

Introduction to Plant Health and Good Biosecurity Practice

Module 1

Plant health regulations and controls

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Content

- What are the different types of international, European, national and regional regulations and controls?
- What are the different organisations involved in the UK plant health service, what are they responsible for (e.g. policy, inspection, diagnosis and advice) and where are they located?

Three Sections:

1.1 International Plant Health

1.2 European plant health

1.3 UK plant health

1.3.1 Regional structure

1.3.2 Controls of movement

1.3.3 Tree notifications and forest reproductive material



1.1 International Plant health

Learning objectives

Understand that:

- plant health is a global issue
- the international frameworks and approaches that regulate it
- the plant biosecurity continuum
- appropriate level of protection



Plant health is a global issue

The movement of plants and plant products is a global business

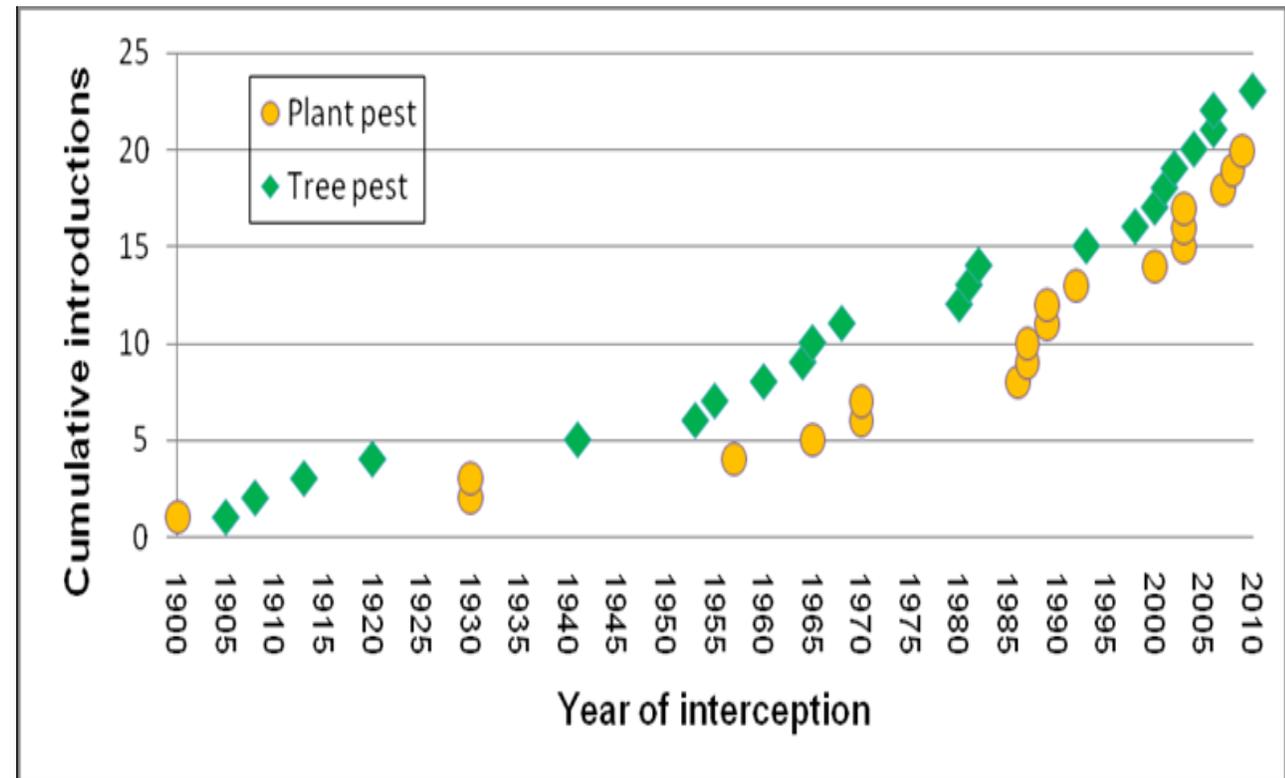
- Increased range and volume of products
- Increased range of countries
- Increased use of air freight for rapid movement

Resulting in more pests being intercepted or introduced

Therefore there is a need to balance trade vs protection from pests.

The movement of plants and plant products may be:

- Prohibited e.g. seed potatoes from Peru
- Controlled e.g. most plants and plant products
- Unrestricted e.g. banana fruit, canned and frozen veg





International frameworks

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

Two key roles:

- Trade rules and agreements
- Dispute settlement



SPS Agreement

World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (1994)

Phytosanitary measures must be:

- based on scientific and technical justification
- non-discriminatory (= to internal markets)
- based on an “appropriate level of protection” ALOP
- transparent - open to challenge
- based on international standards where available

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)



International Plant Protection Convention

The IPPC is the only recognised standard setting body for plant health.

