

How to apply the Plant Health Management Standard to your business

Guidance for Arboricultural Businesses

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This is a draft version to allow you to get your business Plant Healthy ready. Any comments or questions about this guidance is welcome. Please send using the Plant Healthy contact page. <https://planthealthy.org.uk/contact-us>

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Introduction

This guidance has been developed to help arboricultural businesses apply the Plant Health Management Standard to their business and site(s). It is an accompanying document to the Plant Health Management Standard which is a generalised standard for businesses that handle plants (the term 'plants' throughout the document includes trees and shrubs) and plant material.

Guidance Note 2: Application of Biosecurity in Arboriculture

An essential guide that provides comprehensive technical information for plant health and biosecurity management in the arboricultural sector has been produced by the Arboricultural Association. [Download here.](#)



The overarching aim of the Plant Health Management Standard is to improve plant health and biosecurity management systems throughout the plant supply chain and plant care. The standard has adapted the International Plant Protection Convention's framework for pest¹ risk analysis for use on a site(s) and sets out the requirements for a robust plant health management system. This includes periodic reviews for the continual improvement of pest management procedures.

The standard provides a systematic checklist to review business activities, identify areas of improvement and develop ways to reduce the pest risk to a site, the supply chain and the wider environment. This document is written in plain English to help a business achieve what the standard calls an 'Appropriate Level of Protection' by describing systems for:

- Your statutory obligations for plant health and biosecurity
- Approaching pest risk analysis to control pests and reduce risk of pest introductions and outbreaks.

You may already be doing some or most of what is required by the standard. Relating and applying the requirements of the standard to your operations is an ongoing task. Risks change and the business develops, so it is important that the systems you set up must work for your business now and in the future.

Plant Health Management Standard – arboriculture sector

The following sections are for reference purposes and are set out to assist your business to meet each requirement of the standard. It has three main elements: preparation for an audit, how to do a pest risk analysis and then a checklist. The checklist takes each section of the standard, and with the UK arboriculture sector in mind, provides useful references and links that include templates and guidance to support a business to achieve compliance with the standard. It outlines one approach and you may achieve some of the requirements in other ways. However, this checklist should still serve as a useful process to double check if there are any improvements you can make to your procedures.

Section A – Preparing for an Audit

Section B – How to do a pest risk analysis for a site

Section C – Checklist

¹ Pests are any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products. This includes weeds.

Section A: Preparing for an audit

This section provides a step by step approach to embedding plant health in your business. For those who have not fully considered biosecurity it provides you with a framework to review your business. The links and guidance advise how you can address all the requirements of the Plant Health Management Standard.

This section can be used as guidance for any arboricultural business which wants to implement the standard. Reading and applying this document will enable you to prepare for an audit.

There are two types of audit: internal and external. An internal audit helps you measure if you are meeting the standard and identify areas for improvement. An external audit is where a trained auditor comes into your business and provides an independent, impartial review of your processes and procedures to see if you meet the standard. The auditor is not an advisor but is there to provide an objective and independent view, however, they will identify if you are not meeting the standard and provide you with a list of areas where you can improve your biosecurity² and plant health measures³.

If you already have systems in place to manage biosecurity, you can use this section as a review or to conduct an internal audit. It is good practice to keep records so that you can show an auditor that you have done this review and what your findings were.

Step 1: Defining the site

- a. A flow diagram is recommended to illustrate the movement of operators, equipment and plants or plant material from site to site (including own depot and disposal of plants and plant material sites). ***This will be of particular use in the Pest Risk Analysis process in section 4.4 of the checklist below.*** The flow diagram should identify distinct actions when people, vehicles, equipment, plants and plant material are moved (i.e. site assessment, moving from site to site and arboricultural arisings disposal or processing).
- b. You may find it helpful to identify and allocate responsibilities to support each of the processes in the flow diagram which will help the sharing of information to the workforce. Where possible staff responsibilities should be defined.

Step 2: Recognise factors that influence plant health

All activities referring to site or tree assessment, any technical processes, equipment use and supervision (e.g. training of seasonal/temporary staff) must be examined. These factors above have an influence on plant health and how the risks are managed and/or mitigated. ***This will help you gather some of the necessary information for your business's plant health policy see section 4.2 in the checklist below.***

Step 3: Identify and document Critical Control Points to maintain biosecurity.

Critical Control Points are points within a site or between sites wherever there is a potential for plants and plant material to be readily assessed and/or managed for pests. These control points will form part of your Pest Risk Analysis, section 4.4 in the checklist below.

At the Critical Control Points, appropriate checks are carried out by a competent person to ensure that the plants are healthy. Checks can be visual inspection and/or sampling and testing or by purchasing

² Biosecurity refers to a set of precautions that aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful any organisms. (www.gov.uk) This could include harmful organisms which may be transmitted with the movement of humans, animals or plants.

³ Relates specifically to the biosecurity relating to plants and plant material.

from a PHMS certified nursery/supplier. Frequency of monitoring will depend on external conditions such as:

- time of year and weather conditions,
- the sites being worked on and the movement between sites,
- potential pathways which includes how sites are assessed, movement and disposal of plant material, cleaning, operators and storage of equipment and vehicles,
- volume of sites being dealt with by the business.

These steps must be periodically reviewed to maintain effective monitoring and plant health control which forms part of **Monitoring and ongoing assessment, section 4.8 in the checklist below.**

Step 4: Select appropriate measures that will give confidence in the biosecurity and health of plants managed.

- a. The allocation of responsibilities, forming the section **4.3 Plant health responsibilities in the checklist**
- b. Important elements to provide confidence to minimise the movement of pests between sites/depot/suppliers. This is all part of the **supply chain management section 4.5 in the checklist**
- c. Establish plant health control measures, feeding into section **4.7 Plant Health controls of the checklist**
- d. The competence of staff, see section **4.9 Training and recognition of the checklist**

Work instructions or procedures should include a. to above and cover activities on site and moving between sites, depot and suppliers

Step 5: Establish and document routines for separate handling of infested or diseased materials

Any plants or plant material that are found to be infested or diseased at any critical control point shall be identified for corrective action and where possible segregated especially where movement of the plants or plant material is taking place.

Section B: Pest Risk Analysis approach

Pest Risk Analysis Overview

Central to the Plant Health Management Standard is Pest Risk Analysis which is a risk-based approach that identifies and reduces pest risk. This process will assist the business or organisation to reach an appropriate level of protection for your arboricultural business and your customers.

