typographus*.

Description and damage
Ips typographus is mainly a secondary pest attacking weak or damaged trees. However, populations can grow within areas of felled or windblown trees. These populations can then attack healthy trees on moor, causing widespread damage. The needles of attacked trees turn reddish-brown, and drop off within a short number of weeks. Look out for single, or groups of dead host trees, with exit holes in the bark often accompanied with frass. Under the bark will be the presence of a larval gallery system, often accompanied by blue-stain fungi that is transferred to the tree by the beetle.



Background
Phytophthora ramorum is a harmful pathogen which is known to have over 180 hosts, many of which are tree species. *Phytophthora ramorum* was first noticed in the early 1990s in plant nurseries in Europe and in forests in California. In mainland Europe, it causes a serious blight of ornamental plants, especially *Rhododendron*, *Camellia* and *Viburnum*. In North America it causes a forest disease called Sudden Oak Death, killing millions of *Quercus* trees in deciduous forests of California and Oregon. It also costs millions annually to the ornamental nursery industry in Europe and North America.

In Ireland, *Phytophthora ramorum* was first detected in 2002 on imported *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum*, and in the wild in 2003 on *Rhododendron ponticum*. In 2010, *Phytophthora ramorum* was found to be infecting trees in Ireland, in particular Japanese larch (*Larix kaessbergii*), and has since been recognised as a serious threat as it can cause damage and death of Japanese larch. Sanitation felling of infected Japanese larch stands has been carried out – based on policy and legislative requirements, in an effort to limit the spread of the disease. By the end of 2020 *Phytophthora ramorum* had been found in Japanese larch at 56 forest locations.

Phytophthora ramorum has also been a major problem for the United Kingdom over the last decade. There have also been limited outbreaks in north western France in Japanese larch in recent years. However, in the rest of the EU, *Phytophthora ramorum* has not yet proved to be a forest health issue of concern being far more associated with the horticultural nursery trade.

Staying Informed, Forest Health News:

The Forest Health News section on gov.ie details news and information relating to forest and tree health issues and developments internationally and nationally, in order to create awareness and provide stakeholders with information.

See the link below:



<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#forest-health-news>



Introduction
Welcome to Forest Health News. Here you will find the latest news and information relating to forest and tree health issues and developments internationally at EU level and nationally in order to create awareness and provide stakeholders with the very latest information.

Outbreaks
A recently detected pest population, including an incursion, or a sudden significant increase of an established pest population in an area (IAO, 1995; revised ICPM, 2003).

- Netherlands notified a finding of several non-European *Scythian* spp. (*Euscelinus formosus sensu lato* and *E. cryptus*) on one plant for planting of *Ficus microcarpa* and two plants for planting of *Arctostaphylos* spp. (*Arctostaphylos* spp.) in a greenhouse for commercial wholesale. The insects were detected following trace-back of consignments linked to a recent finding of *Euscelinus formosus* in Germany. <https://ed.spa.europa.eu/article-6988>
- First presence of *Zenaidura macroura* in Spain. This is one of six beetle species Ireland has a Protected Zone for, up until now only one of the six species, *Ips scabripennis* has been recorded in Spain (EPPO).
- The UK has reported the eradication of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian longhorned beetle) at Paddock

Interceptions
The detection of a pest during inspection or testing of an imported consignment (IAO, 1990; revised ICPM, 1996).

Over the past two months there were 17 records of interceptions by EU Member States of EU priority pests notified on the TRACES (EU wide notification) system. It is noteworthy that within this number there were three interceptions notified of pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) associated with wood packing material.

Horizon Scanning
Horizon scanning for the emergence of new or known harmful organisms in the manner through which risk assessors and plant health officers identify and keep track of the pests of tomorrow.

EPPO have added *Lambdina fiscellaria* to the EPPO Alert List. This follows an Irish PRA and work from the DAFM funded FORML Research project: <https://ed.spa.europa.eu/article-6988>
EPPO has issued updated information on Beech leaf disease (*Aphidius conchaeformis*) <https://ed.spa.europa.eu/article-7006>

New publications, reports and events of interest.

