

Importation of plants and plant products

Document last reviewed February 2024

Enquiries concerning this Instruction:

E-mail: rcpr@revenue.ie

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Prohibition / Restriction	3
3.	Action Required.....	4
4.	Risk Information Form.....	4
5.	Contact Details - Customs	4
6.	Related Documents	5

1. Introduction

Consignments of regulated plants and plant products and other objects (such as second-hand agricultural machinery) from Third Countries (non-EU) must undergo official controls before their entry into free circulation is permitted. Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625 provides for the control of such products being imported into the EU. In Ireland, the competent authority for carrying out these controls is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Revenue's Customs Service assists in the implementation of these controls by referring relevant consignments to DAFM for control.

For the purposes of this manual, the term 'importation' means the movement of plants, plant products and other objects into Ireland from countries other than EU Members States.

2. Prohibition / Restriction

Consignments of plants and plant products must be imported into Ireland from non-EU countries by one of the following methods:

- 1. Via an approved Border Control Post (BCP).**
- 2. Postal/Courier Services including Temporary Storage Facilities (TSF's)**

Imports via approved BCP's: In Ireland, the following locations are designated and approved as BCPs for the purposes of plants, plant products and other objects:

- Dublin Port (IEDUB1-Phyto)
- Dublin Airport (IEDUB4-PHYTO)
- Rosslare Europort (ROS1-PHYTO)

Official controls on relevant consignments must be carried out at the BCP by DAFM before entry into free circulation is allowed. These controls are carried out by the Plant Health inspection team Import Controls Operations Division (ICOD) of DAFM. A list of DAFM: ICOD contacts can be found in the Annex to this manual.

Where there is an attempt to import a commercial consignment of regulated plants, plant products or other objects at an entry point other than an approved BCP (such as Cork Port or Shannon Airport), Customs should detain the consignment and inform DAFM: ICOD who will advise the importer of the correct procedure to follow. Customs will be kept informed of the outcome by DAFM.

Personal consignments of plants or plant products imported by passengers as luggage, should be notified to DAFM plant health inspectors at the relevant BCP.

Imports via Postal/Courier Services including TSF's: Imports of small commercial consignments and personal consignments via e-commerce of plants, plant products and other objects are also permitted through postal and courier services including facilities which are registered with Revenue as TSF's. These include:

- An Post Mail Centres
- Couriers
- TSF's

Official controls on regulated consignments must be carried out by DAFM before entry into free circulation is allowed. These controls are carried out by the Horticulture & Plant Health Division (HPHD) of DAFM. A list of DAFM: HPHD contacts can be found in Annex 2 of this manual. All imports via this method should be notified to plantimports@agriculture.gov.ie who will issue the consignment details to the relevant plant health inspector for clearance/inspection/detention as required.

Where there is an attempt to import plants, plant products or other objects via a service which is not recognised as an official postal/courier service or plants, plant products and other objects are included undeclared with any postal/courier consignment, Customs should detain the consignment and inform DAFM: HPHD who will advise the importer of the correct procedure to follow. Customs will be kept informed of the outcome by DAFM.

3. Action Required

The following material is either exempt from or not required to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

[...]

4. Risk Information Form

The following material is either exempt from or not required to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

[...]

5. Contact Details - Customs

Any general questions on this manual should be directed to:

Customs Prohibitions & Restrictions Unit

rcpr@revenue.ie

6. Related Documents

[Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2031](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2072](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) [Customs Act, 2015](#)

The following material is either exempt from or not required to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

[...]