

TRADER NOTICE No. 8 of 2020

8th October 2020**To:** All importers of plant and plant produce**Subject:** **Certain Restrictions on Importing *Quercus* into Ireland's Protected Zone**

Please note requirements on pre notification of Oak and limitations on imports. Ireland has a Protected Zone for *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary Moth). The new Plant Health Regulation ((EU) 2016/2031), which came into effect on the 14th December 2019, strengthened the requirements for Oak Processionary Moth. As part of the new plant health Regulations, plants for planting of *Quercus* L, other than *Quercus suber*, with a girth of at least 8cm measured at a height of 1.2m above the root collar must comply with at least one of the following requirements:

- a) the plants have been grown throughout their life in places of production in countries where *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. is not known to occur, or
- b) the plants have been grown throughout their life in an area free from *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. established by the National Plant Protection Organisation in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, or
- c) the plants have been grown throughout their life in a site with complete physical protection against the introduction of *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. and have been inspected at appropriate times and found to be free from *Thaumetopoea processionea* L.

After exchanges with other EU Member States (MS), it is the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine's (DAFM) understanding that other MS **cannot** meet the new criteria. **Therefore, it is not possible to import *Quercus* with a girth of at least 8 cm measured at 1.2m above the root collar to Ireland.** *Quercus* plants under 1.2m at the root collar and/or under 8cm girth can still be imported from other MS.

Furthermore a new Statutory Instrument (S.I. 30 of 2020) to prevent the introduction of Oak Processionary Moth into Ireland was put in place in Feb 2020. This Order requires any person bringing **all** sizes of *Quercus* plants or trees into the State to notify the Minister in writing at least two days in advance, giving the following particulars of each consignment:

- (a) the intended date of their landing into the State;
- (b) the intended destination;
- (c) the genus, species and quantity;
- (d) the identification number of the supplier of the plants;
- (e) the country from which they have been consigned.

These notifications should be emailed to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at the following email address: plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie

Yours sincerely

Oliver McEvoy

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