

The increasing movement between countries of forest plants and wood products (e.g. logs, sawn timber, wooden pallets, crates and ships dunnage) increases the risk of potentially very damaging forest pests and diseases spreading to Ireland.

The policy of the Forest Service in this area is to maintain a healthy forest environment by ensuring good management, identifying risks and maintaining a sustained commitment to measures which prevent the entry and establishment of destructive forest pests and diseases.

Under the EU Plant Health Directive strict regulatory controls are in place to prevent the entry of exotic insect pests and diseases which could seriously damage our forests. These relate to the movement of forest plants and wood products into Ireland both from within the EU and from non-EU countries.

The Forest Service carries out an ongoing survey of the national forest estate for quarantine forest pests and diseases. Early detection of a newly introduced pest or disease is essential and forest owners and the forest industry are encouraged to be ever vigilant in detecting such introductions. **If any unusual pest or disease is observed please immediately contact your local Forest Service Inspector.**

9.5.1 Plants originating in Ireland and other EU Countries

In the context of the Internal Market, Ireland has been granted a special Protected Zone status with regard to 11 harmful forest pests and diseases. A Protected Zone is essentially an area in the EU where a pest of quarantine significance, established in other parts of the EU, is not present despite favourable conditions for it to establish.

Plants of the genera listed in Table 9 should only be purchased from nurseries registered under the EU Plant Health Directive and the plants must be accompanied by a valid EU Plant Passport to certify freedom from specific pests and diseases.

Plants of the 5 conifer genera and Sorbus plants require a special Protected Zone Plant Passport valid for the island of Ireland. This is normally issued using the codes indicated in Table 9. These details are found on the delivery note and/or accompanying label issued by the registered nursery and also on the Provenance Declaration Form. The following is an example of a valid Plant Passport for rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia*. DAF is an abbreviation for the statutory authority for plant health, the Department of Agriculture and Food, 1234 is a unique registration number for the producer. ZP B2 is the coding to indicate that the plants are free of fireblight disease and are free to move into or within Ireland. The quantity and a unique batch number must also be supplied.

EU Plant Passport IRL/DAF/1234.
Sorbus aucuparia ZP B2

Table 9. Forest Plants requiring an EU Plant Passport

Conifers	Protected Zone Code	Broadleaves	Protected Zone Code
Abies	ZP Conf.	Sorbus	ZP B2
Larix	ZP Conf.	Prunus	Not applicable
Picea	ZP Conf.		
Pinus	ZP Conf.		
Pseudotsuga	ZP Conf.		