

# Introduction to Plant Health and Good Biosecurity Practice

## Module 5

### Plant health responsibility, training and recognition

[www.planthealthy.org.uk](http://www.planthealthy.org.uk)

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# Content

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.



# Plant Health Management Standard

## **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.*



# Plant Health Management Standard

## Plant health training and recognition

### 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 Management 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 Management Standard

## 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

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

## Duties of Persons Authorised to issue Plant Passports

Client name & address:

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As "Person Responsible" you have a vital role to play in protecting plant health and the single European market. You must:

1. Watch out for quarantine pests and diseases, and make sure that everyone else on the nursery does too. When you are given posters or leaflets on new pest and disease threats, put them on your staff notice board.
2. Report immediately to your local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector (PHSI) if you think there may be quarantine pests and diseases on the nursery, or on plants which have been delivered to the nursery or you are unable to obtain a correct passport for the consignment.
3. Inspect all incoming plants which require a plant passport for signs of quarantine pests and diseases. Inspect the accompanying paperwork to ensure that it complies with the example at appendix 1 of the Plant Passporting Guide.
4. Supervise the issue of plant passports for all consignments of plants which need them and which meet the requirement for them, before they leave the nursery.
5. Make sure there is a record kept of all passported consignments leaving the nursery, and all plant passports received with plants delivered to the nursery for at least one year.
6. Each year before the start of the growing season, send a Forward Growing Plan to PHSI. This is a list of plants being produced, and where appropriate, a plan of the fields, plots or glasshouse where they will be grown.
7. If you are going away from the nursery and plant passports must be issued in your absence, you must delegate these duties to a person who can act responsibly on your behalf. For periods of longer than 3 months a new person responsible should be nominated, and PHSI informed.
8. If you are ever unsure as to what you should do, or have any questions, ask your local PHSI.

Please sign to confirm that you have received and understood these duties.



# Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework

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  
[https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/PHPR\\_Compencies\\_April\\_2019.pdf](https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/PHPR_Compencies_April_2019.pdf)

Aligned to the GB Plant Biosecurity Strategy

Based on 4 competency clusters, across 11 elements





# Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework

Competency Cluster	Elements
1 Plant Health Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding how plant health services operate in the UK</li><li>• Understand the key set of guidelines and regulations that must be followed</li><li>• Understanding plant biosecurity continuum</li></ul>
2 Roles and Responsibilities in Reporting Plant Health Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate communication of risks and plant health policy</li><li>• Understand roles and responsibilities for plant health within and outside your organisation</li></ul>
3 Risk Based Decision-Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand risk-based decision-making and using the UK Risk Register</li><li>• Understand the range of notifiable pests and pathogens that threaten the UK</li><li>• Understand how trade pathways of introduction for pests and pathogens and the control measures that can reduce risk</li></ul>
4 Contingency Planning and Outbreak Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate knowledge of good biosecurity practice</li><li>• Contingency planning an outbreak management</li><li>• Understand the impact of control strategies measures</li></ul>



# 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

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/registers/plant-health-register>

Forest Commission Biosecurity Digital on-line training

<https://www.forestrylearning.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=19>

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>

This module will explain:

- The definition of biosecurity
- Why biosecurity is important
- The costs to the environment, industry and individual
- The social and cultural effects

Examples of some of the current pests and diseases including:

- Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*)
- Ash dieback (*Hymenochaete fraxinea*)
- Phytophthora ramorum
- Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

Start

## Biosecurity Awareness - Module 1

This 15 minute module with a test will:

- explain the definition and principles of biosecurity;
- explain why biosecurity is important from an environmental, social and financial perspective; and
- provide some examples of current and potential tree pests and diseases.

There is a short question section with a pass mark of 80% to test your knowledge.

This module will:

- Provide the historical data on the introduction of pests and diseases
- Explain how pests and diseases can be imported into the UK
- Demonstrate how pests and diseases can be spread within the UK
- Enable you to understand how pests and diseases can be spread in your working environment.

Start

## Biosecurity Dispersal Pathways - Module 2

This 15 minute module with a test will:

- Provide historical data on pest and disease introductions to the UK.
- Outline the various ways in which pests and diseases can be dispersed geographically.
- Explain the means of dispersal in the forestry, horticulture and arboriculture trades.

This module will:

- Provide you with an overview of Plant Health law
- Recommendations for responsible sourcing of planting stock
- Provide best practice for planning a site visit
- Explain the correct methods for disposing of infected waste

Start

## Biosecurity Measures - Module 3

This module will take about 15 minutes, it will explain:

- Some of the laws surrounding plant and tree movements.
- How to plan a site visit from a biosecurity perspective.
- How to dispose of infected materials.

Forestry Commission Digital Learning Portal

<https://www.forestrylearning.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=19>



# 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

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/register/plant-health-register>

There are three levels of attainment:

- Senior
- Registered
- Associate

Measured against Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework

The screenshot shows the Royal Society of Biology website. At the top right, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Login, Register, RSB Jobs, Job Board, Donate, and Contact us. Below this is the Royal Society of Biology logo and a secondary navigation bar with links: About us, News, Events, Get involved, Membership, Policy, Education, and Careers & CPD. A breadcrumb trail reads: You are here > Home > Careers & CPD > Registers > Plant health register. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu under 'Careers & CPD' with the following items: Registers (highlighted), RSciTech, RSci, Chartered, Qualified person, UK Register of Toxicologists, International Diploma in Toxicology, Fetal morphologists, BSAS, Plant health register (highlighted), External examiners database, Careers, Careers resources, Going to university, Work experience, Studentships & Placements, and Bioscience Careers. The main content area features a large image of a pine branch with cones. Below the image is the heading 'Plant Health Professionals' and two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states: 'The Plant Health Professional Register has been created in response to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Government Office of Science reports<sup>1,2</sup> recommending development of plant health skills and creating opportunities for a wider community of trained plant health professionals.' The second paragraph states: 'The Department is working with professional bodies to embed greater awareness of plant health as a key competency and component of continuous professional development. The register was created in 2016 for government inspectors and related officials, enhancing their official training programme to provide a better and more professional service. In 2018, a pilot exercise engaged with the Horticulture sector to extend the register to all relevant horticulturalists and is now being incorporated into the plant health assurance scheme being developed by the HTA. Work with all other relevant sectors is ongoing.' At the bottom, a third paragraph states: 'Development of the register has been funded by Defra with assistance from the York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership. Standards are overseen by an advisory group<sup>3</sup>'



# Summary

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



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