One of the main obligations under the IPPC is the establishment of a National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).

Under the IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) are developed.



Biosecurity Continuum

Critical points in the system:

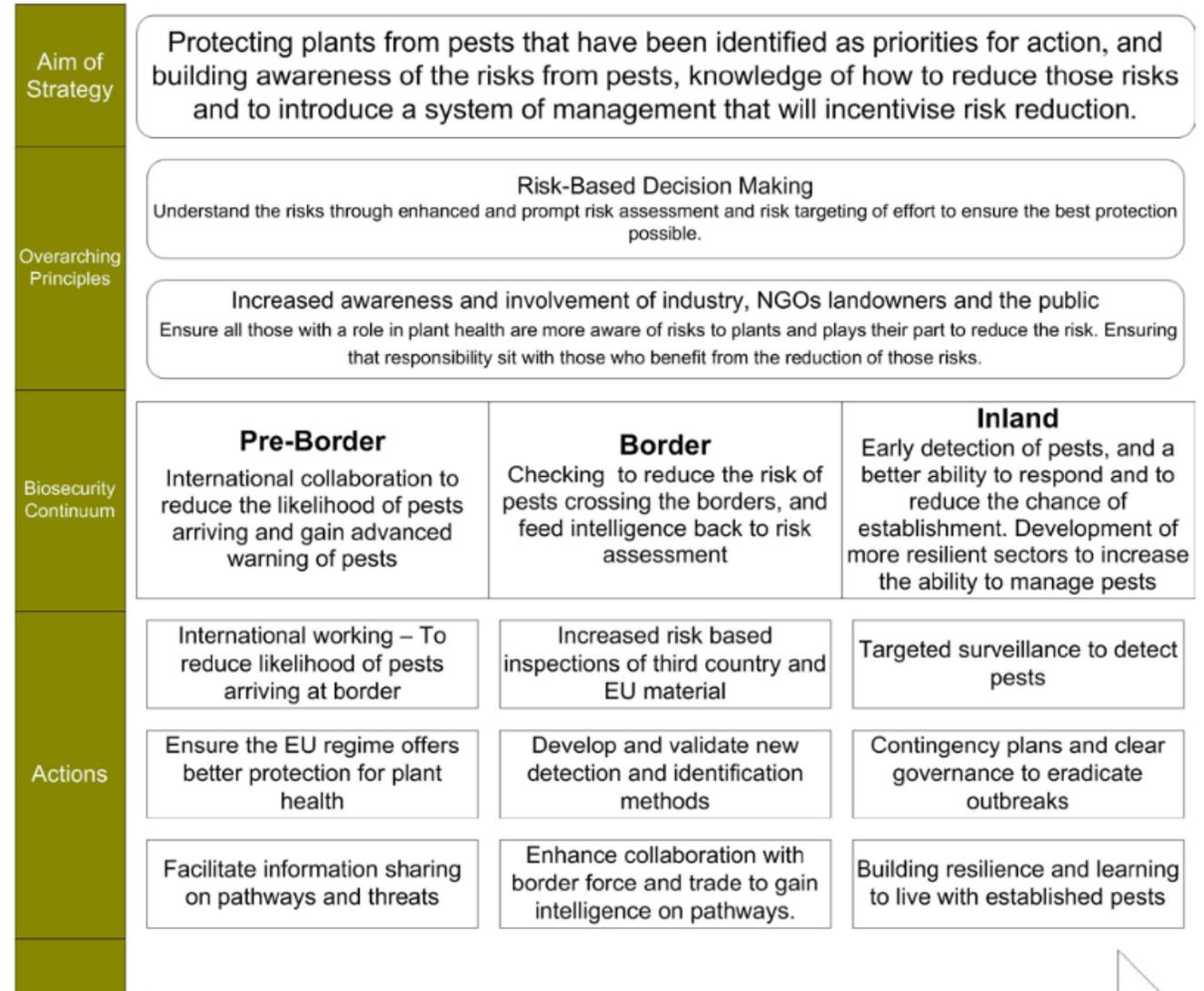
- Pre-border
- Border
- Inland

Can be applied at an International/Regional Level

But equally at a local or site level

- Pre-border – pre-purchase
- Border – at ‘goods-in’
- Inland – on-site nursery activities

