

TRADER NOTICE No. 6 OF 2023

06 October 2023

To: All exporters of regulated plants and plant products

Subject: UK Border Target Operation Model

On the 30th of August 2023, the United Kingdom (UK) government published their final Border Target Operation Model (BTOM) which sets out the sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for the import of goods entering Great Britain (GB). Further details on the final BTOM can be found [here](#).

Under the new regime all regulated plants and plant products will be categorised into three risk categories of high, medium, and low. The higher the risk category the greater the assurance imposed. It is important to take note of the definitions around the various groups and species/genus contained within each category.

For plants and plant products categorised as high risk **no changes** are proposed as pre notification and phytosanitary certificates already apply and this will continue.

For plants and plant products categorised as medium risk, these will require pre notification on the import of Products of Animal, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) and to be accompanied with a phytosanitary certificate from **31st January 2024**.

For plants and plant products categorised as low risk, pre-notification and phytosanitary certificate is **not required** from the **31st of January 2024**.

From the 31st of October 2024 risk-based identity and physical checks on high and medium risk plants and plant products will commence at Border Control Posts.

You can obtain the details of the risk categories and commodities [here](#).

For the export of plants or plant products that use GB as a land bridge, there will be no requirement for pre-notification on IPAFFS but plants and plant products will need to be accompanied by a signed declaration that they are in phytosanitary transit and are packaged in such a way that there is no risk of spreading a pest through GB. In addition, hauliers must complete the office of transit processes on arrival in the UK for every transit movement.

The sale of regulated plants and plant products to Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland is unaffected by the BTOM.

If you are unsure of the risk category of a plant or plant product or have any questions in relation to this notice, please email plantexports@agriculture.gov.ie

Applying for Phytosanitary Certificate

If you wish to export plants or plant products and need to obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate you should apply for a Phytosanitary Certificate at least two weeks prior to the date of export to allow sufficient time for inspection. In many cases there may be additional phytosanitary conditions required depending on the type of plant or plant products where sampling and laboratory testing may also be required.

Ireland has recently started to issue electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto). These are sent by DAFM to the ePhyto hub, a centralised system run by the International Plant Protection Convention, where the NPPO of the importing country can access the ePhyto. This eliminates the need for a paper certificate making trade safer and faster.

You can apply for a phytosanitary cert from DAFM at the link [here](#):

Any question in relation to this notice may be directed to the following email address:
plantexports@agriculture.gov.ie

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