Recent publications from the UK of particular relevance to Irish forestry and wider environment:


- The threat to UK conifer forests posed by Ips spp. bark beetles. <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/research/the-threat-to-uk-conifer-forests-posed-by-ips-bark-beetles/>
- PREPUS Project. Findings and Recommendations Responses required to safeguard European ash and birch from future threats. <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/documents/20247/prepus.pdf>

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Appropriate Measures

In the event that a forestry professional operator suspects the presence of a Union Quarantine Pest or Protected Zone Quarantine Pest, they must notify DAFM.

Contact:  forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

 +353 (0)1 607 2651

The professional operator must also immediately take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the pest. DAFM will advise on practical measures when notified.

DAFM will then inspect the suspect trees / wood products, and where necessary take samples for laboratory testing / identification.

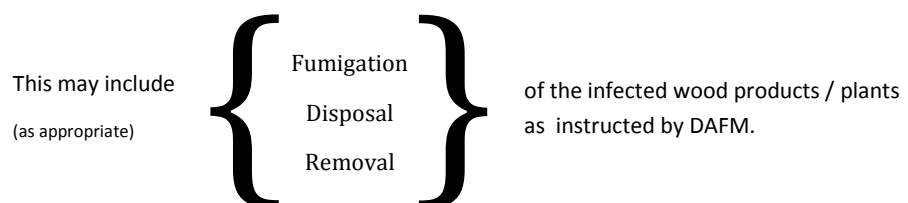
During the period between sampling and the test result, the professional operator will be required to take phytosanitary measures to eliminate the risk of spread of the pest. DAFM will advise on the measures to be taken.



Fumigation may be possible in some cases e.g. for products in freight containers, whereas disposal may be required where this is not feasible. If pests are found on an import, entry may be refused and the importer may be instructed to remove the products from the state.

If a pest is confirmed

If a quarantine pest is confirmed as being present by DAFM, then the professional operator will carry out measures to eliminate the pest.



Unless otherwise instructed by DAFM, the professional operator will also take the infected products off the market, and will contact their suppliers / customers of said infected products.

The professional operator will also co-operate with DAFM to facilitate the establishment of demarcated areas (infested zone / buffer zones).

The professional operator will, in the event of a quarantine pest being confirmed, provide DAFM with requested information regarding the infested products kept on their traceability systems / chain of custody documents / plant passports on file to facilitate trace-back / trace-forward inspections for the quarantine pest.

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Import controls to prevent the introduction of forest pests

The movement into Ireland from other EU Member States and the import from non-EU (third) countries of certain wood products is regulated to prevent the introduction of harmful pests into Ireland. The requirements for entry are determined by the species of wood, the commodity or form of the wood (e.g. roundwood, sawn wood, woodchip etc) and the country of origin.



An official plant health statement is required where such products are being introduced – for EU trade this statement is the **Plant Passport** and for third country trade this statement is a **phytosanitary certificate**. Third country imports are subject to customs control and inspection at the point of entry.

As the pests of concern and risks vary with the commodity, the species and the country of origin, the requirements also vary.

For example, to eliminate the risk of introducing European bark beetles, conifer logs with bark attached from other EU Member States cannot be moved into Ireland unless they come from an officially designated Pest Free Area or have been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content.

On the other hand conifer wood imports originating in the USA must meet different requirements due to the presence there of the EU priority pest, pinewood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) which causes pine wilt disease. Heat treatment to a specific schedule (56 degrees C for a minimum of 30 minutes) has been shown to eliminate pinewood nematode and its vector from wood.

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Plant passports accompany movements within the European Union. Phytosanitary Certificates accompany movements to / from third countries.



The trade unit is defined by the product i.e.: a pack, a bag, a bulk container, a truck load, a bulk shipment etc.

Plant Passports and Phytosanitary Certificates

What is a plant passport?

A plant passport is an official statement for the movement within the EU of plants or plant products that attests to their compliance with the plant health requirements for that product.

A plant passport must accompany each movement of a regulated product into and within a protected zone.

A plant passport is required for all plants for planting and for certain wood products.

To ensure legibility and visibility standardised formats for plant passports have been agreed at an EU level.

Plant passports can be a stand alone document, or can be incorporated into delivery notes, timber removal dockets etc. They must accompany the trade unit before being moved within the protected zone.

What species of wood, wood products and isolated bark require a plant passport?

- All conifer wood that is not free of bark
- *Castanea* species with bark
- *Platanus* species with or without bark
- *Juglans* species with or without bark
- *Pterocarya* species with or without bark



What type of forest products require a plant passport for movement in the Protected Zone?

- Round wood in the whole, e.g. whole trees, small wood and saw logs
- Wood chips processed from round wood on harvesting sites or other sites where aggregation takes place
- Isolated bark
- Sawn wood that is not bark free

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Who can issue Plant Passports?



The procedure for becoming an authorised operator is detailed in section 3.

In order to issue plant passports you must be a **registered and authorised professional operator**.

For the plant passport system to work in the most convenient form (i.e. plant passport incorporated into the delivery advice note / accompanying a load of logs from the forest), it is normally the professional operator responsible for commissioning the transport of the wood, wood products and bark that is authorised to issue the plant passport.


Plant Passport Format :

The plant passport for movement into and within protected zones contains the following elements:



The EPPO codes can be found here:
<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/77386>

Plant Passport – PZ

 DENCMI IPSXAM IPSXCE IPSXDU IPSXSE
IPSXTY

A *Pinopsida*

B IE – xxx

C 22052001

D IE

(a) The words 'Plant Passport — PZ' in its upper right-hand corner, in one of the official languages of the Union and in English, if different, separated by a slash.

(b) Immediately underneath those words, the scientific name(s) or the EPPO code(s) of the respective protected zone quarantine pest(s). In this example the codes for the 6 conifer bark beetles for which Ireland has protected zone status are being presented.

(c) The flag of the Union in its upper left-hand corner, printed in colour or in black and white.

(d) The letter 'A' followed by the botanical name (the taxon is acceptable).

(e) The letter 'B' followed by the two-letter code for the Member State (IE for Ireland), in which the professional operator issuing the plant passport is registered, a hyphen and the registration number of the professional operator.

(f) The letter 'C' followed by the traceability code of the plant, plant product or the other object concerned. The traceability code may also be supplemented by a reference to a unique traceability barcode, hologram, chip or other data carrier, present on the trade unit.

(g) The letter 'D' followed by a. the name of the third country of origin, or
b. two letter code of the Member State of origin and, in the case of replacement of the plant passport, the registration number of the professional operator concerned who issued the initial plant passport or for whom the initial plant passport was issued by the competent authority.



Replacement plant passports are discussed in more detail in section 3.

Forestry Plants

Sample plant passports for forestry plants are detailed in Appendix 3.

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DAFM is the
NPPO in Ireland

What is a Phytosanitary Certificate?

A Phytosanitary Certificate is a legal document issued by the NPPO (National Plant Protection Organisation) of the **country of export** for goods and commercial consignments of plant origin certifying that they are free from certain / specified harmful and quarantine pests and diseases.

When is a Phytosanitary Certificate required?

Imports



A third country is referred to in EU treaties as a country that is not a member of the European Union

A phytosanitary certificate is required for **regulated material** being imported from a **third country**. In general, all plants for planting including seeds, and certain species of wood require a phytosanitary certificate. To receive information as to whether the forest products you wish to import are regulated, the treatment requirements for their import, and the information which must be included on the Phytosanitary Certificate, contact:

 forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

- The NPPO of the **exporting country** issues the Phytosanitary Certificate.
- Upon arrival, DAFM will inspect the consignment for compliance with the plant health legislation, and for conformity with the Phytosanitary Certificate.

