

TRADER NOTICE No. 7 of 2020

7th of October 2020

To: All registered Food Business Operators, Professional Operators and all importers of seed and ware potatoes.

Subject: Prohibition of the import of seed and ware potatoes from Great Britain from January 1st 2021.

From January 1st 2021 the UK will become a 'Third Country' (non-EU Member State) and EU plant health rules in the area of intra-Union trade in plants, plant products, seed potatoes and ware potatoes will no longer apply to the UK.

Under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will be unaffected.

Therefore when the withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU ends on December 31st 2020, the import of certified seed **and** ware potatoes from Great Britain will be **prohibited**.

The UK has applied to the EU for 'Third Country' equivalence for the export of certified seed and ware potatoes to the EU.

This application must go through the EU law-making process and is not immediate.

The EU has indicated this process will only begin upon the completion of trade negotiations with the UK.

You are strongly encouraged to have **imports of certified seed and ware potatoes from Great Britain** landed in Ireland **before January 1st 2021**.

For seed potatoes, DAFM must be notified at least 72 hours in advance of all imports. Please email import notifications to potatoonline@agriculture.gov.ie using the excel form on the DAFM website. This form is available at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/potatoes/seedpotatoes/>

For more information relating to the trade of plants and plant products with the EU and with the UK post January 1st 2021 please consult DAFM's website at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/planthealthtrade/>

In the event that you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact this office either by e-mailing plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie or potatoonline@agriculture.gov.ie or alternatively by telephone on (01)5058885 or (01) 5058792.

Yours sincerely

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