

# Changes in the Plant Health Regulation



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*Together with you we make free trade and access possible in the EU for years now. It is important that we do this to keep it that way. In this flyer you can read about the new EU Plant Health Regulation.*

The plant passport is a familiar concept for years. Yet there is going to change something. The plant passport gets a new face. As of December 14, 2019 you will be faced with new a EU regulation around the plant passport obligation. The new regulation ensures that the layout is recognized more easily and that in the case of infections the possible source is easier to trace.

### **Expansion of plant passport obligation**

The plant passport obligation is being expanded to cover all 'plants for planting'. According to the EU definition, these are plants that can grow into mature plants and are meant to do so. These plants must be planted out, replanted or remain planted. Everything that we currently call propagating material falls under this definition (including seeds), as do all 'consumptive' pot, container, bedding and patio plants. There will be some exceptions, for certain seeds and for sales directly to the final user.

### **Consequence: More companies will have to register**

- Naktuinbouw [Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture] has currently registered 3,000 companies. Around 2,300 of these companies issue plant passports themselves on the basis of an authorisation regime. From December 2019 onwards, all of the companies will have to deal with plant passports under the new legislation. For example, companies with Buxus, conifers and roses.
- In addition, all pot, container, bedding and patio plant growers will be subject to the plant passport obligation. This amounts to 750 production companies in the Netherlands.
- Trading companies (for internal EU trade) selling these products will also have to deal with plant passports.

### **Consequence: Each company will receive a new registration number**


All companies will receive a new plant health registration number in the course of 2018. This includes companies that are already registered with an inspection service.

## Design of plant passport

The plant passport will have a uniform format. Up till now, only the content is prescribed, and you can choose your own lay-out. This is no longer possible with the new legislation. The format is specified in implementing regulation 2017/2313/EU.

There is a set format containing the following fixed elements:

- in the upper left corner: the EU flag (in colour or black&white)
- in the upper right corner: the words 'Plant Passport'
- 'A' + botanical name
- 'B' + ISO-code of member-state, dash, registration number
- 'C' + traceability code
- 'D' + ISO-code of country of origin/production, even if this is the Netherlands.

	<u>xxxxx</u> / Plant Passport		
A <u>xxxxx</u>	B XX – <u>xxxxx</u>	C <u>xxxxx</u>	D XX

The traceability code is an important component. Being able to trace products through the chain receives a lot of attention in the new regulation. For certain end products in the final packaging, for example indoor plants, it is possible that no traceability code will be required. This is still being worked out.

### Consequence: Companies must revise all existing documents/imprints

For example, plant passports and the combined supplier's documents/plant passport.

Take the following into account:

- The plant passport must be affixed to the smallest packaging unit (per pot/ tray/ box, et cetera).
- The plant passport can no longer be combined with a supplier's document.
- The old plant passports remain valid until 14 December 2023. But from 14 December 2019, the new plant passports must be affixed for products that enter into circulation at that point. Therefore, make sure you do not have excess stocks.
- Products that require a passport now must continue to meet the old criteria until 14 December 2019. The old plant passports include the name of the responsible inspection service and the quantity. That is no longer required on the new plant passport.
- Products that will require a passport under the new legislation can probably carry a plant passport already before 14 December 2019. This is still being worked out.