Exports

A phytosanitary certificate is required for **regulated material** being exported to a **third country**. To receive information as to whether the forest products you wish to export are regulated, the treatment requirements, and the information which must be included on the Phytosanitary Certificate, contact the NPPO of the importing country.

- DAFM, the **NPPO in Ireland**, issues the Phytosanitary certificate.

Section 1: Information for All Forestry Professional Operators

How to apply for a Phytosanitary Certificate

Imports

As the NPPO of the exporting country must issue the Phytosanitary Certificate, you will need to contact your supplier to make the necessary arrangements.

Exports

- Exporters who are registered for Plant Health may apply for phytosanitary certification for consignments of plant and plant produce for export. The Department's current indication is that a minimum period of 14 days notice is required prior to export, in order that an inspection may be carried-out and/or where any laboratory testing that may be also be required can be completed.
- Applicants are required to submit applications via the Export Certification System (using registered or anonymous portals) which are available at:

<https://publicapps.agriculture.gov.ie/ecs-ui/#/captcha>

Section 2:
Additional information for Forestry Professional Operators who need to be registered

Section 2: Additional Information for Forestry Professional Operators who need to be registered

Registration

A cohort of Forestry Professional Operators must register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). DAFM is the Competent Authority with in Ireland in regards to Forest (Plant) Health.

Farm Forest Owners do not have a requirement to register if engaging with a Registered Professional Operator (e.g. a registered forester) to carry out the activities on their behalf.

You **must** register if you are:

- involved in the movement of plants, plant products, wood products, and / or other objects for which a phytosanitary certificate or a plant passport is required;
- involved in the import or export of plants, plant products, wood products, and / or other objects for which a phytosanitary certificate or a plant passport is required;
- a professional operator who is authorised to issue Plant Passports;
- a professional operator who requires a Phytosanitary Certificates from DAFM;
- a professional operator who is authorised to issue the ISPM 15 mark.



DAFM may, over time, instruct other cohorts of Professional Operators to register due to the pest risk presented by their activities.

Forestry Professional Operators can only be registered **once** with DAFM for plant health

Exemptions

The following exemptions for the requirement to register apply if a forestry professional operator fulfils one or more of the following criteria:

- a) It supplies exclusively and directly to final users small quantities of plants, plant products and other objects by means other than sales through distance contracts (this exemption may not apply where there is a plant health risk associated with the plant products or with the operator's other activities).
- b) its professional activity concerning plants, plant products and other objects is limited to transporting them for another professional operator.
- c) its professional activity exclusively concerns the transport of objects of all kinds using wood packaging material.



Point a) will not apply where DAFM deems that there is a plant health risk associated with the activities of the professional operator/s.

Section 2: Additional Information for Forestry Professional Operators who need to be registered

Obligations of Registered Professional Forestry Operators

Registered Forestry Professional Operators have obligations in terms of traceability of the forest products they deal with, which are:



The obligations on registered forestry professional operators will enable trace back and trace forwarding in the event of an outbreak of a harmful pest.

- ⇒ They shall keep a record allowing that operator to identify, for each trade unit of plant, plant product or other object supplied, the professional operators who supplied it.
- ⇒ They shall keep a record allowing that operator to identify, for each trade unit of plant, plant product or other object it supplied, the professional operators to whom it was supplied.
- ⇒ They shall keep the records for at least three years after the date on which the plant, plant product or other object concerned was supplied to or by them.
- ⇒ They shall have in place traceability systems or procedures to allow identification of the movements of those plants, plant products and other objects within and between their own premises.
- ⇒ This information shall be made available to DAFM on request.

How to register

The registration forms are available on the Forest Health webpage within the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine section of the government of Ireland website.



www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#trader-information



Registered Forestry Professional Operators must notify DAFM of any future changes concerning the information submitted.

