



TRADER NOTICE FH-02 /2021

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Competence Assessment for Authorisation to issue Plant Passports**

**Dear Forestry Operator**

**Background**

Among the requirements of Plant Health Regulation EU 2016/2031 is that a Plant Passport is required to accompany the movement of certain commodities including (forestry) plants and tree seed, coniferous wood, wood products (which are not bark-free) and isolated bark into and within the Protected Zone of Ireland.

In practice this means a Plant Passport is required in the following scenarios (among others):

- The movement of coniferous roundwood (logs) from the forest to the sawmill or processor.
- The movement of coniferous sawn timber which is not bark free from the sawmill
- The movement of all plants including certain tree seed from the seed supplier or nursery to the final end user.
- The movement of coniferous wood which is not bark free (say firewood and kindling) to the final end user
- The movement of coniferous bark from the place of processing to the final end user.

Companies/Persons (Professional Operators) who issue Plant Passports must be registered for plant health with the Department (have been issued with an "F" Number) and must also be authorised by the Department.

**Competence Assessment and Authorisation to issue Plant Passports**

The Department is required to have a method of assessing the competence of professional operators to issue Plant Passports in order to formalise Plant Passporting authorisation. To address this competence assessment requirement, the Department has developed a Technical Guidance Document which provides an explanation of the Plant Passporting legislative background and requirements. Associated with this Technical Guidance document there is a new on-line competence assessment which consists of 33 multiple choice questions, all based on the content of the Technical Guidance document. A score of at least 80% (i.e., 27 out of 33) is required in order to proceed to the next stage of the Authorisation process. Please note the test is not timed and can be taken multiple times.

- Those persons/companies who are registered for plant health (and who may already be issuing Plant Passports) and who wish to proceed to the competence test and then apply for authorisation are invited to do so as soon as possible.
- Those persons/companies that are not registered for plant health are advised to register as soon as possible.

All procedural information, including application forms together with the Technical Guidance document and link to the assessment are available here; <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#trader-information>

Regards

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