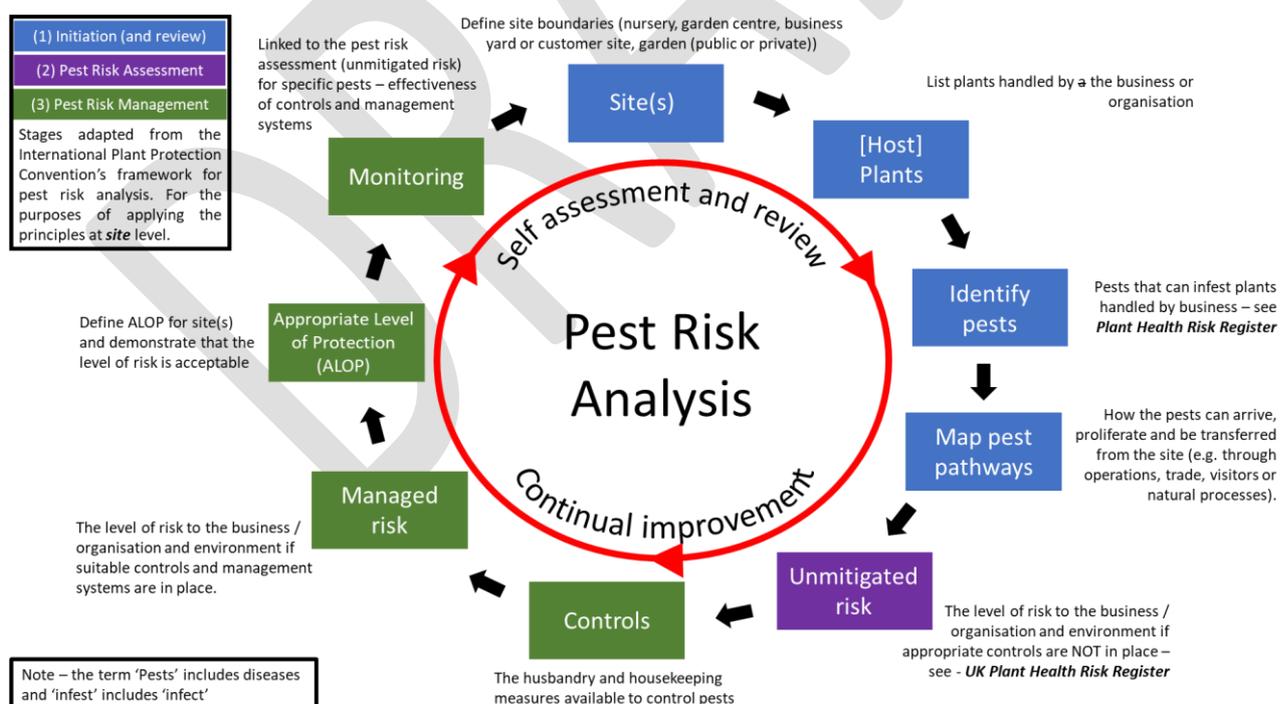
In order to define and achieve an Appropriate Level of Protection, a Pest Risk Analysis should be conducted. The Pest Risk Analysis is a risk management process used to identify and evaluate pests, pathways, and the measures required to ensure that each work site is protected appropriately. Key to carrying out a Pest Risk Analysis is the identification of host plants and knowing the pests that can infest these plants.

A critical part of the Pest Risk Analysis is risk assessment. Risk assessment is a term used to describe an evaluation of the probability of harmful events occurring. In the case of plant pests, this is an evaluation of the potential damage caused by pests to a business or organisation, the customer, the supply chain and the wider environment. Following the identification and assessment of risk, management measures should be put in place to ensure the risk is eliminated or appropriately controlled.

A good Pest Risk Analysis will therefore incorporate a broad range of specific risk assessments, it should be part of the business or organisation, and be effectively communicated to all staff and stakeholders (e.g. customers, any contractors, etc.), as it relies on the participation of all.

The Pest Risk Analysis should be dynamic and viewed as a cycle of monitoring, self-assessment and review, as there are a broad range of factors and circumstances that may influence processes and activities e.g. the range of potential pests, staff, the weather etc.

Figure 1: Pest Risk Analysis



Analysis process

The first step towards analysing risk is to define the boundaries of the site(s) concerned. This may be a business's own site e.g. a yard or holding area, or a sub-contractor's or customer's site e.g. the planting or maintenance site. Relevant information on host plants and pests should also be gathered.

Next, complete an evaluation of the pathways and processes that could potentially lead to entry of pests to a customer's site(s), for example, through planting new plants or dismantling or disposing of diseased plants. These pathways and the *likelihood* of pest entry and spread should be mapped. The interactions between each site, the range or work being carried out, host plants, potential pests, and pathways between sites will provide a framework for the required range of risk assessments.

A generic analysis for each type of site (e.g. sub-contractor's yard, planting, cultivation and management of plants) will be adequate. It may vary, for example in cases where the planting or management site is in a public or private space.

Data collection

The initial evaluation (gathering of risk data) could take place in various ways, depending on the type and size of the business, number of employees etc. It is important to take time and include all relevant data at this stage, as this data will form the foundation for successful risk analysis. Data gathering allows the business to develop an understanding of what hazards and risks exist and how they affect biosecurity. This is the most time-consuming part of the process, however the information you collect is valuable and must be accurate, reliable, and complete. Arboriculturalists can play a key role in the protection of the wider environment as with their identification skills and reporting, they will be able to help identify new, potential outbreaks and act upon them thereby giving us the best chance to ensure that a new pest can be eradicated.

Methods for data collection:

- Gather thoughts and write them down
- Diagrams
- Mind mapping
- Flow/process charts
- Cause and effect diagrams

Every part of the business should be examined:

The site (what risks do the physical attributes of the site present for example working site, vehicle, yard):

- Site layout
- Points of entry (e.g. deliveries, purchases, visitors, car parking)
- Site hygiene (e.g. cleaning procedures)
- Water management (e.g. water supply and drainage)
- Growing media and soil management
- Waste management
- Surrounding environment (e.g. neighbours, footpaths)

Because Arboriculturalists move from site to site multiple times, particular emphasis should be placed on cleaning procedures, and waste management on arrival and departure.

How and where the plant/plant material is managed (what risks are presented by the way you manage your stock):

- Incoming material (if any e.g. plants/ the packaging and pallets) to site or yard
- Storage (e.g. equipment, vehicles, plants and plant material)
- Transportation (vehicle arrival and departure)
- Planting or maintenance site or yard

Pests:

- What plants do you buy/handle/manage?
- What are the pests that are associated with the plants you manage (following site assessment)?

- Are there any known pests local to the extent of the area your business works in?
- Are there any known pests local to your customer's, own yard or supplier's sites and surrounding areas?
- Have you or your customers noticed any previous or current infestations? (were pest vectors associated with the infestation?)
- Emerging threats (what could present a threat in the future)

Risk assessment matrices

The process of risk assessment is to examine the level of risk based on the data collection and the consequence of a biosecurity failure related to the specific pest pathway. One way of making this assessment is to use risk management matrices.

Examples of risk matrices are demonstrated in the tables below.

Table 1: Risk matrix - general likelihood and consequences

Likelihood		Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
Consequences/impacts of pest entry establishment and spread	High	High	High	High	Medium
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low
	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low

Table 2: Risk matrix - Risk situation and level of risk

Risk situation	Level of Risk		
	Low	Medium	High
Potential of a pest being introduced from geographical areas (national and international). Awareness of location of sites and the pests present in the local area.			
Arrival, departure and movement between sites. For example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding any supply chain impacts and consequences of purchasing from suppliers who haven't reached an Appropriate Level of Protection. • Maintenance of plants including equipment and vehicles used, operators and movement of any waste material. 			
Have the plant health management procedures of your suppliers been assessed? (e.g. PHAS/BOPP) Low = all suppliers can demonstrate an appropriate level of protection Medium = some suppliers can demonstrate an appropriate level of protection High = No suppliers can demonstrate an appropriate level of protection			

Any generic risk assessment should be reviewed when the risk is raised for example:

- If you have been informed that there is a pest present
- You have found a pest present
- There is an existing Statutory Plant Health Notice in place
- You are working within the vicinity of an infected/infested site.