Or to be sent a registration form directly, contact one of the addresses below:

General wood or wood products: ✉ forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

Fuel wood: ✉ fuelwood@agriculture.gov.ie

Wood packaging material: ✉ ispm15@agriculture.gov.ie

Forest plants/seeds: ✉ frm@agriculture.gov.ie

Section 3:

Additional information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised

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Additional Information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised

Authorisation:

A cohort of registered Forestry Professional Operators **must be authorised** by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) if they wish to carry out certain activities, which are:

- To issue plant passports to accompany the movements of forestry plants and wood products.
- To mark wood packaging material in accordance with ISPM 15.



The authorisation process to mark wood packaging in accordance with ISPM 15 is available from ispm15@agriculture.gov.ie

The legal obligations for authorised professional operators and requirements around issuing plant passports are set out in EU Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and S.I. 459 of 2020 legislation:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R2031&from=EN>

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2020/si/459/made/en/pdf>

Steps to become authorised to issue plant passports

The steps involved in becoming authorised to issue plant passports are as follows:

1. If not already registered, the Professional Operator registers for plant health with The Department and is issued a PHR number. Registration forms are available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#trader-information>.



The authorisation process to mark wood packaging in accordance with ISPM 15 is available from ispm15@agriculture.gov.ie

(Note: Only Professional Operators who are registered and have been issued a PHR number can complete the remaining steps).

2. Professional Operators familiarise themselves with their responsibilities under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 (which is covered in this document).
3. Professional Operators complete an online competence assessment containing multiple choice questions on the above material.
4. Upon successful completion of the assessment, operators are provided with confirmation of their result by email.
5. Professional Operators complete and send the application form “**Application for Authorisation to issue Plant Passports for Forestry Plants, Wood and Wood Products**”, available [here](#) to forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie together with a copy of their results confirmation email referred to in point 4.

Section 3: Additional Information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised



Examinations are discussed later in this section.

7. A Forestry 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.

The facilities required include:

- the physical infrastructure and capabilities to issue and produce a Plant Passport;
- a traceability system which is in place to keep records for at least three years;
- a quarantine area on the premises to prevent the presence and spread of pests;
- good facilities and areas for examining plants, plant products or other objects;
- an effective plan in case of any suspected occurrence or finding of pests;

8. If the inspection stage is successful, a certificate of authorisation to issue plant passports is issued to the operator.



Pest risk management plans are explained in more detail later in this section.

4. Periodic Inspection

DAFM will conduct an initial and yearly inspections / audits of the Authorisation of the Registered Forestry Professional Operator. This may include an audit of consignments, traceability systems, Plant Passports and associated paperwork. The frequency of these yearly inspections may be reduced if operators have pest risk management plans in place.

Section 3:

Additional Information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised

Authorised Professional Operator Requirements

Under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 an Authorised Professional Operator must:

- Demonstrate the necessary knowledge of the rules for examinations concerning Union quarantine pests, protected zone quarantine pests and Union Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQP) that could affect plants, plant products and other objects.
- Demonstrate the necessary knowledge of best practices, measures and other actions required to prevent the presence and spread of the pests referred to in EU Regulation 2016/2031.
- Have an effective plan to be followed in case of any suspected occurrence or findings of the pests referred to in EU Regulation 2016/2031
See Appendix 1 for a sample plan.
- Demonstrate the necessary knowledge and competence to perform the required examinations of the plant, plant product or other object for the relevant pests and to take the measures referred to in EU Regulation 2016/2031
- Demonstrate that they possess or have access to the necessary equipment and facilities to perform the required examinations and the capacity to take the measures referred to in EU Regulation 2016/2031. This will be assessed by a Department inspector on site.
- Each professional operator must appoint a contact person responsible for communication with the Department.

Section 3:

Additional Information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised

Issuing a Plant Passport



The trade unit is defined by the product i.e.: a pack, a bag, a bulk container, a truck load, a bulk shipment etc.

Authorised Registered Forestry Professional Operators:

- ⇒ may only issue plant passports for products for which they are responsible;
- ⇒ may only issue plant passports for products for which they are authorised;
- ⇒ may only issue plant passports after a meticulous **plant health examination** of the products (plant health examinations are described later in this section);
- ⇒ must attach the plant passport to the **trade unit** of the products before being moved within / into the protected zone;
- ⇒ must issue the plant passports in the premises, collective warehouses and dispatching centres which are under their responsibility;
- ⇒ must keep the plant passports and associated paperwork on file for 3 years.

