



09/12/2019

Advisory Note No. 001 : Plant Passports

Advisory Notes (AN) are issued from time to time to advise members on an issue that is current or relevant to them in some way. Advisory Notes may be withdrawn or superseded and updated AN will always render previous ones void.

These are not legal documents and express the considered opinion of the SGD only, for the purpose or raising awareness of a particular topic. If you are affected by the issue in hand, you are advised to make further enquiries and satisfy yourself as to the relevance, or otherwise, of the information contained in the AN.

Introduction

From 14th December 2019 new EU plant passport regulations will come into force. These will potentially affect members who buy and sell plants to their clients. The SGD has been seeking clarification from the HTA and DEFRA on how we may be affected and what our responsibilities will be. We have been advised by the HTA on this subject and believe the information to be correct at the point of publication.

Plant passports are being revised to enable tracking and give a chain of custody for the purposes of biosecurity. They will include movement of plants within the UK, not just on imports or exports. and will apply even to internal movement between the same nursery, unless less than 10 miles.

Crucially, those who sell directly to the end user, such as garden centres, do not have to issue plant passports, so this should also apply to designers selling to their clients, provided they are the end user. The following extract is from Defra document **PHR - (EU) 2016/2031**

PASSPORT CONTENT AND FORMAT UNDER THE NEW PLANT HEALTH REGULATIONS

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/uploads/Plant-Passport-Introductory-Guide-V20112019.pdf>



“If a regulated plant or plant product in the supply chain is at some point destined for a final user who is acquiring plants or plant products for personal use, do I need to passport that plant or plant product?”

Yes. Plants and plant products destined for the final user still need to be pass-ported.

*It is **only** the final stage of the supply chain, where the regulated plant or plant product is sold to the final user who is acquiring them for personal use, where a PP is not required.*

If you are supplying another business you will have to provide PPs even if those plants are destined for a final user who will acquire them for personal use. “

This appears to clarify that providing we are selling plants to the *final user*, we will not need to issue plant passports. You will be required to have and keep plant passport documents from your suppliers and the point of purchase and these records should be retained.

Please note that garden designers, landscapers and professional gardeners etc **are required to make themselves known to Plant Health**, regardless of whether you need to issue PPs or not, as you will be required to keep records, and therefore plant health will need to know about them. Businesses can register for free by filling in the application form (available on the technical section of the SGD website) and sending it to the email address on the form (plantpassportregistration@apha.gov.uk)

DEFRA appears to be implementing a staged approach to the enforcement of passports and it is likely that not all nurseries will be ready to produce these from 12th December.

If you live or work in one of the Protected Zones, things may be different and you should seek clarification from DEFRA.

A few further links on the topic:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/smarter-rules-for-safer-food-srsf/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/uploads/PH-PP-Factsheet.pdf>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621784/plant-passports-protected-zones.pdf

<https://hta.org.uk/assurance-compliance/plant-passporting.html> Some advice available to non HTA members