Figure 1: Overview



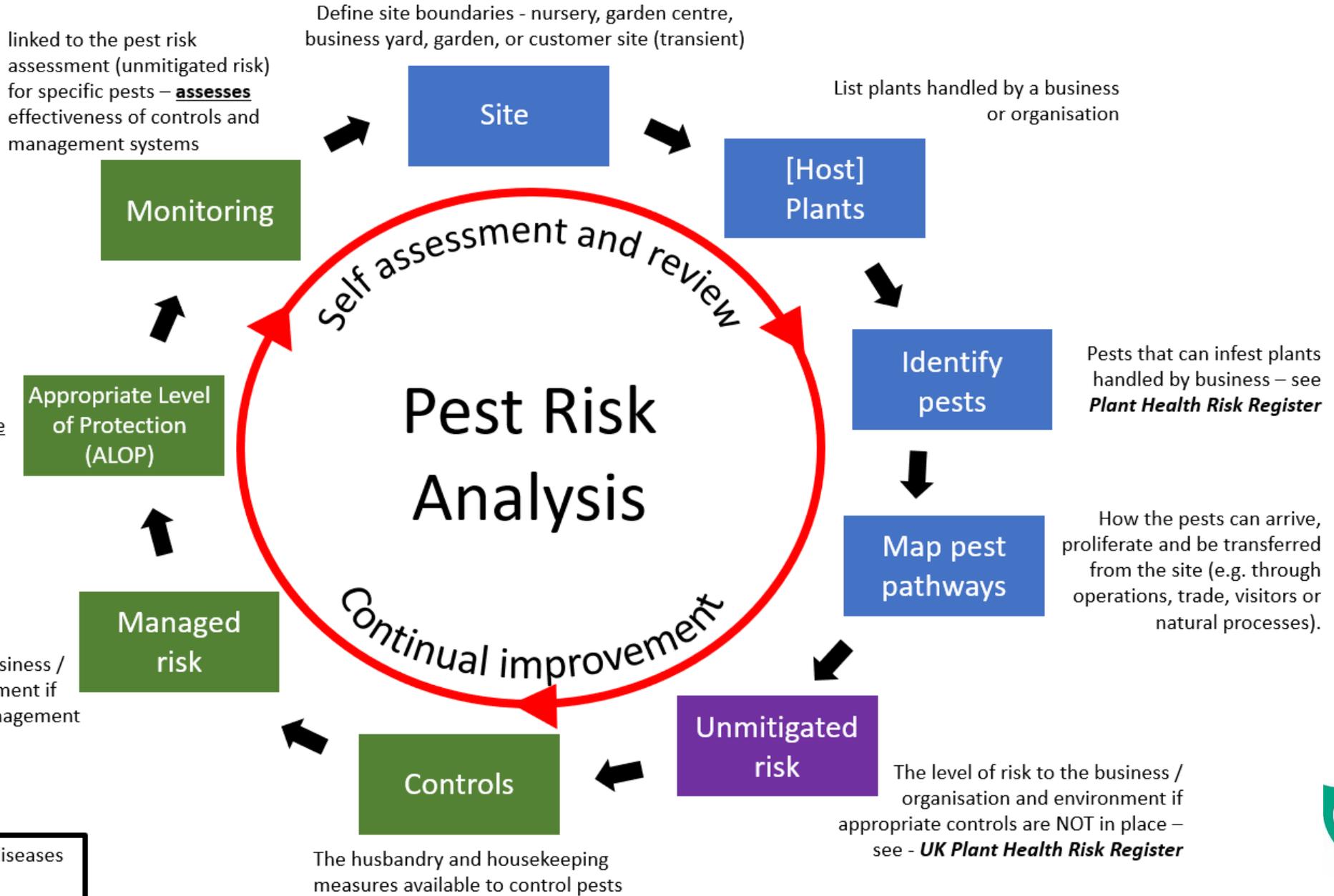


Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)

- WTO-SPS requirement – A country's phytosanitary import requirements must be based on appropriate level of protection (ALOP). The concept of ALOP can equally be used by companies when sourcing and moving plants/plant products.
- The concept of ALOP is usually applied at a national level but in the case of the Plant Health Management Standard ALOP has been applied at the 'site' level
- This concept is also referred to as the acceptable level of risk – consistent with a risk based approach.
- The IPPC Pest Risk Analysis Process has been adapted in order for businesses to establish their ALOP – it is an ongoing process
- The site can be permanent e.g. a garden centre, nursery or a landscapers operation yard or the site can be 'transient' e.g. a client's garden or a rented field

Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)

- (1) Initiation
 - (2) Pest Risk Assessment
 - (3) Pest Risk Management
- Stages adapted from the International Plant Protection Convention's framework for pest risk analysis. For the purposes of applying the principles at the *site* level.



Note – the term ‘Pests’ includes diseases and ‘infest’ includes ‘infect’





1.1 International Plant Health Summary

Balance between Trade and Phytosanitary (Plant Health) Risk

But decision must be according to WTO-SPS agreement

- based on scientific principles, for example using pest risk analysis (PRA)
- transparent - open to challenge
- based on an “appropriate level of protection” ALOP
- non-discriminatory (to internal markets)
- based on international standards (IPPC-ISPMs)

Biosecurity Continuum – identify critical points in the system to prevent introduction and spread at an International, National or site level

The movement of plants and plant products may be:

- Prohibited, Controlled or Unrestricted



1.2 European Plant Health

Learning objectives

Understand:

- Different European organisations involved in plant health
- How the new EU Plant Health Regulation is structured

European Plant Health

EPPO

- European & Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
- 52 member countries covering a wide geographical area (see map)
- To promote exchange and synthesis of information
- To facilitate collaboration
- Produces recommendations to help member countries develop their plant health controls



European Union (EU)

- 27 member countries
- Sets European plant health legislation

European Food Standards Authority EFSA

- Independent scientific body of the EU
- To assess new and emerging risks to animal and plant health
- Produce scientific opinions to help inform EU legislation but cannot regulate





EU Legislation

The aim of the EU legislation is to prevent the introduction into, and spread within, the community of harmful organisms (injurious to plants and plant products)

The legislation is based on:

- WTO-SPS agreement
- IPPC standards

Must be technically justified, based on the conclusions of EFSA opinions, EPPO PRAs and occasionally national PRAs

Prior to 14th December 2019, organisms were regulated under:

- Directive 2000/29/EC

From 14th December 2019:

Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625: how controls across the agri-food chain will be monitored and enforced

Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031: controls for protecting plants from pests and diseases



International
Plant Protection
Convention



New EU Plant Health Regulation

Process of revision began in 2013 – UK has been a driving force

Package of EU regulations for the protection against animal disease, plant pests and improved official controls

- Official controls regulation (EU) 2017/625 – applied from 14 December 2019
- Plant health regulation (EU) 2016/2031 – applied from 14 December 2019
- Animal health regulation (EU) 2016/429 – applies from 21st of April 2021
- Range of related Commission Implementing Regulations
- Simpler
- Harmonised
- More risk-based approach
- More efficient control tools

The new regulations will apply to the UK during the transition period – until 31st December 2020. Further details on the requirements after the transition period will be made available in the coming months. For any queries, please visit GOV.UK, speak to your local Plant Health Inspector, or contact APHA at:

Apha_srsfmailbox@apha.gov.uk



New EU Plant Health Regulation

Some of the areas changing include:

- Extending the scope and changing the format of plant passports
- New requirements for authorisation to issue plant passports
- New requirements for the registration of professional operators

- More goods imported to the EU will need a phytosanitary certificate

- Movements within the EU-restrictions between disease-free and pest free areas
- A strengthened protected zone

- A more precautionary approach to new trade flows and a commitment to undertake thorough pest risk assessments
- New requirements applying to high-risk plants and regulated non-quarantine pests

- New category of priority pests, including annual survey requirements and outbreak contingency planning



New EU Plant Health Regulation

More focus will be placed on:

- **High risk trade** coming from third countries (non-EU)
- Increased **traceability** of planting material in the internal market (EU)
- Greater control on 'High risk commodities' – listed in Article 42 and Act

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/2019/oj

Impacts:

Phytosanitary certificates (PC)

- Required for all plant material from 3rd countries (except for five exemptions e.g. bananas, pineapples)

Plant passports (PP)

- Extend rules to all planting material
- Clear, uniform format (Article 83)
- Set of competency criteria for operators issuing PPs (Article 89)
- PPs down to level of Final User in certain circumstances (such as in the case of sales through distance contracts e.g. online or mail order)

High risk plants, plant products and other objects

- Prohibited from entry from 3rd countries
- Countries can apply to the EU to be exempt from a prohibition



1.2 European Plant Health - summary

Until recently EU legislation

- EC Directive 2000/29/EC
- Transposed in National Legislation

From December 2019

- Official controls regulation (EU) 2017/625 – applied from 14 December 2019
- Plant health regulation (EU) 2016/2031 – applied from 14 December 2019
- New regulations – do not need transposing into National Legislation
- New plant health regulation is a more risk based approach to improve biosecurity



1.3 UK Plant Health

Learning objectives

Understand:

- How the UK plant health service is organised
- The role of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)
- Plant health legislation and controls
- Phytosanitary certificates, plant passports and protected zones
- Regulations for trees and forest reproductive material



1.3.1 UK Plant Health - overview

Organisation:

- The UK Plant Health Service co-operates to provide plant health services in the UK (as well as the Channel Islands and Isle of Man)
- National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) is provided by Defra, which represents the UK internationally
- Professor Nicola Spence, Defra is the Head of the NPPO and UK's Chief Plant Health Officer (CPHO)
- Legal powers, duties and responsibilities associated with NPPO functions are set out in Plant Health Regulations applicable within each jurisdiction



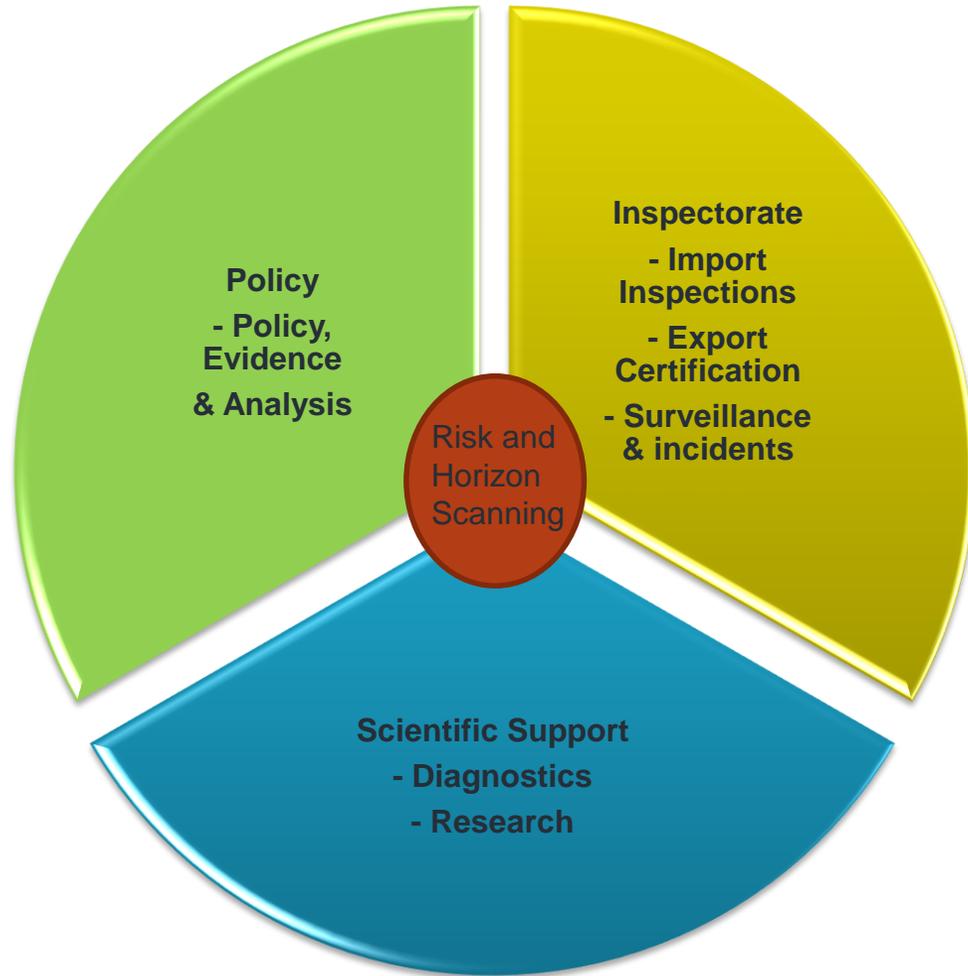
UK Plant Health - NPPOs

National Plant Protection Organisation responsibilities include:

- To set phytosanitary import controls
- To protect plant resources (cultivated and wild, including trees) through implementation of appropriate phytosanitary measures
- To support national food security and a healthy environment through effective pest exclusion procedures
- To facilitate market access and safe international trade by effective phytosanitary certification systems and procedures



Overview of UK organisations



National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)

- Defra

Policy, legislation, coordination

- England – Defra, Forestry Commission
- Wales - Natural Resources Wales
- Scotland – Scottish Government
- Northern Ireland – Northern Ireland Assembly, Dept. of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

- Monitoring, surveillance, implementation of controls and testing
- England APHA, Fera, FC and FR
- Wales APHA, Fera, NRW
- Scotland – Scottish Government, SASA, FC, FR
- Northern Ireland – AFBI, Forest Services



UK NPPO – regional structure

- Each administration has its own Chief Plant Health Officer (CPHOs) and inspectors/laboratory services (or arrangements by which such services are provided)
- Jersey and Guernsey (the Channel Islands) and the Isle of Man have their own Plant Health Services but co-operate closely with UK Services; they are represented by the UK NPPO in IPPC

- Further details are available on line with details on the Plant health Portal
- <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/resources/official-government-bodies/>

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the UK Plant Health Information Portal. The header is black with the Royal Coat of Arms and the text 'Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs'. Below this is a green navigation bar with white text for 'Home', 'Pests and Diseases', and 'Plant Biosecurity Strategy'. A second green bar contains 'International Year of Plant Health 2020' and 'UK Plant Health Protected Zones'. A third green bar contains 'EU Exit Guidance', 'Resources', and 'Citizen Science'. Below the green bars is a white bar with a red 'BETA' label and the text 'Your feedback will help us improve the UK Plant Health Information Portal'. At the bottom is a grey bar with the text 'Official government bodies' in green.

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Home Pests and Diseases Plant Biosecurity Strategy

International Year of Plant Health 2020 UK Plant Health Protected Zones

EU Exit Guidance Resources Citizen Science

Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF)

BETA Your [feedback](#) will help us improve the UK Plant Health Information Portal

Official government bodies



Devolved Forestry functions

Function	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Managers of the public forest estate	Forestry England	Forestry and Land Scotland	Natural Resources Wales	Forest Service
Grants, policy and regulation	Forestry Commission	Scottish Forestry	Natural Resources Wales	Forest Service
Research	Forest Research	Forest Research	Forest Research	Forest Service



1.3.2 Control of movement

Controls on the movement of plants, plant products and other objects may be:

Prohibited

- Too risky e.g. seed potatoes from Peru

Controlled

- All plants, common fruits, cut flowers, some seeds, some fresh leafy vegetables and potatoes from some countries require a **Phytosanitary certificate**
- All plants for planting, some fruit, seeds, and some wood products require a **Plant Passport**. See link below for a full list.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862632/plant-passports-plant-products.pdf

Unrestricted

- e.g. banana fruit, canned & frozen veg
- No restrictions on movement



Phytosanitary Certificates (PC) for Controlled items

- All plants and living parts of plants, including seeds intended for planting, will need to be accompanied by phytosanitary certificate **to enter the EU**, unless they're listed in the commission implementing regulation as exempted from this requirement (unrestricted)
- Registered Importer
- Designated point of entry

Pre-arrival notification – on PEACH

On arrival:

- Documentary check
- Identification check
- Pest and Disease check

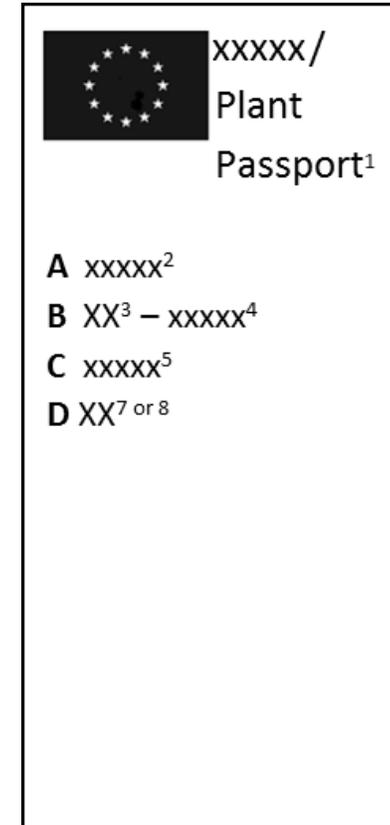
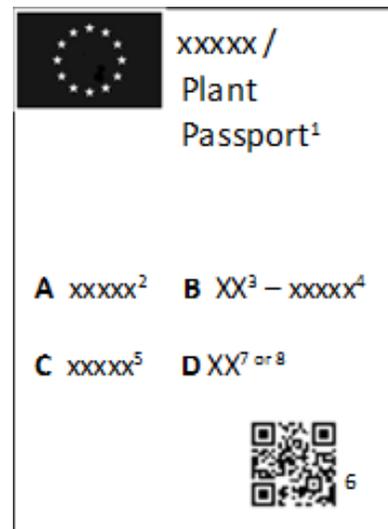
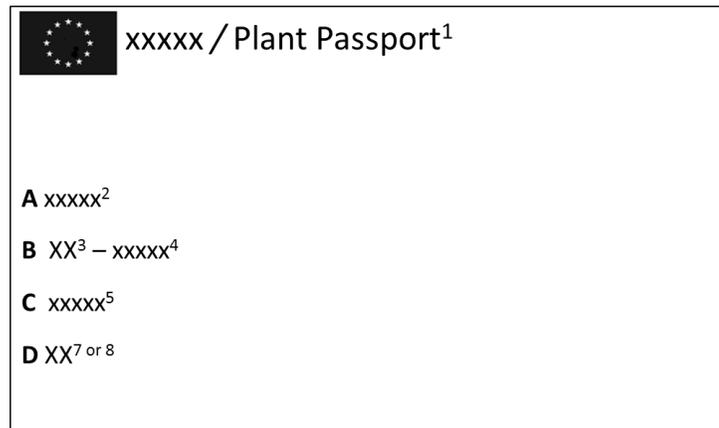