Plant Health Examination

A plant health examination must be performed by the professional operator on the products before a plant passport is issued. Plant health checks are **visual examinations** of the products to determine that they are free from Union Quarantine Pests and Protected Zone Quarantine Pests.

Plant Health Examinations must be carried out by trained personnel. The Authorised Registered Forestry Professional Operator must provide training to the person / persons carrying out the examinations.

A Plant Health Examination:

- must identify the product being plant passported;
- must identify any pests present;
- must immediately cause action to be taken upon the presence / suspected presence of a pest, as per the responsibilities of Forestry Professional Operators listed in section 1.

The results and associated paperwork must be kept on file for a minimum of 3 years.

For guidance on carrying out Plant Health Examinations, see Appendix 2.

Section 3:

Additional Information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised



DAFM may further define close proximity.


The regulation also sets out an exception for products supplied directly to end users. However this exception does not apply to products for which a plant passport for protected zones is required.



Plants which are “grown on” cannot be traded on the same plant passport.

Exemption from plant passport requirements:

No plant passport shall be required for the movements of plants, plant products and other objects within and between the **premises of the same registered operator** which are in **close proximity** to each other.

Contact  forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie if moving regulated material between your own premises. DAFM may require that other documentation be issued for these movements in lieu of a plant passports.

Replacement Plant Passports

Wood or wood products which are received with a plant passport may be traded on with the same plant passport, or may be traded on with a replacement plant passport issued by the trader. The trader must be an Authorised Registered Forestry Professional Operator in order to issue a replacement plant passport.

When issuing a replacement plant passport, the “PZ” marking and associated protected zone quarantine pest codes / botanical names cannot be added unless they have been present on the original plant passport. The original plant passports must be kept on file for 3 years, as associated paperwork of the replacement plant passport.

Inspections / Audits by DAFM

Authorised Professional Forestry Operators will be inspected at least once per year for compliance with the regulations.

The inspections may take the form of a physical inspection at the operators’ premises and a paperwork audit of the plant passports and associated documentation.

The frequency of these inspections may be reduced if the operator has a **pest risk management plan** in place (pest risk management plans are described in more detail later in this section).

Withdrawal of Authorisation

In the event that DAFM becomes aware of a non-compliance of an Authorised Registered Professional Operator with the regulations, DAFM will set out measures to ensure that the non-compliance does not continue.

Where the non-compliance continues, DAFM shall without delay **withdraw the authorisation to issue plant passports**.

Section 3:

Additional Information for Registered Forestry Professional Operators who need to be Authorised

Pest Risk Management Plans

Pest Risk Management Plans are **optional**. They are a plan put in place by an Authorised Registered Professional Operators that demonstrates their competence in regards to pest risk.

A Pest Risk Management Plan shall contain (but is not limited to) the following information:

- ⇒ Registration details of the authorised operator;
- ⇒ Traceability system in place
- ⇒ Production process
- ⇒ Measures taken to mitigate risks
- ⇒ Procedures in place on the occurrence of a finding
- ⇒ Roles and responsibilities
- ⇒ Plant Health Examinations
- ⇒ Issuing of Plant Passports
- ⇒ Attaching Plant Passports
- ⇒ Training provided

DAFM will approve those plans that fulfil the conditions of the regulations.

To develop a Pest Risk Management Plan, contact:



forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

Appendix 1

The Plan to be followed in case of any suspected occurrence or findings of quarantine organisms.

Where the presence of a listed harmful organism is suspected?

If a Professional Operator is concerned about the possible presence of a harmful organism (see Section 1 for a list of pests relevant to forestry, together with some photographs) in his/her forest the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine should be immediately notified.

