

Phytosanitary Certificates: – Quick Guide

What is a Phytosanitary Certificate?

A Phytosanitary Certificate is an official document issued by the Horticulture and Plant Health Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to indicate that consignments of plants, plant products or other regulated articles meet specified phytosanitary import requirements, and are in conformity with the requirements of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the Importing Country.

When should a Phytosanitary Certificate be required?

Importing Countries should only require phytosanitary certificates for regulated articles. These include commodities such as plants, bulbs and tubers, or seeds for propagation, fruits and vegetables, cut flowers and branches, grain, and growing medium.

Phytosanitary certificates may also be issued for certain plant products that have been processed, where such products, by their nature or that of their processing, have a potential for introducing regulated pests (e.g. wood, cotton). A phytosanitary certificate may also be required for other regulated articles where phytosanitary measures are technically justified (e.g. empty containers, vehicles, and organisms).

Importing countries should not require phytosanitary certificates for plant products that have been processed in such a way that they have no potential for introducing regulated pests, or for other articles that do not require phytosanitary measures.

Applying for a Phytosanitary Certificate

Phytosanitary certificates should only be issued for plants, plant product or other regulated articles. An official statement from the NPPO of Importing Country should be obtained prior to making an application to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine^{1&2}. This statement should confirm the requirement for a Phytosanitary Certificate for the plant, plant product or other article concerned and should also detail any additional declarations that are required.

1. Applicants seeking a Phytosanitary Certificate must first be registered with the Plant Health Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Registration forms are available from “Information Section” of the Horticulture & Plant Health page of this Department’s website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/planthealthtrade/>
2. Application forms for a Phytosanitary Certificate are available from “Information Section” of the Horticulture & Plant Health page of this Department’s website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/planthealthtrade/>

For Further information:

Please contact the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by email – plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie or by telephone on +353 (0)1 5058885.