The matrices are based on two criteria:

1. Likelihood: the probability of a risk
2. Consequences: the severity of the impact or the extent of damage caused by the risk

Using the first matrix as a generic example, based on the likelihood of the occurrence of the risk, the risk could be classified under one of four categories - very likely, likely, unlikely, or highly unlikely. The consequences of a risk can again be ranked and classified into one of three categories, based on how severe the consequences could be.

Once the risks have been evaluated using the matrix, in cells corresponding to the appropriate likelihood and consequences, it becomes visibly clear as to which risks are high. Each of the risks placed in the table will fall under one of the categories, for which different colours have been used in the example above. Those in red are the most critical since they are the most likely to occur and have the most severe consequences, and as such should receive higher priority, orange are medium and yellow lowest priority and chance of occurrence, however, there are still reasonable steps that could help in reducing these risks.

Following the risk assessment, the next step in the Pest Risk Analysis is to illustrate how you could mitigate against the risks established to lower/control or eliminate the risk of a pest outbreak. This involves an understanding of the consequences, assigning priorities and then developing the risk prevention strategies.

All the information collected can then be used to produce your full risk assessments. The way in which they are integrated is based on ease of use and understanding for each individual business. Each element may be used as a separate document or they could be integrated. Or there may be a group of risk assessments that cover everything.

Examples of layouts for risk analysis and assessment:

Table 3: Example of an overarching risk analysis for a site(s)

Date: Review Date:		Site:		Signed:	
Risk Description		Inherent Risk		Control/action	Notes
Risk	Consequence(s)	Impact(s)	Likelihood		
Failure of bio-security measures to stop the entry of a harmful pest onto the site(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a pest • Closure of business • Quarantine of site(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local environmental impact & pest spread • Financial loss • Reputational loss 	Possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good biosecurity protocols in place • Monitoring (by yourself or the customer) • Training • Effective biosecurity communication within the business • Etc. etc. etc. 	

For more detailed risk assessments:

See Tree Council action plan toolkit <https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/What-We-Do/Ash-Dieback>

See also from page 20 Plant Health and Biosecurity: The Landscape Consultants Toolkit. This can be downloaded for free from the Landscape Institute at

<https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/biosecurity-toolkit/> or from the British Association of Landscape Industries here

<https://www.bali.org.uk/help-and-advice/documents/plant-health-and-biosecurity-the-landscape-consultants-toolkit/>

Table 4: Example of a risk assessment for a notifiable pest

Date:		Site:		Signed:
Review Date:		Risk		Controls
Risk Description		Impact	Likelihood	
Risk	Consequence			
<p><i>Xylella fastidiosa</i></p>  <p><i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> is a bacterial pathogen which causes a variety of symptoms which can include leaf scorch, wilt, dieback and plant death. there are more than 500 plant species which can be infected with Xylella. In Europe the highest risk plants include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> (polygala) - <i>Olea europaea</i> (olive) - <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> (rosemary) - <i>Lavandula spp.</i> (lavender) - <i>Prunus spp.</i> (plums, cherries, almonds etc.) - <i>Nerium oleander</i> (oleander) - <i>Coffea</i> (coffee) - <i>Hebe spp.</i> (hebe) - <i>Spartium junceum</i> (Spanish broom) 	<p>If the infected stock is intercepted the stock will be destroyed. If an outbreak occurs (where there is evidence of disease transmission) all host plants will be destroyed within 100 metres and there will be a ban on the movement of host plants within a 5 -kilometre radius for up to five years.</p> <p>The implementation of these measures would lead to economic, environmental and social impacts.</p>	High	Medium	<p>Own business and advice to customer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider sourcing species that are not Xylella high-risk host plants. • Suspected infection of a plant by <i>X. fastidiosa</i> or any other non-native pest must be reported to the relevant authority. • Sourcing of plants from growers that can demonstrate that their site and stock is Xylella free. • Continual monitoring of all susceptible host species. <p>Other....</p>

Table 5: Example of a risk assessment for a specific pest or disease on a site

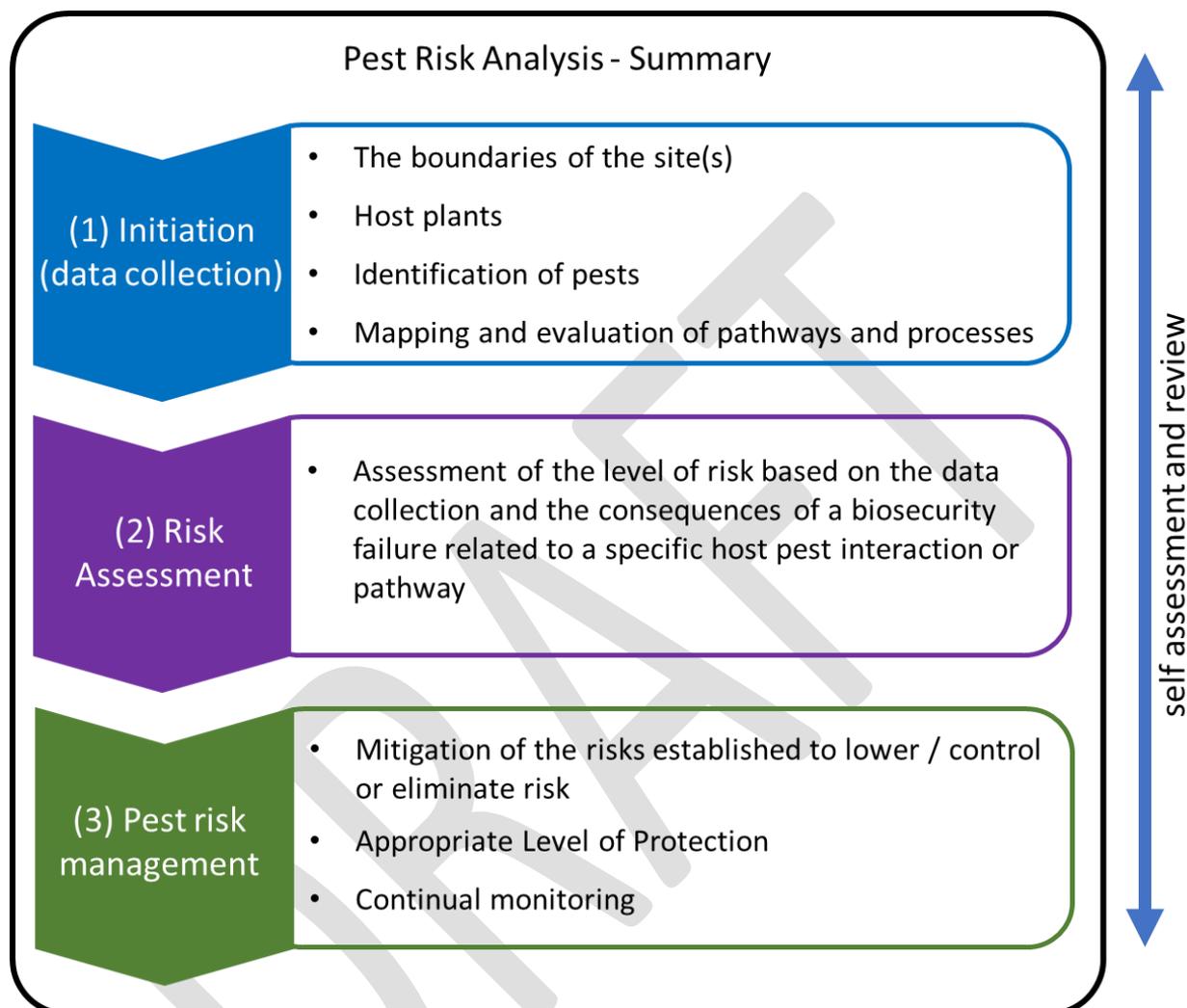
Date:		Site:		Signed:	
Review Date:		Risk		Controls	
Risk Description		Impact	Likelihood		
Risk	Consequence				
 <p>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (Chalara) is an ascomycete fungus that causes ash dieback, a chronic fungal disease of ash trees in Europe characterised by leaf loss and crown dieback in infected trees. Basal lesions may also be observed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining and dead trees Potential for death/injury (falling dead trees and limbs -infected trees may act unpredictably) Financial loss for customer 	High	High	<p>Advice to customer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Where more than 50% of the crown is infected and survival of the tree depends on epicormic shoots, felling should be considered Where less than 50% of the crown is infected, trees should be regularly monitored to ensure appropriate management <p>Plant material (i.e. arb. arisings) should be disposed/ moved in accordance with current guidance.</p> <p>Reference: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/chalara-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/chalara-manual-2-managing-ash-trees-and-woodland-including-logs-and-firewood/ </p>	

