



To Stakeholders

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Guidance on Plant Health Regulations for the Christmas Tree Trade

The following guidance relates to commercial movement of potted trees (with roots) and cut trees from the genera *Abies* (fir), *Picea* (spruce) and *Pinus* (pine).

For requirements on trade and imports/exports of any other Christmas trees or cut conifer foliage, please contact Plant Health Inspection Branch, via the email planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone on (028) 9052 4168.

1. Importing trees from European Union Member States into Northern Ireland

Cut trees over 3m in height of the genus *Abies*, *Picea* and *Pinus* may only be landed into (and moved on from) Northern Ireland if they have been produced in areas that are designated as protected zones (PZ), or buffer zones, for the bark beetle pests listed in **Section 2** below.

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Cut Christmas trees over 3m in height and any potted conifers (with roots) must carry an attached 'plant passport' with the appropriate protected zone (PZ) designations for the relevant plant health risk [e.g. the EPPO code for spruce sawfly, which should appear on potted spruce tree 'PZ plant passports', is **GILPPO** and the EPPO code for pine processionary moth, which should appear on potted pine tree 'PZ plant passports', is **THAUPI**.]

Cut trees under 3m of any genus landed from EU countries currently have no plant health restrictions (excluding *Pinus* from Portugal, with respect to pine wood nematode).

All potted (rooted) *Pinus* trees must also be notified in advance to DAERA PHIB by completing and returning the relevant form, which can be found via the following link:

[Pre-notification form June2020.pdf \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/pre-notification-form-june2020.pdf)

2. Importing Christmas Trees from England, Scotland or Wales into Northern Ireland

Importations of potted and cut Christmas trees of all heights and types from Great Britain to Northern Ireland must be accompanied by a valid Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) to meet entry requirements and will be subject to a physical inspection at the point of entry (port).

For cut Christmas trees taller than 3 metres, the Phytosanitary Certificate must also feature 'Additional Declarations' (ADs) concerning places of production free from specific bark beetles (as relevant to the tree genus) i.e.

Great European spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*: EPPO code **DENCMI**)

Smaller eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips amitinus*: EPPO code **IP SXAM**)

Large larch pine beetle (*Ips cembrae*: EPPO code **IP SXCE**)

Northern spruce bark beetle (*Ips duplicatus*: EPPO code **IP SXDU**)

Six-toothed bark beetle (*Ips sexdentatus*: EPPO code **IP SXSE**) and

Eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*: EPPO code **IP SXTY**)

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For all cut and potted Christmas trees of any size, the PC must feature ADs concerning places of production free from conifer weevils of the genus *Pissodes* (several species: EPPO codes are various).

These Additional Declarations should be familiar to the inspector at the relevant issuing authority, who can ensure that they are included, as relevant.

Potted trees (i.e., with roots) of the genus *Picea* (spruce) must feature an AD with reference to freedom from spruce sawfly (*Gilpinia hercyniae*: EPPO code **GILPPO**).

Potted trees of the genus *Pinus* (pine) must feature an AD with reference to pine processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*: EPPO code **THAUPI**).

Also, any imports from GB must now be notified to Plant Health Inspection Branch (PHIB) in advance by creating and submitting a CHED-PP through the online system called 'IMSOC' (aka 'TRACES NT').

Please contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch (PHIB) if you are unfamiliar with these requirements.

Also, if you plan to import Christmas trees or conifer cut foliage from other non-EU countries, you should contact DAERA PHIB for guidance on prohibitions and controls.

3. Exporting trees from Northern Ireland to Ireland (or other EU Member States)

The plant passport requirements in point 1 above also apply when this material is traded from Northern Ireland to recipients in the Republic of Ireland and wider EU. In addition, potted tree exports to Ireland of *Abies*, *Picea*, *Pinus* and *Pseudotsuga* must show the passport PZ designation for freedom from Scleroderma canker of conifer (*Gremmeniella abietina*: EPPO code **GREMAB**).

Please note that UK(GB) plant passports are NOT recognised for such movements.

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Contact DAERA PHIB if you are unsure about the need to issue plant passports for Christmas tree exports to Ireland or the EU, or if you have any other specific query.


Supplementary guidance on 'plant passports' is provided below.

Additional guidance for Plant Passports on Christmas trees

Potted Christmas trees (and cut conifers taller than 3m) can only be landed into, or traded from, Northern Ireland if they are accompanied by a plant passport. The passport should be attached to the 'trade unit' of plants. This could be on the individual pot, a tray of equivalent plants, or a trolley of equivalent plants. The passport can be included on the plant information label and it has no minimum size, but it must be readable.

Two examples of acceptable plant passports for any genus of potted Christmas tree are shown below:

	Plant Passport - PZ
A. Pinopsida	GREMAB, GILPPO, THAUPI
B. GB-NI/9990	
C. 2020/Stn1	
D. GB (NI)	

	Plant Passport - PZ		
	GREMAB, GILPPO, THAUPI		
A. Pinopsida	B. GB-NI/9990	C. 2020/Stn1	D. GB (NI)

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At section A, where the taxonomic name of the plant must appear, the term 'Pinopsida' covers all genera of conifers (note: individual genus taxonomic names are also accepted.)

At section B, the unique registration number of the Registered Authorised Professional Operator (RAPO) issuing the passport must appear.

At section C, a traceability code relevant to the nursery, production cycle and/or batch of plants should be shown.

At section D, the country of origin for the plants must be shown.

[The EPPO code **GREMAB** refers to the fungal pathogen *Gremmeniella abietina*. For potted tree exports to Ireland, this code should appear on any passports, as Ireland retains a Protected Zone against this disease. Note: Growers must have undergone the required growing season inspection regime to support the inclusion of this code.]

Please ensure that your suppliers provide fully compliant plant passports (including EPPO codes) with potted Christmas trees. Missing or inadequate passports mean that the inspector is likely to detain the trees.

Yours faithfully,

Graeme Cross

Plant Health Inspection Branch

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