

## PLANT HEALTH CONTROLS ON PERSONAL IMPORTS OF PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS

*The following is intended as a summary of plant health controls as they apply to plants and plant produce and products imported in travellers' personal baggage. For more information and guidance on plant health controls in general please refer to the Fera booklet 'The Plant Health Guide for Importers' [link to: <http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/publications/plantHealth/documents/importersGuide0909.pdf>] or contact Fera's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate:*

From 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday  
From 9am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday

All other hours:

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The Plant Health (England) Order 2005 and the Plant Health (Forestry)(Great Britain) Order 2005 impose restrictions on the import of trees, plants and plant produce and products, including non-manufactured articles of wood, into England in order to safeguard plant health. Similar legislation applies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Broadly speaking material falls into one of the following categories, according to the risk of introduction of pests and diseases:

- **Unrestricted:** Present little or no risk and are not subject to plant health controls. Includes nearly all flower seeds, some cut flowers and most vegetables for eating (except potatoes).
- **Controlled:** Normally require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the plant protection service of the exporting country. Includes those rooted plants that are not prohibited, trees without roots (e.g. Christmas trees) most fruits, tomato and sunflower seeds and some cut flowers.
- **Prohibited:** Pose such a serious risk that import only permitted under authority of a licence issued by Defra or the Forestry Commissioners. Includes many species of rooted plants and trees from outside Europe.

### Baggage concession (Not applicable to postal imports)

Small quantities of **controlled** material may be imported without phytosanitary certificates providing they are:

- in personal baggage,
- intended for household use and not intended for use in the course of trade or business,
- free from signs of pests and diseases.

Providing these conditions are satisfied **controlled** plants and/or plant products and/or produce may be imported without a phytosanitary certificate by each traveller up to the limits set out below:

### **From non-EU European countries in the Euro-Mediterranean area**

- five plants and
- five tree seedlings, except in bonsai form, and
- 2kg of bulbs, corms, tubers (but not potatoes) and rhizomes and
- 2kg of fruit and vegetables and
- 2kg of *Castanea* (chestnuts), intended for human consumption and
- cut flowers and any parts of plants together forming a single bouquet (maximum of 50 stems), and
- a single spray or wreath of parts of trees including dried cones, leaves and branches for decoration or one cut coniferous tree less than 3 meters in height and, and
- five retail packets of seeds (but not seeds of potatoes) and
- five non-manufactured pieces of wood, without bark, up to 1 metre in length.

**From all other non-EU countries**

- 2kg of fruit and vegetables, and
- cut flowers and any parts of plants together forming a single bouquet (maximum of 50 stems), and
- five retail packets of seeds (but not seeds of potatoes).

## PLANT HEALTH BAGGAGE CONCESSION

Category	From EU countries <sup>(1)</sup>	From Non-EU European countries <sup>(2)</sup>	From Euro-Med countries <sup>(3)</sup>	From all other countries
Plants – citrus & vine	Unrestricted	Prohibited or Controlled	Prohibited or Controlled	Prohibited or Controlled
Plants - other	Unrestricted	5 plants with or without soil	5 plants with or without soil	Prohibited or controlled
Tree seedlings	Unrestricted	5 seedlings with or without soil	5 seedlings with or without soil	Prohibited or controlled
Soil – in association with plants	Unrestricted	5 plants/seedlings	5 plants/seedlings	Prohibited or controlled
Soil - loose	Unrestricted	Prohibited or controlled	Prohibited or controlled	Prohibited or controlled
Fruit - apple, apricot, blackcurrant, blueberry, cherry, cranberry, custard apple, date plum, gooseberry, guava, jambolan, mango, passion fruit, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, quince, redcurrant and rose apple	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	2kg	2kg
Fruit - citrus & kumquat	Unrestricted (does not apply to Switzerland)	2kg (includes Switzerland)	2kg	2kg
Fruit - other than above	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Vegetables - aubergine, bitter cucumber, bitter gourd, celeriac, celery & sweet basil	Unrestricted	2kg	2kg	2kg
Vegetables - other	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Chestnuts - for human consumption	Unrestricted	2kg	2kg	Prohibited or controlled
Seeds - for planting	Unrestricted	5 retail packets (but certain seeds are unrestricted – see Plant Health Guide for Importers)	5 retail packets (but certain seeds are unrestricted – see Plant Health Guide for Importers)	5 retail packets (but certain seeds are unrestricted - see Plant Health Guide for Importers)

Category	From EU countries(1)	From Non-EU European countries(2)	From Euro-Med countries (3)	From all other countries
Cut flowers and foliage	Unrestricted	1 bouquet (but certain cut flowers and parts of plants are unrestricted – see Plant Health Guide for Importers)	1 bouquet (but certain foliage is excluded from the concession and certain cut flowers and parts of plants are unrestricted – see Plant Health Guide for Importers)	1 bouquet (but certain foliage is excluded from the concession and certain cut flowers and parts of plants are unrestricted - see Plant Health Guide for Importers)
Bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes	Unrestricted	2kg (potatoes excluded)	2kg (potatoes excluded)	Prohibited or controlled
Parts of trees for decoration	Unrestricted	1 spray or 1 wreath or 1 tree	1 spray or 1 wreath or 1 tree	Prohibited or controlled
Non-manufactured pieces of wood, without bark, neither planed or sanded or finished with paint stain or preservative	Unrestricted	5 pieces	5 pieces	Prohibited or controlled
Manufactured articles of wood, e.g. statues, wood carvings etc., with or without bark, either planed or sanded or finished with paint, stain or preservative	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted

**(1) EU countries are:**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (**excluding the Canary Islands**), Sweden and the United Kingdom

Andorra, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, San Marino, Switzerland (other than for citrus fruit) and the Vatican City are also treated as part of the EU for the import of plants and plant products.

**(2) Non-EU European countries are:**

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Croatia, Faroe Islands, Macedonia, Gibraltar, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Russian Federation (excluding the regions of Buryat, Yakut, Tuva, the Altai, Khabarovsk, Drasnoyarsk and Maritime Krai, and the Amur, Chita, Irkutsk, Kamchatka, Kemerovo, Kurgan, Magadan, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Sakhalin, Tomsk and Tyumen Oblasts), Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine.

**(3) Euro-Mediterranean countries are:**

Europe, Algeria, Ceuta, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamrahiya, Melilla, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey.