Proposed statutory action against an outbreak of *Tomato brown rugose fruit virus*

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus will be discussed at the EU standing committee on plant health in April 2019. The UK is still a member of the EU and a decision has not been taken on possible import/movement requirements for plants and seed.

In the event of an outbreak in the UK, measures similar to those set out below would be taken. However these are only for guidance, the exact measures would be considered on a case by case basis, taking into account the circumstances of the outbreak. For example, the guidance below does not included the removal of plants before the end of the growing season, there may be cases in which removal of plants is required.

Statutory action would be taken against this virus, therefore any action would be under plant health notice and supervised by the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI)

- Movement of fruit from infected houses would be restricted to direct to retail/wholesale, fruit should not be moved to other production sites for packing unless there are suitable hygiene measure in place to prevent infection of growing crops and these have been approved by the PHSI.

- Movement of staff and visitors into the affected house should be keep to a minimum and movement restricted from the affected house to other houses on site. For example, if there are infected and uninfected houses on the site the infected house should either be worked on by a staff who do not work in other houses or worked last in the day after uninfected houses.

- A hygiene protocol concerning use of protective clothing should be implemented (disposable overalls, gloves, overshoes etc.). Gloves should be changed when moved for visually infected plants in visually uninfected plants in an attempt to slow spread within the house.

- Thorough cleaning and disinfecting of tools used in the infected house should be carried out to slow spread within the house and prevent spread to other houses. Through cleaning and disinfection of the glasshouse should be under taken at the end of the growing season.

When the grower removes the crop and cleans up the glasshouse the following would be required under statutory notice:

- Removal of all the crop and associated plant debris, this can be disposed of by burning, deep burial or composting or possibly other methods in

consultation with the PHSI. If the grower opts to compost infected haulms this should be under the supervision of the PHSI, at a composting facility accredited at BSI PAS 100 standard or by a method approved by the PHSI.

- Associated material such as string and growing media should be removed and destroyed by burning or deep burial. If biodegradable string is being used this can go for composting along with the haulms. Rockwool can be recycled for non-horticultural use.

- Following removal of the plants and associated material it should be ensured that all plant debris has been removed from the glasshouse and the glasshouse should be cleaned with water and detergent to remove traces of organic matter from concrete paths, mypex, pipework and glass etc.. Thorough cleaning of surfaces prior to disinfection is essential as many disinfectants are inactivated by the presence of organic matter.

- Measures should be taken to prevent the germination of self-sown tomato seeds prior to the introduction of the new crop e.g. herbicide or salt treatment of areas where self-sown plants are particularly likely to occur.

- Personnel clearing out the glasshouse should operate full hygiene measures such as disposable gloves, overshoes etc. and disinfection of all equipment and tools.

- After the new tomato crop is planted, regular monitoring should be undertaken to ensure that no self-sown tomato seedlings are growing in or in close proximity to the glasshouse. If any are found these should be removed wearing disposable gloves and both plants and gloves should be disposed of by burial or burning. Early removal is very important as self-sown seedling from the infected crop can transfer this and other diseases to the next crop.