The above are examples of how pest analysis and assessments could be laid out, the key requirements are that all the information is included, and it is easy to understand and communicate.

Summary of Pest Risk Analysis

The diagram below outlines the three key steps to Pest Risk Analysis.

Figure 2: Pest Risk Analysis Summary



Section C: Arboricultural Business guidance for PHMS – the checklist

This section goes through section 4 of the Plant Health Management Standard and offers assistance and guidance on what compliance could look like. The numbering reflects the numbering in the standard and this is commonly referred to as ‘the checklist’.

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
4.1	Plant Passports, Phytosanitary Certificates and Forest Reproductive Material regulations.	The business must comply with statutory requirements with regards to the management and movement in plants and plant material. General guidance can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls . Further help and support can be given by your local Plant Health and Seed Inspector (PHSI).
4.1.1	Plant Passports Plant Passport legislative requirements must be followed when plant material is traded between UK businesses or imported from/or exported to EU Member States ⁴ .	In general, arboricultural businesses that take possession of plants from a nursery or supplier and supply them direct to the end customer without any cultural changes (e.g. potting bare root trees, potting on, etc.) to the plant will not need to issue plant passports. However, they will need to keep copies of plant passports and phytosanitary certificates that have been issued to them to be able to demonstrate full traceability if required. Acceptable evidence: A full understanding of requirements relating to plant passporting/regulating commodities is required. The company should be able to provide records/evidence of Plant Passports, records of any Plant Passport Inspections (if any); records of any statutory requirements imposed have been fulfilled and discharged. General guidance for imports can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-plants-fruit-vegetables-or-plant-material-to-the-uk General guidance on plant health controls: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls The following link details guidance specifying when a plant passport is required: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu#when-you-need-a-plant-passport .

⁴ NB currently required this may need to be updated as new guidance following a 'no deal' indicates that this will no longer be required (England & Wales) and all imports will require registering as an importer (PEACH) and ensuring that a regulated consignment enters the UK with a phytosanitary certificate (PC) issued in the country of export (or re-export). This may need to be removed from the audit process. PEACH helpdesk details are on the general Imports page at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-plants-fruit-vegetables-or-plant-material-to-the-uk>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
		<p>The list found at the following link provides information relating to plants requiring plant passports at all stages of growth to final retailer, and, when material and bulbs are sold or moved to persons professionally engaged in plant production.</p> <p>Links for guidance on plant passports:</p> <p>England & Wales: http://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-if-theres-no-withdrawal-deal?utm_source=SubscriberCRM+Integration&utm_campaign=df3938f17c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_15_03_45&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_74965a44a4-df3938f17c-88477057</p> <p>Scotland: https://www.sasa.gov.uk/plant-health/plant-health-licensing</p> <p>Northern Ireland: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health</p> <p>Information relating to plant passporting requirements and trading plants in the EU can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu</p> <p>Further information can be found via APHA: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#plant-health--seeds-inspectorate .</p> <p>You can issue plant passports yourself, but you must be authorised by the relevant Government body. In England and Wales this is the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). In Scotland it is the Scottish Executive Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SERPID) Horticulture and Marketing Unit. In Northern Ireland it is the Quality Assurance Branch.</p>
4.1.2	<p>Phytosanitary Certificates</p> <p>Legislation with respect to Phytosanitary Certificates must be followed if plant material is imported from or exported to third countries.</p>	<p>Some plants and plant produce are prohibited from entering this country from outside the EU while others must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. A phytosanitary certificate is a certificate that is issued by a governmental authority to attest that the plant/plant produce is free from harmful pests and plant diseases, it also demonstrates that the plant health controlled goods conform to the plant health regulations of the importing country.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence:</p> <p>The company should be able to provide records/evidence of Phytosanitary Certificates where appropriate, PEACH entries and other supporting documents used for the import.</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
		<p>Guidance:</p> <p>Guidance for importing plants (including trees and shrubs), fruit, vegetables and plant material can be found at:</p> <p>England & Wales: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-plants-fruit-vegetables-or-plant-material-to-the-uk</p> <p>General guidance relating to Phytosanitary certificates: https://www.gov.uk/phytosanitary-certificate-england-scotland-wales</p> <p>Scotland: https://www.gov.scot/publications/plant-health-guide-guidance-importers/pages/1/</p> <p>Northern Ireland: https://www.gov.uk/phytosanitary-certificate-northern-ireland</p>
4.1.3	<p>Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) Regulations</p> <p>The detail of the procedure will be specified in the scheme guidance documents to ensure that detail is kept up-to-date with any changes.</p>	<p>This section is only relevant if you deal with Forest Reproductive Material.</p> <p>FRM regulations provides a system of control for seeds, cutting and planting stock used for forestry purposes in Great Britain. Forestry purposes is defined as ‘<i>woodland planting (woodland is an area greater than 0.25 hectare or more than 15 m in width, with a minimum of 20% canopy cover at maturity) of any description for any multi-purpose forestry purpose</i>’</p> <p>Full guidance can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/forest-reproductive-material-regulations-controlling-seed-cuttings-and-planting-stock-for-forestry-in-great-britain-2nd-edition/</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: FRM is controlled by a regulatory system covering 46 tree species and the genus <i>Populus</i>. This legislation must be adhered to if appropriate to the business/organisation.</p> <p>Guidance: Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) is the generic name for the seeds, cones, cuttings and planting stock used in forest establishment. The Forestry Commission is the Official Body that is responsible for the FRM Regulations in England, Scotland and Wales. The Regulations are in place to ensure that planting stock is traceable from seed/cuttings collection.</p> <p>There is also a voluntary scheme which is not regulated, whereby all seed/cuttings used may be listed under FRM even if they are not on the list of controlled species. This should be checked regularly as new species may be added to the list.</p> <p>Further guidance can be found at: https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-66sg25</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
4.1.4	<p>Notifiable pest interceptions or outbreaks⁵</p> <p>A procedure must be in place to identify and deal with issues assessed as notifiable pest interceptions or outbreaks.</p> <p>The procedure shall include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the local Plant Health & Seeds Inspector (PHSI) immediately if a notifiable pest is suspected • Isolate and contain the affected plants or plant material • Clearly mark the affected plant or plant material to ensure that it is only moved or sold in accordance with the requirements of the infected status • Act on the PHSI's instructions. No treatment or disposal action shall take place without the authorisation of the PHSI <p>The detail of the procedure will be specified in the scheme guidance documents to ensure that detail is kept up-to-date with any changes</p>	<p>Acceptable evidence: The company should be able to provide evidence that there are written procedures and these procedures are shared with relevant staff; this can be electronically and / or displayed in appropriate area(s).</p> <p>Plant health portal website: https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/</p> <p>Notifiable pests are those which have the potential to cause the greatest damage to our environment.</p> <p>General guidance:</p> <p>Tree pests : https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tree-pests-and-diseases ; https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-tree-pest-or-disease-overview</p> <p>Notifiable pests : https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-and-disease-factsheets/notifiable-pests/</p> <p>Reporting a pest - in England and Wales, they must be reported to the Forestry Commission or the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#plant-and-bee-health-services</p> <p>Scotland: https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth</p> <p>Northern Ireland: General guidance: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health</p> <p>Reporting: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/get-involvedreport-suspected-cases</p>
4.1.5	<p>Other statutory requirements</p> <p>There are other legal requirements, e.g. the statutory notification scheme that involves a legal requirement to notify the</p>	<p>It is good practice to ensure that the pest risk analysis is reviewed and updated where necessary e.g. when a new site is taken on.</p>

