

It has been brought to the attention of the GB Plant Health Authority (Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government) that certain sectors within the potato industry are failing to comply with EU plant health legislation when marketing ware potatoes

We would like to remind **all** in the potato industry that for ware potatoes being moved within GB (including when destined for elsewhere in the EU) **your** unique identification number (UID) must be displayed on all potato sacks and containers or, for loose loaded potatoes, on the vehicle transporting the potatoes.

In most cases, your UID is supplied by the Potato Council and if you are unsure of this please contact the AHDB levy team on 0247 669 2051 for your levy number. For those not registered with the Potato Council (e.g. where only small volumes are grown or traded) you should contact your Plant Health Authority about obtaining a UID. Failure to display your UID number may lead to the consignment being returned or destroyed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the requirements for importing ware potatoes into GB from outside the EU.

- Ware imports from **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey** are allowed into GB but require a phytosanitary certificate (issued by the respective plant health authorities).
- From **Egypt** - in addition to a phytosanitary certificate, companies wishing to pack, wash or otherwise process Egyptian potatoes are required to apply to the relevant UK Plant Health Authority for annual authorisation to be licensed to handle ware potatoes. Specific conditions are imposed by the Authority and imports of ware potatoes are subject to testing for brown rot. The fee for this must be paid for by the importer. If you are interested in applying please contact your PHSI/local RPID area office for further details.
- Ware potatoes originating in the **Akkar and Bekaa regions of Lebanon** are allowed entry into GB with a phytosanitary certificate confirming that they meet the strict requirements set out in the relevant EU legislation. These potatoes will be tested for ring rot and the fee must be paid by the importer. If you are interested in bringing in these ware potatoes please contact your PHSI/RPID area office for further details

- From **Switzerland** – equivalent measures to those for EU countries are in place, which means the potatoes must be accompanied by a registration number.
- Ware potatoes **are prohibited** from all other non-EU countries and will be subject to statutory action, which may include destruction, where found.

In relation to movements into GB from elsewhere in the EU, there are no restrictions, but consignments must be accompanied by a registration number shown on the packaging or with the vehicle in line with the requirements of the Plant Health Directive. In addition, for movements from **Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain**, pre-import notification is required to the relevant Plant Health Authority, but note for **Polish** ware a ring rot test certificate issued by the Polish Plant Health Authority should also accompany the consignment.

These measures are in place to safeguard our seed and ware potato industry, to minimise the risk of introducing and moving harmful organisms and to facilitate effective follow up should problems arise. As you are involved in this sector the onus is on you to familiarise yourself with these requirements.