

TRADER NOTICE No. 5 of 2017

To: All registered importers of plant and plant produce

Subject: Your views on possible exemptions from Phytosanitary Certificates at import from third countries.

The new EU Regulation 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants will come into effect on 14th of December 2019. This Regulation will replace Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plant or plant products and against their spread within the Community.

The new Regulation introduces stronger controls on imports of plant and plant products from third countries. One of the principal changes falls under Chapter IV of the new Regulation, and will mean that **all plants and plant products will be required to be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate** on import to the EU directly from a third country. Although the Regulation does not set down that all plant products are required to be inspected by the appropriate National Plant Protection Organisation, the requirement for the additional certification may deliver an additional administrative burden to importers and their agents.

In addition, Article 73 of the Regulation allows for a list of exemptions from the requirement for a Phytosanitary Certificate to be established by means of an Implementing Act. The Implementing Act shall provide that a Phytosanitary Certificate is not required where an assessment, based on evidence about pest risk and experience with trade, demonstrates that such a certificate is not necessary.

Submissions:

Accordingly, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine invites you to submit comments in respect of the above issues or any other aspect of EU Regulation 2016/2031.

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 1st of December 2017 and can be made by emailing plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie.

Further information:

The EU Commission has established a dedicated portal providing information on the new proposals, including the full text of the proposed Regulations. It is available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/legislation/new_eu_rules_en

A useful Fact Sheet on Regulation 2016/2031, also put together by the EU Commission, is available at:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-4310_en.htm

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