⁵ <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-and-disease-factsheets/notifiable-pests>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	<p>Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in advance of the import of certain trees and plants from EU member states.</p> <p>There are other legal requirements for disposal of infected material that may need to be adhered to.</p>	<p>* Significant pests are considered, as a minimum, to be (i) all notifiable pests and (ii) other pests specific to your business – see the UK Plant Health Risk Register for up-to-date pest and host information</p> <p>This depends on the type of business and the trees and shrubs being managed. Contact the local plant health and seed inspector (PHSI) from APHA if you are uncertain of other statutory plant health requirements. Keep records of any requirements and ensure that relevant staff know about the requirements and how you comply with them.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>England & Wales: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls; https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-trees-and-plants-to-england-and-wales-from-the-eu</p> <p>Scotland: https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantMovements/ImportsAndExports</p> <p>Northern Ireland: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health ; http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2018/184/contents/made</p> <p>Statutory Plant Health Notices:</p> <p>England and Wales: Disposal of trees and plant material under a Statutory Plant Health Notice: https://www.trees.org.uk/Trees.org.uk/files/35/35cec61c-bb2e-4e0c-8226-74e3e81748d8.pdf</p> <p>Wales: Guidance on Statutory Plant Health Notices: https://naturalresources.wales/media/680531/2-sphn-faq-english.pdf</p> <p>Scotland: Disposal of trees and plant material under a Statutory Plant Health Notice: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/154389/wst-g-037-disposal_of_trees_plants_with_specific_diseases.pdf</p>
4.2	<p>Plant Health Policy</p> <p>There must be a plant health policy that considers the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business’ approach to plant health 	<p>Acceptable evidence:</p> <p>Policy document (printed or electronic), induction checklist, staff noticeboard, staff handbook.</p> <p>It must be communicated to all relevant staff. The policy must be signed and dated by a senior responsible person and reviewed as part of a continual improvement process at least annually.</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant health objectives to include pest risk analysis • Designated person(s) and their responsibilities • Description of how the business keeps up-to-date with plant health legislation • Recognition of pests (including quarantined and regulated) • Commitment to training of relevant staff in plant health procedures • Site housekeeping standards to control plant health • Visitor and contractor arrangements <p>It must be communicated to all relevant staff. The policy must be signed and dated by a senior responsible person and reviewed as part of a continual improvement process at least annually.</p>	<p>A template plant health policy is available on page 19 and Appendix 4 of the Arboricultural Association guidance note which can be found here https://www.trees.org.uk/Book-Shop/Products/Application-of-Biosecurity-in-Arboriculture-en which can be adapted for your business. The template does not have to be used but the elements within the template should be included in the policy document. The level of adaptation will depend on the size and nature of the business.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>A plant health policy statement is a company-level document that sets out commitment and prescribes acceptable methods or behaviours relating to plant health rules and objectives within the business, a set of expectations put in place to manage employee behaviour. Policies are different from procedures and standard operating procedures because they are applicable to an entire organisation and are primarily intended to set direction. As long as the initial policy is well written it would not generally be reviewed unless the business changed dramatically (e.g. refer to positions rather than specific names when talking about designated roles). The statement should be relatively brief and easily understood by all working within the company. It should avoid use of acronyms and jargon.</p> <p>Procedures and standard operating procedures, on the other hand, typically include very specific instructions used to accomplish defined tasks which lead to delivery of the objectives set within the policy. They tell the employees how to abide by the policy.</p> <p>What to Include in your policy statement</p> <p>Meaningful policy statements establish the parameters for its effective implementation. Each parameter should state whom they apply to, defines the circumstances under which the statement applies and defines important conditions or restrictions. It can generally be broken down to three sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The statement of general policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why a plant health policy is being implemented • The business’ approach to plant health • Plant health objectives 2. The responsibility section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated roles and their responsibilities

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
		<p>3. The arrangements section</p> <p>What you are going to do in practice to achieve the aims set out in your plant health statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Assessment • A description of how the business keeps up-to-date with legislation (including recognition of quarantined and regulated pests) • Commitment to training • Site and business housekeeping standards (including visitor and contractor arrangements) <p>What Not to Include</p> <p>Stick to the facts make sure you avoid including any instructions or procedures.</p>
4.3	<p>Plant Health responsibility</p> <p>Plant health responsibility within the business shall be clearly defined.</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities shall include delivering the requirements of this standard throughout the business.</p>	<p>Acceptable evidence:</p> <p>Job description, organisational structure (organogram), detailed responsibility in the plant health policy.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of any employee designated with plant health management should be clearly defined and include delivering the requirements of this standard throughout the business. This could be a single member of staff or more, designated with the responsibility to manage plant health within the business. In small businesses the plant health manager duties can be an additional responsibility of an existing employee. A contractor/consultant may be used to provide assistance/advice on keeping up to date with changes associated to plant health e.g. recent threats, treatments, etc.</p> <p>In larger or group businesses, it may be appropriate to have a senior member of staff/manager/director with overall responsibility, then designated responsibility by business, by site and/or team. There may then be further layers where specific members of staff have delegated responsibility e.g. specific roles to deliver a particular element of the plant health policy. Provision should be made so if there is an absence, a trained deputy must cover for this person and/or team.</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
		Examples of roles include recording all outbreaks and complaints (minor or major) together with any corrective and preventative actions, that may arise from them. Someone who is responsible for plant passporting and the main point of contact for Seed Inspectorate (PHSI).
4.4	<p>Pest Risk Analysis</p> <p>Areas of plant health risk shall be identified and assessed, and specific plans shall be in place to reduce these risks to an <i>Appropriate Level of Protection</i> (ALOP). The plans shall detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The extent of <i>site</i> ● Susceptible host plants ● Significant <i>pests</i>⁶ ● <i>Pathways of pests</i> to, within and from the <i>site</i> ● Potential or level of risk i.e. pest risk assessment ● Current or planned mitigation ● Risk following mitigation ● Acceptable Level of Protection (ALOP) description as applied to the <i>site</i> ● Monitoring of the <i>site</i> <p>Reviews of the <i>pest risk analysis</i> shall be conducted annually as a minimum and updated, e.g. when a new susceptible plant species is grown / stocked, or a new</p>	<p>Acceptable evidence:</p> <p>It is good practice to ensure that the pest risk analysis is reviewed and updated where necessary e.g. when a new plant species is grown/stocked or a pest incident has occurred.</p> <p>* Significant pests are considered, as a minimum, to be (i) all notifiable pests and (ii) other pests specific to your business – see the UK Plant Health Risk Register for up-to-date pest and host information"</p> <p>Guidance: This is one of the most important sections. The information is covered in the Section A above.</p> <p>The business should ensure that an appropriate level of protection is in place to reduce the risk of pests within the nursery/business/garden. This should be determined by the business and should suit their needs providing a high level of protection against pests, reducing the risk of pest entrance and transference to as low a level as possible.</p> <p>Note for Arboricultural businesses then the site refers to all sites that the business or organisation works in or from.</p>

⁶ Significant pests are considered, as a minimum, to be (i) all notifiable pests and (ii) other pests specific to your business – see the UK Plant Health Risk Register for up-to-date pest and host information

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	<i>pest</i> risk becomes evident. All reviews must be recorded.	
4.5	<p>Supply chain management</p> <p>As part of the pest risk analysis, the business shall risk-assess their suppliers and approve those that they deem to have met their plant health requirements. The ordering or purchasing process must detail any specific compliance requirements, and suppliers must be made aware of any control measures that are applicable.</p>	<p>In an arboricultural business, the requirement to manage an incoming supply chain may or may not be applicable depending on the contract. During the management of trees and shrubs, the supply chain can include any plant material brought onto or removed from site (living or dead), growing media and other items that may harbour pests such as equipment and vehicles.</p> <p>In the case of arb this also includes the management of arb waste, whether it is collated at a depot or taken to an appropriate site for disposal or disposed of on site (e.g. a customer says to leave the logs as they will turn it into firewood for burning but the brash can be taken away by the arb contractor).</p> <p>The methodology and the outcomes of any site assessment should be recorded. This could be in the form of a checklist to ensure that suppliers and any disposal site meet the requirements detailed by the business's plant health plans or pest risk assessments analysed (this list is not exhaustive).</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: Approved suppliers/contractors list, completed self-assessment questionnaire documents, communication with suppliers/contractors to explain applicable control measures (letter, terms of business, email). Include corrective actions from self-assessment document.</p>
4.6	<p>Plant health hygiene and housekeeping</p> <p>Plant hygiene and housekeeping rules and practices, that have been assessed and developed through the pest risk analysis processes, shall be in place. The rules and procedures shall be communicated to all relevant employees. The rules will be dependent on the plants handled and the type of business.</p>	<p>The level of documented evidence will depend on the size of business. Each business should assess each site detailed in 4.6.1 to 4.6.7.</p> <p>For further information see Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 2: Application of Biosecurity in Arboriculture https://www.trees.org.uk/Book-Shop/Products/Application-of-Biosecurity-in-Arboriculture-en and https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases</p>
4.6.1	Growing media and soil	<p>Acceptable evidence: Procedure or standards, guidance notes and industry best practice guides BS3882:2015 – For top-soil National Plant Specification and NBS Landscape Specification</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	In the production or procurement of plants, the business shall demonstrate that the use of growing media and soil have been assessed for the potential to harbour and transmit plant pests.	Figure 2: Pests and pathogen cycle page 10 https://www.trees.org.uk/Book-Shop/Products/Application-of-Biosecurity-in-Arboriculture-en
4.6.2	Weed management The business shall assess weeds and volunteer plants for the for the pest potential (as a pest and to host and transmit other plant pests).	Acceptable evidence: Procedure or standards, husbandry rules, signage, guidance notes and industry best practice guides such as COSHH.
4.6.3	Water usage The business shall assess water sources, irrigation and drainage systems used in the husbandry of plants for the potential to harbour and transmit plant pests.	The business may be required to assess water sources, irrigation and drainage systems used in the husbandry/management of plants for the potential to harbour and transmit plant pests. The assessment will include identifying a potential risk and whether or not it is possible to mitigate for it. See AHDB Horticulture Factsheet 21/15: Testing water for plant pathogens for further information.
4.6.4	Cleaning and sterilisation The business shall carry out an assessment of husbandry processes and ensure that safe cleaning and sterilisation practices are implemented.	This should involve the cleaning or sterilisation of: plant material, hands, footwear, clothing, equipment, machinery, pots, vehicles, and production/growing areas (such as parks or gardens) (NB this list is not exhaustive). For further information see Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 2: Application of Biosecurity in Arboriculture https://www.trees.org.uk/Book-Shop/Products/Application-of-Biosecurity-in-Arboriculture-en and https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases .
4.6.5	Waste treatment and disposal All residues or waste materials shall be assessed for the potential to host, harbour and transmit pests.	Residues or waste materials must be treated or disposed of as per legislative requirements and to ensure that an appropriate level of protection is attained. Residues or waste materials may include plant material, growing media, and any other items utilised or discarded. Relevant documentation (e.g. waste transfer notes) must be retained. Where on-site storage or composting is taking place it must be shown through e.g. a risk assessment that this does not compromise plant health.

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
		<p>Statutory Plant Health Notices have requirements under the regulations regarding disposal of the plants and dunnage and will be specific to the notice issued – contact your local plant health inspector if clarification is required.</p> <p>See section 4.1.5 for links to all related legislation</p>
4.6.6	<p>Wider environment (including landscape plantings within the site)</p> <p>The business shall assess the wider environment and its potential impact on the health of plants on the site.</p>	<p>This may include plants growing on the surrounding land, prevailing wind, local outbreaks, etc. As an arboricultural business works in many locations, an understanding of the issues in the business operational area and local outbreaks will inform any site risk assessment. A record of the assessment and, if applicable, any revision where e.g. adjacent land use practices change or known diseases are recognised. For further information see Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 2: Application of Biosecurity in Arboriculture. https://www.trees.org.uk/Book-Shop/Products/Application-of-Biosecurity-in-Arboriculture-en</p>
4.6.7	<p>Visitors</p> <p>The business shall be able to demonstrate how the relevant rules above are communicated and complied with by visitors. Areas that are restricted for plant health reasons shall be clearly delineated and signposted.</p>	<p>Acceptable evidence: for own site (i.e. depot), signage, visitor books, internal guidance, boot cleaning stations, etc.</p>
4.7	Plant health controls	
4.7.1	<p>Goods in</p> <p>Incoming goods that have the potential to be infected or harbour pests, shall be checked. There shall be a procedure that details who, where, when and how a consignment or consignment in transit or other plant material (e.g. woody biomass) is checked upon receipt. Any sampling system used shall be documented.</p> <p>A procedure must be in place to ensure that suspect plant material is isolated</p>	<p>Plants and materials that have the potential to be infected or harbour pests could be plants, packaging material, growing media, between pots, bamboo canes, etc. All goods in should be assessed as to their potential to harbour or be infected. This includes plant material, packaging material and other products that potentially harbour pests.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: Goods-in procedure, record of checks on delivery notes or goods in documentation, observation of checks.</p>

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	(quarantined), and to report findings to the authorities (in line with statutory requirements), suppliers of the material and other parties that could be affected.	
4.7.2	<p>Traceability (chain of custody)</p> <p>Traceability must be provided for all plant material handled. The traceability system shall provide details and sources of the plant material and demonstrate that control measures identified in the PRA are being carried out. It shall allow a consignment or consignment in transit or other plant material (e.g. woody biomass) to be traced back to the original source, as well as forward to identify all trade customers to which those plants have been supplied.</p>	<p>The traceability system used must be able to provide details locations and species of plants managed. It must allow plant material to be traced back to the original source, as well as forward to identify if infected plant material has been transferred to specific waste disposal sites, firewood processors, etc.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: The auditor selects a finished plant and ask for traceability information to be provided to trace material back to source, as well as to the final destination.</p> <p>See also section 4.1.1 above on plant passports and 4.1.2 on phytosanitary certificates</p>
4.7.3	<p>Treatment and mitigation</p> <p>Records of all plant protection treatments, whether routine or following an interception or outbreak, must be kept.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures should also be recorded such as: spraying, cleaning of tools and vehicles, burning of infected waste material, for new designs or planting ensuring the right plant in the right place at the right time. See section 4 Plant Health and Biosecurity: The Landscape Consultants Toolkit. This can be downloaded for free from the Landscape Institute at https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/biosecurity-toolkit/ (this list is not exhaustive).</p> <p>When an outbreak is related to external factors that have made plants more susceptible to the pest (e.g. drought that has stressed the plants or wetter summer making them more susceptible to mildews) management must demonstrate that such system breakdowns are monitored for continual improvement.</p>
4.7.4	<p>Dispatch and/or departure from a site</p>	<p>Where appropriate, ensure site procedures detail who, where, when and how plant material/equipment/vehicles are checked before transported for delivery or movement to another site.</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	<p>Informed by the pest risk analysis, plant material must be checked prior to dispatch for plant health issues.</p> <p>If a sampling system is used, the rationale and methodology shall be documented.</p>	<p>Acceptable evidence: Records of dispatch checks and records of appropriate or statutory disposal requirements and how they have been met.</p>
4.7.5	<p>Complaints, issues and returns</p> <p>There shall be a complaints management procedure for plant health issues. The complaints must be categorised and assessed for continual improvement of the business. Records of any complaints and actions taken shall be reviewed at least annually.</p> <p>There shall be an assessment that details the scale of the issue and whether it is notifiable (see section 4.1.4) and include, where relevant, traceability both forwards and backwards.</p> <p>There shall be consideration of any withdrawal or recall or disposal procedures in the assessment.</p>	<p>For complaints that fall into the pests or plant health category, there shall be an assessment that details the scale of the issue. This assessment shall include the extent of the pest issue, whether it is notifiable, how many sites may be affected and any mitigation measures or actions taken – this should be covered under traceability. For notifiable diseases, the business should ensure that the supplier has notified the relevant authority.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: Complaint procedure, complaint and action, communication with customers and contractors.</p>
4.8	<p>Monitoring and ongoing plant health assessment</p> <p>Plant material must be regularly monitored for plant health issues.</p> <p>The pest risk analysis shall inform the monitoring and ongoing assessment. The method of monitoring and recording will be dependent on susceptibility of the species handled, the type of business and</p>	<p>For any regular sites and your own depot review the pest risk analysis for updates on the current status for specific pests that could impact on the species you have planted in your operational area. The method of monitoring and recording will be dependent on susceptibility of plant material handled, local/national outbreaks, the type of site(s) and customers and the plant health risks present.</p> <p>A process must be in place to identify and monitor any infestation or infection when assessing, working on or using a site. Best practice would be to inform the customer when continued monitoring is required. The procedure must identify necessary controls and treatments to reduce risk to an acceptable level of protection and include timescales and how they are</p>

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	<p>customers and any plant health risks. Monitoring records shall be kept.</p> <p>Unless a pest can be immediately and definitively identified as non-quarantine it should be treated as if it is a quarantine pest (see section 4.1.4).</p>	<p>communicated to your customer. Records of advice and mitigation/action and infected material disposal must be kept.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: Records including written advice, COSHH records cleaning records of equipment and vehicles, waste material disposal.</p>
4.8.1	<p>Self assessment, review and continual improvement</p> <p>A review of the pest risk analysis of the business site (which could be a single area or multiple areas) shall be carried out. This self-assessment must be at least annually and include a review of outbreaks, interceptions and complaints relating to plant health. A record of this self-assessment shall be kept and must detail any non-conformances, applicable requirements and corrective actions. The scale of this review shall be appropriate to the size of business and the performance over the review period.</p>	<p>The review should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outbreaks since the last review ● Treatments or mitigation or advice offered and how effective they were ● Review of any new guidance (for example, APHA, FR and Plant health portal) ● Corrective actions ● Any adjustments to pest risk assessment/policy
4.9	<p>Training and recognition</p>	
4.9.1	<p>Plant health competencies</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Training records must be maintained, an evidence of continued professional development to maintain awareness of current issues. The training should be appropriate to their level of responsibility.</p> <p>For example, relevant personnel within or authorised by the business should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● identify commonly occurring pests, pathogens and disorders, or symptoms, associated with the trees or shrubs managed or maintained. ● conduct a pest risk analysis ● monitor pest levels as applicable including customer advice

No.	Plant Health Management Standard	Arboricultural Businesses
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop advice on treatments and mitigation • if required, effectively apply pesticides in a safe manner and be qualified to do so • carry out other pest management techniques when required • demonstrate how an acceptable level of protection has been determined <p>Note: In the UK, the Royal Society of Biology operates a register of plant health professionals and raises awareness of all aspects of plant health management and records Continuing Professional Development.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: Training records, identification guides, newsletters, technical notes, posters.</p>
4.9.2	<p>Legislation and keeping up to date</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Have the up-to-date and, if applicable, training records for relevant employees that relate to plant health. This includes evidence of review of legislation changes and impacts on the business and control measures.</p>
4.9.3	<p>Information sharing</p> <p>Information and knowledge must be shared within the business to ensure all relevant employees are aware of plant health issues and their management.</p> <p>The business must be able to demonstrate how employees are made aware of plant health management.</p> <p>The business must be able to demonstrate that there are processes in place for employees to report any</p>	<p>The evidence will be dependent on the plant species handled and the type of business, but may include induction checklist, employee handbook, noticeboards, shared drives, team meetings, training workshops, annual review (this list is not exhaustive).</p> <p>Use of/access to reference material such as plant health portal or plant health and seed inspector (PHSI).</p> <p>Acceptable evidence: Induction checklist, employee handbook, noticeboards, shared drives, team meetings, training workshops.</p>

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	suspected plant health issues to the appropriate member of staff.	
4.9.4	<p>Other relevant training</p> <p>The business must be able to demonstrate that they follow nationally recognised health and safety guidance relating to plant health control measures.</p>	<p>Have the up-to-date appropriate training records (internal and external) and any certificates for relevant employees that relate to plant health control measures.</p>

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Section D: Further information and biosecurity guidance for the arboriculture sector

Arboricultural businesses are strongly recommended to read the Arboricultural Association's Guidance Note 2 Application of Biosecurity in Arboriculture. This can be purchased or downloaded for free from the Arboricultural Association's website at <https://www.trees.org.uk/Book-Shop/Products/Application-of-Biosecurity-in-Arboriculture-en>.

Plant Health and Biosecurity: The Landscape Consultants Toolkit. This can be downloaded for free from the Landscape Institute at <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/biosecurity-toolkit/> or from the British Association of Landscape Industries here <https://www.bali.org.uk/help-and-advice/documents/plant-health-and-biosecurity-the-landscape-consultants-toolkit/>

Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

There are legal requirements governing Tree Preservation Orders and tree protection in Conservation Areas.

