

TRADER NOTICE No. 10 OF 2020

30th November 2020

To: All registered professional operators, importers & exporters of plants and plant products

Subject: Update on requirements for professional operators and the 2021 Scheme of Investment Aid for Horticulture Sector

Update from Horticulture & Plant Health Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in relation to requirements for professional operators, importers and exporters under the Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and the Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and reminder in relation to the closing date of the 2021 Scheme of Investment Aid for the Commercial Horticulture Sector.

Registration:

- If you trade in plants or plant products you are required to be registered as a Professional Operator with DAFM.
- A full list of professional operators and how to register can be found on our website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/9a3042-register-as-a-professional-operator-plants/>
- Professional Operators are required to update their registration with DAFM on an annual basis.
- If you have already submitted your updated registration forms you will be contacted in due course.
- If you have not updated your registration in the last 12 months please complete the forms available on our website and return to plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie

Importers:

- If you are importing plants or plant products from Third Countries (non-EU) or intend to import plants or plant products from Great Britain from January 1st, 2021 you are also required to register as an importer with DAFM.
- If you are importing second hand machinery which has been previously used for agricultural, horticultural, forestry or soil cultivation purposes you are also required to register with DAFM.
- Full details on registration and the procedures for imports can be found on the DAFM website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9273-trading-in-plants-and-plant-products-with-the-uk/>
- DAFM's webinar on the import of plants and plant products is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/brexittrainingandevents/#watch-back-past-webinars>
- If you have specific queries about the import of plants and plant products from Third Countries you can contact plantimports@agriculture.gov.ie
- In accordance with the Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and European Union (Plant Health) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 459 of 2020) DAFM will be updating the fees charged for controls on imported consignments of plants and plant products from 1st December 2020.
- This update involves a small number of changes to the current fees structure. Revised fees apply only to imports of shrubs/trees and wood products. A full breakdown of the updated fees is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9273-trading-in-plants-and-plant-products-with-the-uk/#fees-and-charges-for-importers>

Exporters:

- If you are exporting plants or plant products to Third Countries (non-EU) or intend to export plants or plant products to Great Britain from January 1st, 2021 you are also required to register with DAFM.
- If you are exporting second hand machinery which has been previously used for agricultural, horticultural, forestry or soil cultivation purposes you are also required to register with DAFM.
- Full details on registration and the procedures for imports can be found on the DAFM website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9273-trading-in-plants-and-plant-products-with-the-uk/>

Registration Numbers:

- The format of Plant Health Registration (PHR) numbers will now reflect that included on plant passports, with an IE added to the current PHR number as follows: IEXXXX. Please use this format when quoting your PHR number in future.
- Operators who were previously assigned “U” numbers are being contacted individually by Department staff at present as additional changes are necessary.

Import Notification:

- From 1st January 2021 login procedures on the Department’s Imports Control Web Portal will change. When submitting necessary documents and logistical information to DAFM’s Imports Control Web Portal you will be requested to complete your application using your Plant Health Registration number in the following format: PIE00XXXX. Operators will be required only to enter the 4 digits of the PHR Number, the remainder of the login will be pre populated. An explanatory note will be included on the system itself.

In the event that you have any queries in relation to any of the above matters, please contact us at plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie or alternatively by telephone at (01)505 8885.

2021 Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector:

- Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (with special responsibility for Horticulture), Senator Pippa Hackett recently announced a 50% increase in funding for the horticulture investment aid scheme. More information in relation to the scheme is available on our website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/b8eb3-2021-scheme-of-investment-aid-for-the-development-of-the-commercial-horticulture-sector/>
- Application forms for the scheme can be found on our website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/form/112cc-2021-scheme-of-investment-aid-for-the-development-of-the-commercial-horticulture-sector-application-form/>
- The closing date for applications is the 18th of December 2020. To avail of this scheme you are required to be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Registration forms and further information regarding registration is available on our website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/9a3042-register-as-a-professional-operator-plants/>

Any queries in relation to the Scheme of Investment Aid may be directed by email to horticulturegrants@agriculture.gov.ie or alternatively by telephone at 01 5058886.

Yours sincerely

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Horticulture and Plant Health Division,
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Updated 10.12.20