This can be done by

- Sending an email to forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie and/or
- Phone Forest Health Section @ (01) 607 2651

In addition precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the pest must be taken at this point. DAFM will advise on the practical nature of these measures depending on the nature of the suspected harmful organism and the tree species impacted.

What will happen next?

DAFM will visit and inspect the suspect trees / wood products, etc and where necessary take samples for laboratory testing / identification.

During the period between sampling and the test result, the professional operator will be required to take phytosanitary measures to eliminate the risk of spread of the pest. DAFM will advise on the specific measures to be taken.

What happens if a pest of quarantine significance is confirmed?

If a quarantine pest is confirmed DAFM will initiate a pest specific contingency plan with the overall aim to co-ordinate activities in order to ensure the coherent, rapid and uniform implementation of appropriate phytosanitary measures.

The professional operator will be required to fully co-operate with DAFM in the implementation of the pest specific contingency plan.

Appendix 2

Carrying Out Plant Health Examinations

A plant health examination must be performed on the products before a plant passport is issued. Plant health checks are visual examinations of the products to determine that they are free from Union Quarantine Pests and Protected Zone Quarantine Pests.

The examinations shall fulfil **all** of the following conditions:

- They shall be carried out at **appropriate times** taking into account the **risks** involved.
- They shall be carried out at the professional operators premises / land plots used by the professional operator in the **immediate vicinity** of the place of production of the plants / plant products or other objects concerned.
- They shall be made at least by **visual examination**, complemented by:
 - ⇒ Inspections, sampling and testing by DAFM in the event of suspicion of the presence of a of a Union quarantine pest / protected zone quarantine pest / regulated non-quarantine pest.
- It's results shall be recorded and stored for at least three years.

For Example:



An examination prior to a plant passport being issued for conifer roundwood moving from a forest to a sawmill:

Appropriate Time	Before harvesting
Immediate Vicinity	Within the forest
Risks	Six species of bark beetles for which Ireland has protected zone status (DENCMI, IPSX-AM, IPSXCE, IPSXDU, IPSXSE, IPSXTY)
Visual Examination	Trained persons walk the forest observing any symptoms at stand level: single, or groups of dead trees. Trees with reddish - brown needles. Further examination of symptomatic trees is necessary. The trees are examined for exit holes in the bark often accompanied with frass or / and resin tubes. Under the bark will be the presence of a larval gallery system, often accompanied by blue-stain fungi that is transferred to the tree by the beetle. There may also be adult bark beetles present.
In the event of suspicion of the pest	Appropriate measures & notify DAFM
Paperwork	Results shall be recorded and stored for three years
Equipment	Binoculars, chisel / axe, camera, paperwork


Appendix 3

Forestry plants – sample plant passports



Sessile oak – Protected zones for oak processionary moth (OPM) and chestnut blight. Oak plants are a potential host for chestnut blight. For OPM the PZ plant passport (with EPPO code THAUPR) is only required where plants are of a girth of at least 8cm at 1.2m above the root collar.

	Plant Passport – PZ (THAUPR, ENDOPA)
A <i>Quercus petraea</i>	
B IE – F000	
C A5781	
D IE	

Betula plants (no relevant Protected Zone)

	Plant Passport
A <i>Betula</i> sp.	
B IE – F000	
C 20191111-01	
D IE	

Douglas fir – protected zone for Gremmeniella abietina



	Plant Passport - PZ (GREMAB)
A <u><i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></u>	
B IE – F000	
C DF1511191	
D IE	



Appendix 3

Sitka spruce - protected zone for *Gremmeniella abietina* and spruce sawfly

	Plant Passport-PZ (GREMAB, GILPPO)
A <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	
B IE – F000	
C SS1911-01	
D IE	

Hawthorn – Protected zone for fireblight

	Plant Passport - PZ (ERWIAM)
A <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	
B IE – F000	
C 161219BT	
D IE	 sample plant passport

	Plant Passport - PZ (ERWIAM)		
A <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	B IE – F000	C 161219BT	D IE
			 sample plant passport