



TRADER NOTICE FH01 /2021

26th October 2021

TRADER NOTICE – EXPORT OF CUT CHRISTMAS TREES TO THE UK (GREAT BRITAIN)

Background – UK withdrawal from the EU

The UK became a Third Country (non-EU Member State) on January 1st, 2021 when it left the EU. From this date the regulation of export from Ireland to the UK of certain plants and plant products **including Christmas Trees (and where applicable tree foliage)** became governed by UK phytosanitary legislation.

If you are an exporter of cut Christmas Trees from Ireland to UK (Great Britain) you should familiarise yourself with **the current** post-EU withdrawal UK phytosanitary (plant health) import requirements.

For your information the following are official UK websites concerning plant and plant products import regulations:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-january-2021?utm_source=15148ea6-13cf-4fe3-a69c-2ecbe2223d99&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate.

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/eu-exit-guidance/>

What you should do now if you are exporting cut Christmas Trees to the UK (Great Britain).

- **Establish whether the commodity you are exporting to the UK (Great Britain) is a regulated commodity and what the specific requirements are for its entry into the UK.**

Generally, the phytosanitary import requirements for any non-EU country which apply to plants, plant products, wood and wood products, including cut Christmas Trees and foliage, depend on the species and the country of origin. The import requirements are specified by the non-EU country of import, the UK authorities in this case. Exporters must establish the UK import requirements at the time of export directly with the UK authorities or through their UK customer or agent to ensure that the UK's up to date regulatory requirements are being met.

Generally, from 1st January 2021 any plant or plant product including cut Christmas Trees exported to Great Britain and for which an EU Plant Passport was formerly required will now need to be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine. The UK requirements may be subject to ongoing change but in general terms, as of the date of this Trader Notice, the UK(GB) Phytosanitary Certificate requirement currently applies to cut Christmas Trees greater than 3 m in height (a Phytosanitary Certificate is not currently required for cut Christmas Trees less than 3m). The requirement for the Plant Passporting of cut Christmas trees greater than 3 m destined to UK (Northern Ireland) continue to apply.

- **Wood Packaging Material & compliance with ISPM 15**

Where Wood Packaging Material is utilised in transport, an additional new requirement for all goods traded between the EU and the UK, is compliance with the international plant health standard for Wood Packaging Material, namely ISPM 15. Irrespective of the size of Christmas tree, or any requirement for a Phytosanitary Certificate, all Wood Packaging Material, such as wooden crates or pallets or individual pieces of wood (dunnage) which are being used to transport the trees, must meet the requirements of ISPM 15. Please see the following link for more information. ISPM 15 does not apply to goods destined for UK (Northern Ireland).

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/396a9-ispm-15-the-international-standard-for-phytosanitary-measures-no-15-regulation-of-wood-packaging-material/>



Procedurally what you need to do to obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate prior to export of regulated cut Christmas trees to the UK (Great Britain)

- **Register with DAFM for Plant Health as a Professional Operator.**

Complete the Plant Health Registration Form available at www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#trader-information. Many traders are already registered with DAFM and have a Plant Health or a Forest Health registration “F” Number but will need to re-register under the new EU Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031.

- **As a Professional Operator apply online for a Phytosanitary Certification from DAFM for the regulated Christmas trees prior to their export to the UK.**

If the commodity for export is a regulated commodity under UK phytosanitary import requirements the consignment will need to be officially certified by the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) which is DAFM in Ireland and which will normally involve an inspection and the provision of a Phytosanitary Certificate.

A. Establish and Provide the following

- i. As above exporters must establish the up-to-date import requirements for the commodity they wish to export into the Great Britain (this is the exporter’s responsibility).
- ii. Exporters should provide to DAFM a statement from the authorities in Great Britain obtained through their customer/agent or directly, as to whether a phytosanitary certificate is required to accompany the consignment, and if so, to indicate any official ‘Additional Declaration’ that needs to be included on the Phytosanitary Certificate (see B(iii) below).
- iii. Customers of Irish exporters (i.e. importers in Great Britain) should be aware of and implement the relevant legislative requirements in Great Britain, including any pre-notification requirements.

B. Procedure to apply online for a Phytosanitary Certificate

Exporters who are registered for Plant Health may apply for phytosanitary certification for consignments of plant and plant products including regulated Christmas Trees for export to Great Britain. 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.

The Department operates an on-line system for the application for Phytosanitary Certificates, the Export Certification System (‘ECS’) which is available at: <https://publicapps.agriculture.gov.ie/ecs-ui/#/captcha> .

Applicants are required to submit applications via ECS (using registered or anonymous portals). Within the ECS system exporters should request the “Phytosanitary Forestry Certificate” option.

Watch this video guide: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-ykl_lf1E&feature=youtu.be on the steps required in completing the application for a Phytosanitary Certificate.

- i. The importer is required to submit an application for a Phytosanitary Certificate for each consignment. (Note a consignment may comprise of one or a number of (truck) loads if it is unique export).
- ii. The application should be made prior to a date / time suitable for an inspection.
- iii. The application should include any ‘Additional Declaration’ as required by the NPPO of the importing country in the appropriate field on the application (see A.(ii) above).
- iv. A DAFM Inspector may inspect the consignment at an arranged time and place for conformity to the details submitted on the application form.
- v. The Phytosanitary Certificate may be posted and/or scanned and emailed to the exporter.

The country of import, in this case UK (GB) may require advance notification from the importer of the intention to import which may include provision of the Phytosanitary Certificate.

Queries

Queries can be sent to: **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Forest Health Section, 3 West Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. DO2 WK12** or Email forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie or Telephone (01) 6072651