



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 14 December 2023

To: Thorwald Geuze,
Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority of The
Netherlands
PO Box 43006
3540 AA Utrecht
The Netherlands

[NL IPPC Contact Point@nvwa.nl](mailto:NL_IPPC_Contact_Point@nvwa.nl)

New GB requirements for imports of plants for planting of *Capsicum* spp., and *Solanum lycopersicum* L. and its hybrids

Thank you for your email of 23 November 2023 to Sam Bishop regarding the new GB import requirements that were notified in [G/SPS/N/GBR/39](#) on 27 July 2023, which came into effect on 24 November 2023 and apply to exports from the Netherlands and other countries.

I note your concerns regarding compliance with the regulations, given that following sowing, plants on average stay in the nursery for six weeks prior to shipping. In addition, you highlight the potential impacts to Netherlands' suppliers and UK growers, if the certification of consignments of young plants are stopped.

The changes the legislation makes to GB import requirements for imports of plants for planting of *Capsicum* spp. and *Solanum lycopersicum* L. under points 33A and 33B of Annex 7 part A of retained [Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation \(2019/2072\)](#), require that plants for planting of *Capsicum* spp., and *Solanum lycopersicum* L. and their hybrids, must be respectively accompanied by:

Plants for planting, other than seeds, of *Capsicum* spp.

- a) an official statement that the plants have been derived from seed complying with the requirements set out in entry 105B,

and

- b) an official statement that:

- i. the plants originate in an area established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with the measures specified in ISPM4 as an area that is free from Pepper chat fruit viroid,

or
- ii. the plants have been produced in a site of production where, since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation, no symptoms of disease caused by Pepper chat fruit viroid have been observed and where the following actions have been taken:
 - aa) staff and items such as tools, machinery, vehicles, vessels and packaging material from other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Pepper chat fruit viroid have been prevented from coming into contact with the site,

or
 - bb) other appropriate hygiene measures have been taken to prevent infection by staff working, or items used, at other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Pepper chat fruit viroid.

Plants for planting, other than seed, of *Solanum lycopersicum* L. and its hybrids

- a) an official statement that the plants have been derived from seed complying with the requirements set out in entry 105C,

and
- b) an official statement that:
 - i. the plants originate in an area established by the national plant protection organisation in accordance with the measures specified in ISPM4 as an area that is free from Citrus exocortis viroid, Columnea latent viroid, Pepper chat fruit viroid and Tomato planta macho viroid,

or
 - ii. the plants have been produced in a site of production where, since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation, no symptoms of disease caused by Citrus exocortis viroid, Columnea latent viroid, Pepper chat fruit viroid or Tomato planta macho viroid have been observed and where the following actions have been taken:
 - aa) staff and items such as tools, machinery, vehicles, vessels and packaging material from other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Citrus exocortis viroid, Columnea latent viroid, Pepper chat fruit viroid or Tomato planta macho viroid have been prevented from coming into contact with the site,

or

(bb) other appropriate hygiene measures have been taken to prevent infection by staff working, or items used, at other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Citrus exocortis viroid, Columnea latent viroid, Pepper chat fruit viroid or Tomato planta macho viroid

However, it has been noted that it may not have been possible for the requirements in (a) for plants to have been derived from seed compliant with the requirements set out in entry 105B (or 105C, as appropriate) and (b) (ii) concerning pest free site of production since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation to have been met in advance of export to GB. Therefore, we will accept the following additional declaration as an alternative:

Plants were planted before the 1st March 2024 and

(aa) staff and items such as tools, machinery, vehicles, vessels and packaging material from other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Pepper chat fruit viroid have been prevented from coming into contact with the site, or

(bb) other appropriate hygiene measures have been taken to prevent infection by staff working, or items used, at other sites producing solanaceous plants and other host plants of Pepper chat fruit viroid (or Citrus exocortis viroid, Columnea latent viroid, Pepper chat fruit viroid or Tomato planta macho viroid, as appropriate).

Please note that statutory action may be taken against consignments of plants for planting of *Capsicum* spp. and *Solanum lycopersicum* L. accompanied by the phytosanitary certificate without the additional declarations as set out in legislation (detailed above), for plants planted on or after **1 March 2024**. This alternative additional declaration will not be accepted for any consignments despatched after **26th April 2024**.

Citrus exocortis viroid, Columnea latent viroid, Pepper chat fruit viroid or Tomato planta macho viroid have all been GB provisional quarantine pests since 2021 and as such their detection would have resulted in action being taken on the consignment. This will continue to be the case while the alternative additional declaration stated above is being accepted.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Nicola Spence
UK Chief Plant Health Officer