If a tree that has a Tree Preservation Order, or is located in a Conservation Area, is found to have a pest and needs to be dismantled and removed an application to the local planning authority should be made.

Guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>
<https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Public/A-brief-guide-to-legislation-for-trees>

Environmental Permitting: The regulations for the devolved administrations are detailed below:

England & Wales: The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111491423/contents>

Scotland: The Pollution Prevention & Control Regulations 2000

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2000/323/contents/made>

The Waste Management Licensing Regulations 2011

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/sdsi/2011/9780111012147/contents>

Northern Ireland: The Pollution Prevention & Control Regulations 2003

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2003/46/contents/made>

The Waste Management Licensing (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2003

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2003/493/contents/made>

Protected Zones

Additional requirements apply to movements of specified plants into and within protected zones. These will also need a specific ZP code on their plant passports to confirm they come from a nursery free of the pests that the UK has a Protected Zone for.

Please see links below for further information:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/resources/plant-health-protected-zones/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/plant-health-guide-passporting-marketing-requirements/pages/22/>

Other standards that may be of interest:

ISPM Standards covering phytosanitary certificates and wood packaging

BS5837:2012 for Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction

BS3882:2015 for topsoil National Plant Specification and NBS Landscape Specification

BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in landscape.

Appendix: Glossary of terms

For the purposes of this document the following terms and definitions apply. Many of the definitions are as defined by the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 5 – Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms 2016. For the purposes of this *standard* and practical application, deviations from the ISPM definitions *standard* are indicated by italics and square brackets.

[*appropriate level of protection (ALOP)*]: *the level of protection deemed appropriate by the company establishing a sanitary or phytosanitary measure to protect, human, animal or plant life or health within its territory. This concept is also referred to as the **acceptable level of risk**. (Source SPS Agreement). For the purpose of this standard we apply ALOP principles to individual sites.]*

consignment: A quantity of plants, plant products or other articles being moved from one country to another and covered, when required, by a single phytosanitary certificate [or plant passport]. *[In this standard a consignment may be composed of one or more commodities or lots and could also be from one location to another within a country (whether inter or intra business)].*

consignment in transit: A consignment which passes through a country without being imported, and that may be subject to phytosanitary measures *[for the purpose of this standard, this definition is also used for plants that are grown and traded within the same country if it passes through an area that may be subject to phytosanitary measures].*

containment: Application of phytosanitary measures in and around an infested area to prevent spread of a pest

control (of a pest): Suppression, containment or eradication of a pest population.

critical control points are points within or between production or movement processes where plants can be readily assessed for health and mitigating actions can be taken. For example, a critical control point is when you bring new plants onto a site and your control checking incoming plant material and there could be mitigation following this inspection.

devitalisation: A procedure rendering plants or plant products incapable of germination, growth or further reproduction

eradication: Application of phytosanitary measures to eliminate a pest from an area [or a *site*].

[*Forest Reproductive Material Regulations*]: *Regulations controlling seed, cuttings and planting stock for forestry in Great Britain.*

[*goods in (incoming goods)*]: *the receipt of a consignment or consignment in transit by a business.*

growing medium: Any material in which plant roots are growing or intended for that purpose.

host pest list: A list of pests that infest a plant species, globally or in an area.

host range: Species capable, under natural conditions, of sustaining a specific pest or other organism.

incursion: An isolated population of a pest recently detected in an area, not known to be established, but expected to survive for the immediate future.

infestation (of a commodity): Presence in a commodity of a living pest of the plant or plant product concerned. Infestation includes infection.

interception (of a pest): the detection of a pest during inspection or testing of a consignment [or consignment in transit]. *[Finding of a pest at or very soon after arrival on site or if on site for some time that period must have been when the climatic conditions or biology of the pest would not have caused it to spread beyond the original point of introduction].*

monitoring: An official ongoing process to verify phytosanitary situations.

[origin (original source): *The country or place where the plant material was grown, raised, cultured or produced].*

outbreak: A recently detected *pest* or pathogen population, including an incursion, or a sudden significant increase of an established *pest* or pathogen population in an area. *[Spread of a pest beyond the original point of introduction].*

pathogen: Micro-organism causing disease.

pathway: Any means that allows the entry or spread of a pest

[Person or Persons Responsible: *The person or persons within a business with the responsibility for inspecting plants, issuing plant passports and keeping records. Adapted from APHA plant passporting]*

pest: Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products.

pest risk analysis: The process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether an organism is a *pest*, whether it should be regulated, and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it. *[adapted from the PRA at a national level developed by the International Plant Protection Conventions – see normative references]*

pest risk assessment: *Evaluation of the probability of the introduction and spread of a pest and the magnitude of the associated potential economic consequences.*

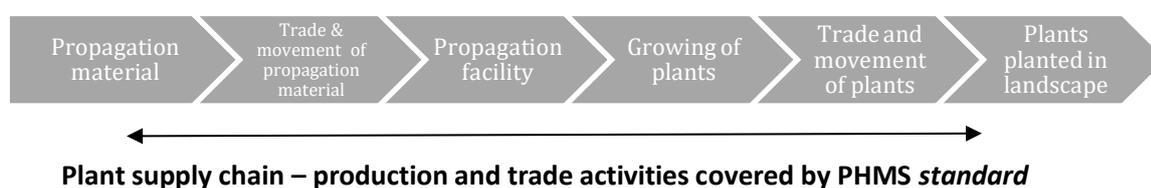
phytosanitary certificate: An official paper document or its official electronic equivalent, consistent with the model certificates of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), attesting that a consignment meets phytosanitary import requirements.

[plant health manager(s): *A person or persons designated by a business with the responsibility for ensuring plant health in the business. In the UK this person is the Person or Persons Responsible for Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) e.g. for Plant Passporting].*

[plant passport: *Issued by an authorised plant grower/trader/propagator or other professional, the plant passport must accompany material moved within and between Member States including within the UK. Authorisation is provided by the relevant plant health authority in the UK. Plants must leave production nurseries in a healthy condition to prevent the spread of quarantine plant pests.]*

plant supply chain: See figure below.

Figure A1: Generalised elements of the supply chain



quarantine: Official confinement of regulated articles for observation and research or for further inspection, testing or treatment.

quarantine pest: A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled. *[listed in the Plant Health Order Schedules i.e. enshrined in UK law].*

[regularly: *This is determined by each business/organisation depending on factors such as species and volume handled, location and others, as identified in the pest risk assessments for the species handled by the business/organisation]*

[sampling system: *A methodology that provides a representative sample from the consignment or consignment in transit to assess if pests or pathogens are present. The system itself will depend on the risk assessment together with continual review].*

[site: *A defined area (or areas) managed as a unit for plant health purposes] In the case of arboricultural businesses, this could be a customer's site where tree/shrub management is being carried out, the company depot and/or any waste disposal sites including firewood processors.*

standard: Document established by consensus and approved by a recognised body that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

test: Official examination, other than visual, to determine if *pests* are present or to identify *pests*.

[third countries: *Countries that are not members of the European Union]*

treatment: Official procedure for the killing, inactivation or removal of *pests*, or for rendering *pests* infertile or for devitalisation.

wood (as a commodity class): Commodities such as round wood, sawn wood, wood chips and wood residue, with or without bark, excluding wood packaging material, processed wood material and bamboo products.

wood packaging material: Wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity.