



HM Government

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THE EU

Arable and horticulture farming: Key things you need to know before the UK leaves the EU





Introduction

The Government remains focused on ensuring a smooth and orderly withdrawal from the EU, with a deal, as soon as possible.

An extension has been agreed with the EU until 31 October 2019 at the latest, with the option to leave earlier as soon as a deal has been ratified. If a deal is ratified by both sides before that date, the UK will leave the EU earlier and in that case would leave with a deal.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has continued to prepare and consider the key issues for its stakeholders under all Brexit scenarios.

We have prepared this guide to help ensure that farmers and food producers know what they can do to prepare. The preparation work at Defra, from maintaining trade continuity to ensuring that EU workers can still travel to the UK to work on our farms, is significant.

We would ask you to share this within your networks and with stakeholders, to help the farming and wider agriculture sector to prepare for when the UK leaves the EU.

We will also continue to update our advice on how people should prepare at www.gov.uk/euexitfarming.



If you receive **farm and rural payments** from EU funding:

- EU funding for rural payment schemes, including [Basic Payment Scheme](#) will continue until further notice. To receive payments, you'll need to follow the same process you do now. The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will continue to administer the schemes.
- The Government has confirmed that it will guarantee funding for Countryside Stewardship grants for their lifetime if they are agreed and signed before 31 December 2020 and continue to meet the terms and conditions of their agreement.
- The Government has also guaranteed funding for all other Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) scheme grants, if these are agreed and signed before the 31 December 2020, subject to projects meeting their grant conditions.

If you **employ citizens from outside of the UK**:

- EU citizens can continue to enter the UK and take up work in 2019 and 2020.
- EU citizens who have arrived before the UK leaves the EU, will still be able to apply for Settled Status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#). They will have until the end of December 2020 to make their application.
- If we leave without a deal, EU citizens arriving after we exit who want to stay for more than three months, will need to apply for [European Temporary Leave to Remain](#) to continue working in the UK. This will be granted for a further 36 months, subject to identity, criminality and security checks.

If you **export to the EU**:

There may be changes to how you trade. If we leave without a deal, you will need to:

- obtain a UK Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number;
- obtain an Export Health Certificate for exports of animals and animal products;
- decide whether to hire an import-export agent or make declarations yourself; and
- make sure you (or your export agent) have the right documents for, and route your goods through an EU Border Inspection Post (BIPs).

Avoiding delays at borders is a key priority for everyone. All the [guidance and certificates](#) are available online for you to familiarise yourself with before exit day.

You should consider if your current trade routes could be affected. Information from your exporter should help you understand if there are particular issues that could impact your journey and the welfare of any animals you are transporting.

Visit gov.uk/euexitfarming for more information



If your business exports **plants and plant products to the EU**, and the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need to follow the steps below if the UK leaves the EU without a deal:

- check whether a phytosanitary certificate (PC) is required by reading the [guidance](#). Contact your local APHA plant health inspector on **01904 405 138** or planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk if you are based in England or Wales. [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) use their own plant health authorities;
- apply for a PC from the relevant UK plant health authority before export - if you're based in England and Wales you will need to register on the eDomero system to apply for a PC; and
- check if your plants require laboratory testing of samples, to ensure they are free from pests and diseases during the growing season - contact your local plant health inspector.

If you **export seeds** and the UK leaves the EU without a deal:

You'll need to list the seed variety you're exporting on the EU Common Catalogue.

If you export **seed potatoes and ware potatoes** and the UK leaves the EU without a deal:

The EU will treat the UK as a third country and may prohibit imports of UK seed and ware potatoes. If you think this will affect your business, you should contact your local plant health inspector to find out more.

If you **export organic produce**:

The Government is working hard to secure mutual recognition with the EU so you can continue to export your produce.

Wood Packaging Material:

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, all wood packaging material moving between the UK and the EU needs to be ISPM15 compliant (heat treated and marked). Businesses should check with their pallet suppliers as soon as possible, to ensure compliance with the new regulations. Further guidance can be found [here](#).

Wood, Wood Products and Isolated Bark:

If we leave without a deal, the UK will no longer have access to the EU plant passport regime. Consignments of wood, wood products and isolated bark currently managed under the EU plant passport regime will require a phytosanitary certificate, issued in the country of export. The specific import requirements that need to apply to EU material is explained in the [Plant Health \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#), this and other guidance is available at www.gov.uk/euexitfarming.

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Labelling:

The UK has no control over how food labelling changes will be enforced outside the UK. The EU has issued [guidance](#) confirming that labelling changes will need to be in place from exit day to export to their markets. Other non-EU countries may also require changes to be in place to export to their markets.

Labelling changes required to export your products to the EU when we leave, include:

- EU emblem: You must not use the EU emblem on goods produced in the UK unless you have been authorised by the EU to do so.
- EU health and identification marks: If you export products of animal origin (POAO) from the UK to the EU, you must replace the EU oval health and identification marks with new UK health and identification marks, which are now available which are now available on [the Food Standards Agency website](#).
- Country of origin labels: UK food must not be labelled as origin 'EU'.

Marketing Standards:

There may be changes to the marketing standards for exports of some products to the EU from day one. Some of the products that could be affected include fruit, vegetables, hops and wine.

The Government will shortly be providing further guidance on labelling and marketing standards at www.gov.uk/euexitfarming.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs):

After the UK leaves the EU, the same controls on the environmental release of GMOs will continue to apply and will be implemented by the competent authorities in the UK.

If you use **pesticides and fertilisers** the process will remain the same with or without a deal:

- you'll still be able to buy the same amount and quality of fertilizer; and
- the same pesticide products will continue to be authorised for use in the UK, regulated by the Health and Safety Executive.

Tariffs:

There will be temporary tariffs on some imported products if we leave without a deal. The Government recently [published details of temporary tariffs](#). We advise you to check the rates and quotas to understand how your produce may be affected.

There would be no tariffs on animal feed or fuel which would affect the purchase of these items.

Visit gov.uk/euexitfarming for more information



EU Exit practical support:

Topic	Email	Contact number
Importing and Exporting plants, plant products and seeds	planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk	0190 440 5138
Pesticides including queries regarding potential residues in food and crop spraying	Advice form on the Health and Safety Executive website	0345 933 5577
Environmental protection farming relating enquiries	enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk	0300 060 3900
Food safety and hygiene, including imports of high risk food and feed	helpline@food.gov.uk	020 7276 8829

For more information and the latest advice go to www.gov.uk/euexitfarming.

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