

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE EU PLANT HEALTH LEGISLATION – LIST OF HIGH-RISK PLANTS

These are important changes in the EU plant health legislation from 14 December 2019 onwards and which the European Commission notified to its trade partners via the WTO_SPS channel in January 2019.

For any export to EU from 14 Dec 2019 onwards involving the listed plant commodities i.e. commercial trade, exhibitions or as personal gifts or exchanges, the exporter has to ensure sufficient time is provided for compliance check of their plants to the revised EU Plant Health Import requirements.

For high risk plants, plant products & other objects that require a risk assessment to be conducted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), a longer lead time is required as import approval is subjected to completeness of information to be provided to EFSA by the exporter and the schedule of import risk assessment review by EFSA.

The notification refers to:

1. All plants to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, with exemption of five fruits (bananas, coconuts, dates, durians and pineapples) from 14 December 2019 onwards.

Anyone who intends to export plants to the EU, it is recommended that you contact NParks for application of a phytosanitary certificate. Please allow sufficient time prior to export to ensure that the consignment meets the revised import requirements.

2. A list of high-risk plants, plant products or other objects where the introduction of which will be provisionally prohibited from 14 December 2019 onwards, until a risk assessment has been carried out. Below are the specific procedures of importation of plants included in each category:

- Point 1: Plants for planting (34 genera and 1 species listed in Annex I)
- Point 2: 1 plant (*Ullucus tuberosus* Loz.)

Anyone who wants to export any of the plants listed in Annex I including *Ullucus tuberosus*, it is strongly recommended that you contact NParks in advance with information on the intended export and details of the production site as well as the pest status for a consultation. Specific information is required to be submitted to EFSA in advance for their risk assessment for import consideration. The completion of risk assessment by EFSA is subjected to their schedule of technical review & hence, please allow sufficient time prior to intended export for import risk assessment approval by EFSA.

- Point 3: 1 fruit (*Momordica* L.), in relation to *Thrips palmi* Karny

Specific procedure: This plant is only considered high-risk if identified pest of concern (*Thrips palmi* Karny) is present in the country of origin of the plants. Therefore, the National Plant Protection Organisation(NPPO) of non-EU countries should provide;

- a) an official statement that the fruits originate in a country, or area within a country, as recognised free from *Thrips palmi* Karny.

As *Thrips palmi* is endemic in Singapore ie. there is currently no area in Singapore declared to be free from *Thrips palmi*, specific measures have to be put in place and verified officially by NParks before any area in Singapore is recognised as free from *Thrips palmi*. Anyone who wants to export *Momordica* fruits into EU will have to apply for a Phytosanitary Certificate for export. But before application, you have to show proof that the fruit has been produced in a site declared free from *Thrips palmi*. For any export to EU, it is recommended that you contact NParks in advance for a consultation.

or

- b) data on phytosanitary mitigation measures, as indicated in section 5 of EFSA Technical Report;
 - b (1) Describe phytosanitary mitigation measures of commodity and their effectiveness.
 - b (2) Indicate phytosanitary regulations and inspection systems.
 - b (3) Describe surveillance and monitoring systems of pests associated with commodity.
 - b (4) Indicate volume, frequencies and seasonal timing planned for export.
 - b (5) Describe post-harvest processes and transport systems, including type of packaging material, size, shipping capacity.

Alternatively, you have to provide the above information to NParks for submission to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for their consideration prior to any export.

- Point 4: 1 wood (*Ulmus* L.) in relation to the pest *Saperda tridentate* Olivier.

Specific procedure: This plant is only considered high-risk if identified pest of concern (*Saperda tridentate* Olivier) is present in the country of origin of the plants. Therefore, the NPPO of non-EU countries should provide an official statement that the wood originates in a country, or area within a country, as recognised free from *Saperda tridentate* Olivier in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.

There is no area in Singapore recognised as being free from *Saperda tridentate* (Elm borer) i.e for NParks to issue an official statement that the wood originates from Singapore as recognised free from this pest for export to EU. Interested grower & exporter has to contact NParks to request to submit details of a production area in Singapore to be recognised as being free from *Saperda tridentate* prior to any export to EU. Please allow sufficient time for this as a field survey is required to ascertain this status.

ANNEX I

Plants for planting, other than seeds, in *vitro* material and naturally or artificially dwarfed woody plants for planting, originating from all third countries and belonging to the following genera or species:

Acacia Mill.
Acer L.
Albizia Durazz
Alnus Mill.
Annona L.
Bauhinia L.
Berberis L.
Betula L.
Caesalpinia L.
Cassia L.
Castanea Mill.
Cornus L.
Corylus L.
Crataegus L.
Diospyros L.
Fagus L.
Ficus carica L.
Fraxinus L.
Hamamelis L.
Jasminum L.
Juglans L.
Ligustrum L.
Lonicera L.
Malus Mill.
Nerium L.
Persea Mill.
Populus L.
Prunus L.
Quercus L.
Robinia L.
Salix L.
Sorbus L.
Taxus L.
Tilia L.
Ulmus L.