



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



Assessment of Competency to issue Plant Passports

Module 1: Professional Operator Requirements

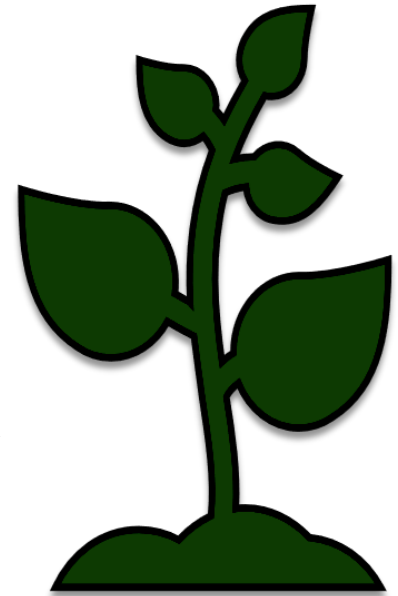
Horticulture and Plant Health Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



Introduction



- New plant health legislation EU Regulation 2016/2031 came into effect on 14 December 2019. It is implemented in Ireland by S.I. 459 of 2020.
- All professional operators must now register with a National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO). For Ireland, the NPPO is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- The requirements for plant passports have changed and they may only be issued by registered operators who are authorised to do so by the Department. This assessment is part of that authorisation process.



Professional Operators



Operators must register with DAFM if professionally involved in activities such as planting, breeding, growing, selling, importing and moving plants, plant products and other objects. The following are examples of Professional Operators:

- Nurseries
- Garden centres
- Multiple stores that trade plants
- Landscaper
- Landscape Architect
- Online retailers
- Local Authority/County Council



Professional Operator Assessment



Please pay careful attention to the information that follows to enable you to complete the online assessment. Modules 1 – 4 contain information which a competent professional operator is expected to be familiar with.

Competency to issue plant passports must be demonstrated by successful completion of the online assessment and a satisfactory on-site inspection.

The information contained in these modules is also available on the Department website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/26813-plant-health-trade/>

Assessment Process



A score of 80% in each module is required to successfully complete the assessment. Multiple attempts are permitted.

Email confirming successful result will issue. This must be submitted with the application form for authorisation

On-site inspection to confirm competency. Equipment, facilities and capacity will be checked

Module 1: Professional Operator Requirements



New Terms and Definitions



Authorised Professional Operator

- An authorised professional operator means a registered operator authorised by DAFF to issue plant passports

Final or end user

- The final or end user is anyone who acquires plants or plant products for their own personal use

New Terms and Definitions



Plant Products

- ‘Plant products’ means unmanufactured material of plant origin and those manufactured products, which may create a risk for the spread of quarantine pests, like coniferous wood

Other Objects

- ‘Other objects’ means any material or object, other than plants or plant products, capable of harbouring or spreading pests - this includes soil or growing medium - like Wood Packaging Material

New Terms and Definitions



‘Plants’ means living plants and the following parts of plants:

- Seeds, in the botanical sense, other than those not intended for planting
- Fruits, in the botanical sense
- Vegetables
- Tubers, corms, rhizomes, roots, rootstocks, stolons
- Shoots, stems, runners
- Cut flowers
- Branches with or without foliage
- Cut trees retaining foliage

New Terms and Definitions



‘Plants’ means living plants and the following parts of plants:

- Leaves, foliage
- Plant tissue cultures, including cell cultures, germplasm, meristems, chimaeric clones, micro-propagated material
- Live pollen and spores
- Buds, budwood, cuttings, scions, grafts



Authorised Professional Operator Requirements



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:

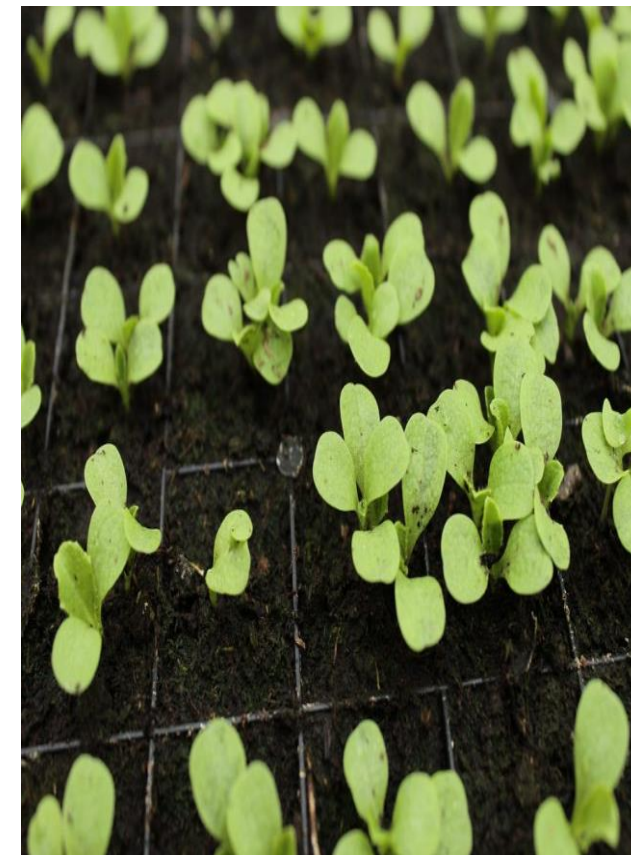
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R2031&from=EN>
- [S.I. No. 459/2020 - European Union \(Plant Health\) Regulations 2020 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2020/si/459/2020-04-23/en/gazette/html)



Authorised Professional Operator Requirements



- 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



Authorised Professional Operator Requirements



- 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
- 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



Authorised Professional Operator Requirements



- 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 provide contact details for a competent person to be available to communicate with the Department.



Changes to Traceability Requirements



Plant passports will be dealt with in detail in **Module 2**

In summary:

- All plants for planting require a plant passport when moved from professional operator to professional operator
- Plant passports are not required for plants, plant products and other objects supplied directly to final users except for 'Protected Zones' host plants and distant (online) sales

Changes to Traceability Requirements



Plant passports summary:

- Professional operators must maintain records for plants supplied to and received from other professional operators for at least three years
- Professional operators are required to have a traceability system in place to allow identification of the movements of plants, plant products and other objects



Requirements for Current Registered Operators



- Registered operators must submit an annual update with any changes to their registration details by 30th April each year. However, the Department must be notified of any change to the name, contact person details or address of the premises within **30-days**.
- If the Department becomes aware that a registered operator no longer carries out activities specified in the registration or details have changed, the operator will be contacted to correct those parts of the registration.
- The operator must provide the correct information within the period of time set by DAFM, otherwise they risk having the registration revoked.

For Further Information

Contact:

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