



INFORMATION NOTE – IMPORTS FROM THE UK

IMPORTATION OF FORESTRY PLANTS, WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS INTO IRELAND FROM THE UK IN THE CASE OF A NO-DEAL BREXIT.

Context – Plant Health Legislation

The importation into and the movement within the EU of *inter alia* certain wood and wood products from non-EU (“Third Countries”) is regulated under Council Directive 2000/29/EC, commonly called the Plant Health Directive, which sets-out phytosanitary (“plant health”) legislation and requirements in order to prevent the introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plant and forest health.

Context – Brexit

The UK has voted to leave the EU and it will become a Third Country (non-EU Member State) from the date of withdrawal. As of the date the United Kingdom exits the European Union the introduction of forestry plants, wood and wood products from the UK into the EU will be regulated by the above Directive in the same manner as for other Third Countries.

If you are an importer of forestry plants, wood or wood products from the UK which are regulated under Council Directive 2000/29/EC, you are required to complete and observe a number of new DAFM phytosanitary (plant health) requirements which were not required when the UK was an EU member state. (Importers are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with relevant Revenue requirements).

In the event of a No-Deal Brexit, this comes into effect on **when the UK leaves the EU.**

What you should do now

A. Establish whether the commodity you are importing from the UK into Ireland is a regulated commodity

Generally, the phytosanitary entry requirements that apply to forestry plants, wood and wood products depend on the species, the country of origin and the form/nature of the commodity. For example in the case of imports from the UK, coniferous sawnwood and roundwood with bark are regulated commodities. If an importer is unsure whether the commodity they wish to import into Ireland is regulated, or for information on the entry requirements of regulated wood, queries can be submitted to forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie.

B. Register with DAFM for Plant Health

Prior to importing regulated wood and wood products into Ireland, importers are required to register with the Department. To receive a timber importers/exporters registration form, contact:

forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Forest Health Section

3 West Agriculture House

Kildare Street

DUBLIN 2

DO2 WK12

See “Plant Health Registration” link and Application Form.



What you need to do prior to import of regulated commodities

A. Obtain Official Certification of the regulated commodity in the UK prior to export.

If the commodity is a regulated commodity under Council Directive 2000/29/EC the consignment will need to be officially certified by the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the UK which will involve an inspection and the provision of a Phytosanitary Certificate by UK Authorities to the importer.

B. Provide advance notification of import to DAFM

Advance notification to DAFM is required of regulated wood imports. A minimum of 24 hours notice is required but in the case of some products, depending on the means and duration of transport (shipping), this notice period may be 72 hours.

The importer / shipping agent then submits to the Forest Health section, via the email address forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie, the following documents associated with the consignment:

- The red routed SAD
- The packing list and Bill of Lading
- The phytosanitary certificate, and/or other plant health documentation required for the regulated commodity as set out under Directive 2000/29 EC as amended.

Landing, Inspection and clearance of the consignment.

A. Ports of Import

Regulated commodities from Third Countries can only be imported through approved Border Inspection Points (BIPs) or Designated Points of Entry (DPEs).

B. DAFM Inspection & release of the commodity.

DAFM Phytosanitary inspection involves three aspects - a documentary, identity and plant health check of the imported commodity. The identity and plant health checks require the physical inspection of the commodity. If all is found to be compliant, the Inspector confirms to Customs that the phytosanitary inspection has been satisfactory and Customs may green route the consignment for onward movement.

Note: The consignment remains under Customs control for the duration of the inspection.

Fees

Council Directive 2000/29/EC, Annex VIIIa sets out the schedule of fees for documentary, identity and plant health checks.

Queries

Queries in relation to this or any other aspect of the importation of wood and timber can be sent to:

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