Plant Health Inspector inspecting imported material



Plant Passports – background

- Introduced in 1993 with the implementation of the EU single market for Plant Health as no border controls for goods between EU member states
- Plant passports ensure that plants and plant products are traced throughout the supply chain and declares compliance with plant health requirements
- They are for internal movement within the EU, provide consistency and recognisability across the Union



- The words 'Plant Passport'¹
- Botanical names² (A)
- Country code of issuer³ (B)
- Registration number⁴ (B)
- Traceability code⁵ (C)
- Country of origin code (EU Member State or 3rd country) ^{7 or 8} (D)
- Barcode or similar⁶ (optional)

Examples of the new plant passport template

The size of the PPs, the use of a border line, the proportions of the size of their elements, and the fonts used in the models are only examples.



Plant Passports (PP)

A PP is issued by the Authorised Operator

- The 'authorised operator' – authorised by the competent authority to issue plant passports, to apply a mark to wood packaging material, or to issue any other official phytosanitary statements

Businesses must be registered to issue plant passports and authorised to do so, requiring:

- Person Responsible - Official role with defined duties
- Annual application and inspection (+/- testing) by Plant Health Inspector
- Authorisation to issue Plant passports may be suspended

Guidance

Issuing plant passports to move regulated plant material in the EU

How growers and traders can get authorised to issue plant passports, when you need to be authorised and the plants that need passports.

Published 29 July 2015

Last updated 24 January 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

Applies to: **England and Wales**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu>



Plant Passporting & Protected Zones

All plants for planting require PPs down to the final retailer.

Most plants and plant products are covered by the standard plant passport. However some plants and plant products, considered hosts of specific quarantine pests, will require a Protected Zone (PZ) plant passport, when moving into a region which has Protected Zone status for that quarantine pest.

- **‘A Protected zone (PZ) is defined in the EU Plant Health Directive as a zone in which a harmful organism which is established in parts of the EU, is not endemic or established despite favourable conditions.’**

The PZ plant passport attests that the plants in question have undergone other measures to ensure they are free from the specific quarantine pest before entering the PZ.

If you are moving plants and plant products into or within UK PZs currently, you need to use an EU plant passport. You will need to use a UK plant passport if you’re moving the relevant plants and plant products into or within UK Pest Free Areas (PFAs) from 1 January 2021.



Protected Zones

Currently the UK has Protected Zones for 24 pests:

- 14 apply to whole UK; Northern Ireland has an additional 10. Of these 10 PZs -
- 6 also apply to the Isle of Man, 3 to Jersey, 1 to all the Channel Islands
- <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/resources/plant-health-protected-zones/>



Colorado beetle
(*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) - the whole of the UK is a Protected Zone



Oak processionary moth
(*Thaumtopoea processionea*) - the UK Protected Zone excludes the outbreak area in South East England



Beet necrotic yellow vein virus
(rhizomania) - only Northern Ireland is a Protected Zone

Examples of the UK protected zones include Colorado beetle, Oak processionary moth (OPM) and beet necrotic yellow vein virus. The whole of the UK has a Protected Zone for Colorado beetle. This pest is intercepted regularly on produce but there have been no outbreaks in the UK since the 1970s. The UK Protected Zone for OPM excludes the outbreak area in South East England where the pest has become established since it was first identified in 2006. Measures are required to prevent spread from the outbreak area to the rest of the UK. Beet necrotic yellow vein virus, the cause of rhizomania, only has a Protected Zone in Northern Ireland, the pest is established in the rest of the UK.



1.3.3 Tree Notifications

In addition to the passport requirements you must inform Plant Health Inspector if you import the following plants from the EU (higher risk tree species):

- Oak
- Pine
- Elm
- Sweet Chestnut
- Plane
- Ash (currently prohibited)
- Prunus
- Olive (as of 26/11/2018)

Guidance

Importing trees and plants to England and Wales from the EU

Find out the restrictions on bringing certain plants and trees into England and Wales from the EU and how you must notify these imports.

Published 14 August 2015

Last updated 15 November 2018 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-trees-and-plants-to-england-and-wales-from-the-eu>



1.3.3 Tree Notifications

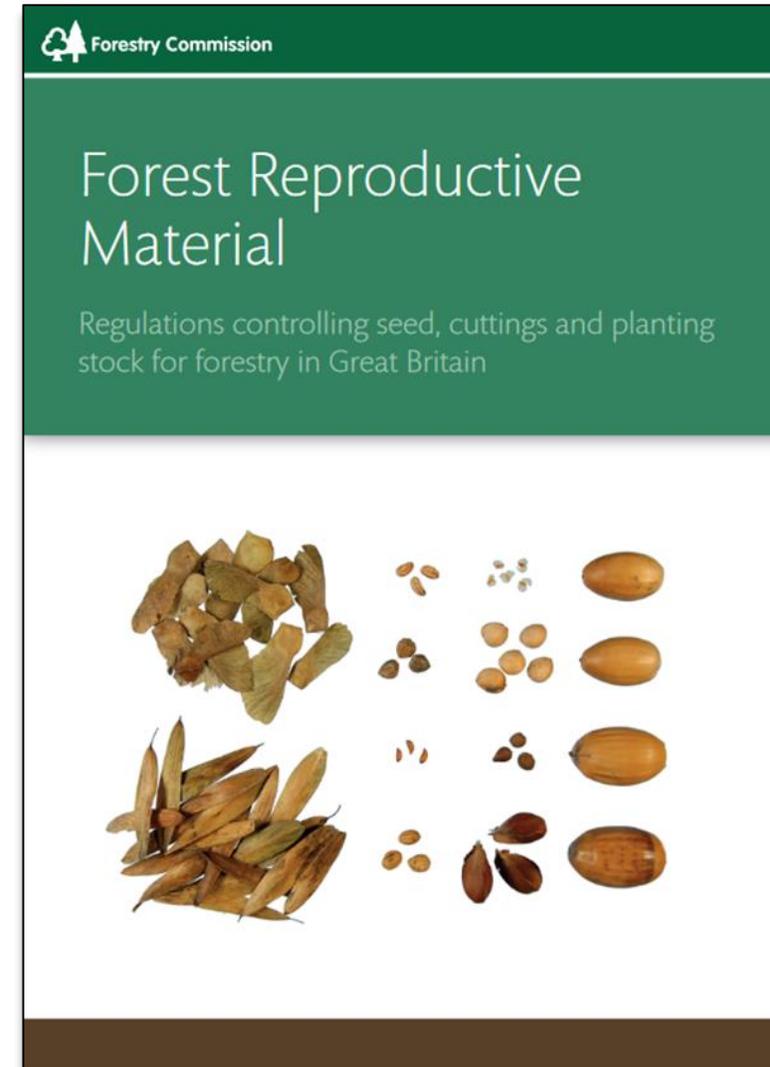
Provides a system for control of:

- Seed
- Cuttings
- Planting stock
- Used for forestry purposes

Ensures it is traceable

Information on genetic quality

- 46 controlled species + Populus
- Mix of broadleaf and coniferous species
- [https://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/FCFC003.pdf/\\$FILE/FCFC003.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/FCFC003.pdf/$FILE/FCFC003.pdf)





Plant Health Regulations and Controls - Summary

REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

ISPMs

EPPO Standards

EU Regulations

International

European

UK

Horticultural Business

ORGANISATIONS

WTO-SPS

IPPC

EPPO

EU and EFSA

NPPO – Defra

Devolved administrations

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the many plant health professionals within Fera Science Ltd, Defra and APHA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) for content and assistance in producing the slides.

We would also like to thank the Royal Society of Biology Plant health professionals register advisory group for reviewing the content of these modules and providing advice and guidance.

Nicola Spence (Defra Chief Plant Health Officer), Ged Hayward (APHA - England), Susan Ross (SASA - Scotland), Nicola Cummings (DAERA – Northern Ireland), Nia Meddins (Welsh Government), Alan MacLeod (Defra), Denise A'Hara (SASA), Nick Mainprize (Forestry Commission), Tim Edwards (Boningale Nurseries Ltd.), Maureen Wakefield (Fera Science Ltd.), Gerry Saddler (SASA), Joanne Needham (Royal Society of Biology).

Finally, we would like to thank Defra for funding this work.