Introduction to Plant Health and Good Biosecurity Practice

Module 5

Plant health responsibility, training and recognition

www.planthealthy.org.uk

Celia Knight MBE, FRSB, Plant Science Consultant
Royal Society of Biology Registered Plant Health Professional
1. Where in the Plant Health Management Standard is Plant Health Responsibility mentioned?

2. Where in the Plant Health Management Standard are training and progression opportunities mentioned?

3. Examples of how plant health responsibility and training operate in the workplace.

4. What is the Royal Society of Biology Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework?

5. How can I develop my competency in Plant Health and Biosecurity further?
Learning objectives

1. Know section 4.3 of the PHMS on Plant health responsibility
2. Know section 4.9 of the PHMS on Training and Recognition
3. Be able to explain why a business needs a named ‘Person Responsible’ for plant health.
4. Be able to explain how plant health matters are dealt with in your workplace.
5. Be able to understand the elements of the Royal Society of Biology Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework
6. Understand the value of training and recognition in plant health for your own career.
4.3 Plant health responsibility

*Plant health responsibility within the business shall be clearly defined.*

*The roles and responsibilities shall include delivering the requirements of this standard throughout the business.*
4.9.1 **Plant health competencies**

There shall be qualified and/or trained personnel responsible for the plant health measures detailed in this standard. This requirement will be proportionate to the size and activities of the business and be informed by the pest risk assessment. Training records of internal and external training must be maintained, and evidence of continuing professional development (CPD) to maintain awareness of current plant health issues.

In the absence of formal qualifications, the business or organisation shall carry out an assessment of relevant employees that have a plant health responsibility to demonstrate compliance with this standard.
Plant health training and recognition

4.9.2 Legislation and keeping up to date
The relevant person(s) responsible for plant health shall demonstrate how they keep up-to-date with legislation and the latest plant health risks. It is also their responsibility to disseminate this information and knowledge throughout the business.
Plant Health Management Standard

Plant health training and recognition

4.9.3 **Information sharing**

*Information and knowledge must be shared within the business to ensure all relevant employees are aware of plant health issues and their management. The business must be able to demonstrate that there are processes in place for employees to report any suspected plant health issues to the appropriate member of staff.*
Plant health training and recognition

4.9.4 Other relevant training
The business must be able to demonstrate that they follow nationally recognised health and safety guidance relating to plant health control measures.
Plant Passporting

In addition to the PHMS there are also duties of ‘Persons Authorised’ to issue Plant passports.

These include:
- Pest and disease surveillance
- Communication and Reporting
- Inspection
- Document management

In 2016, a group of representatives from devolved Plant Health administrations worked together with the Royal Society of Biology to develop:

Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework


Aligned to the GB Plant Biosecurity Strategy

Based on 4 competency clusters, across 11 elements
## Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency Cluster</th>
<th>Elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1 Plant Health Regulations** | • Understanding how plant health services operate in the UK  
• Understand the key set of guidelines and regulations that must be followed  
• Understanding plant biosecurity continuum |
| **2 Roles and Responsibilities in Reporting Plant Health Concerns** | • Demonstrate communication of risks and plant health policy  
• Understand roles and responsibilities for plant health within and outside your organisation |
| **3 Risk Based Decision-Making** | • Understand risk-based decision-making and using the UK Risk Register  
• Understand the range of notifiable pests and pathogens that threaten the UK  
• Understand how trade pathways of introduction for pests and pathogens and the control measures that can reduce risk |
| **4 Contingency Planning and Outbreak Management** | • Demonstrate knowledge of good biosecurity practice  
• Contingency planning an outbreak management  
• Understand the impact of control strategies measures |
Suggestions for further training

Qualifications

Harper-Adams University
• Masters in Plant Pathology
• Postgraduate Certificate in Plant Health and Biosecurity

Full-time or Part-time

Distance Learning

https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/201156/2019/plant-health-and-biosecurity

Continuous Professional Development CPD

Royal Society of Biology; Plant Health Professionals Register

Forest Commission Biosecurity Digital on-line training

Self learning to maintain CPD
e.g. Biosecurity Guidance (Keep it Clean campaign, Arboriculture Association, Landscape Institute, RHS etc) and keep upto date with the UK Risk Register
Plant health and biosecurity training

Plant Health and Biosecurity – Taught postgraduate

Aligned to the RSB competency framework

https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/201156/2019/plant-health-and-biosecurity

Forestry Commission Digital Learning Portal

What is the Plant Health Professional Register?

The Plant Health Professional Register is administered by the Royal Society of Biology and recognises plant health competencies in various workforces.

It offers CPD opportunities to show compliance with the GB Strategy for Plant Health and Biosecurity


There are three levels of attainment:

- Senior
- Registered
- Associate

Measured against Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework
Developing skills in Plant Health and Biosecurity is essential for
- Plant Health Management Standard and Plant Passporting

The Person Responsible role has defined responsibilities for both schemes, such as:
- Demonstrate how they keep up to date and maintain a record of this
- How they disseminate information and knowledge
- How the business follows nationally recognised plant health guidance and control measures
- How they follow the requirements for issuing Plant Passports

Competency should be measured against the RSB Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework
- It can be achieved by both Qualifications and Competency based CPD
- By following the guidelines in this module, you will be joining an increasing body of plant health professionals with much needed skills to keep the UK’s plants healthy and its economy thriving
The author wishes to thank Charles Lane (Fera Science Ltd) and Alistair Yeomans (consultant) for including the professional training work in this module along with modules 1-4 in this series.

Also to all members of the Royal Society of Biology Plant health professionals register advisory group for contributing to the development of the plant health professional register competency framework. Nicola Spence (Defra Chief Plant Health Officer), Ged Hayward (APHA - England), Susan Ross (SASA - Scotland), Nicola Cummings (DAERA – Northern Ireland), Sean McIntyre (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).

To members of the Royal Society of Biology for creating and maintaining the professional register, Rachel Lambert-Forsyth, Joanne Needham and Rosie Wakeham.

Finally, to acknowledge the funders of the professional register development as Defra, APHA and the YNYER LEP.