Changes to plant health import requirements

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Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/826 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of pests and rules on the introduction into, and movement within, the Union territory of plants, plant products and other objects

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) is strengthening its import rules for certain commodities based on recent pest risk assessments and interceptions at EU border controls. This includes the following.

- New, stricter requirements for imports of fresh ginger and turmeric rhizomes from all non-EU countries to prevent the spread of Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum (bacterial wilt). The phytosanitary certificate for each consignment must include a specific Additional Declaration on how pest-free status has been guaranteed (three options available).
- New requirements targeting Gymnandrosoma aurantianum (citrus fruit borer) in citrus fruits from the Americas including Latin America and the Caribbean islands, but excluding Canada and United States . The phytosanitary certificate for each consignment must include a specific Additional Declaration indicating pest-free status has been guaranteed (four options available),. Three of these options must be notified to the EU in advance.

Actions

Public authorities and operators will need to ensure that the necessary measures and inspection services are in place, and are applied efficiently and effectively at all times, to guarantee that exports fully meet the new rules. The COLEAD Guidelines on the Export of Fresh Capsicum can serve as a practical reference.

In the case of both ginger/turmeric and citrus fruit, it is important that the wording of the phytosanitary certificate uses the precise wording set out in Annex of Regulation (EU) 2026/826.

In the case of citrus from the Americas, the EU may, depending on the option chosen, have to be notified in advance in writing before export to obtain official validation of the option selected.

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Timeline

The requirement for additional statements on phytosanitary certificates for ginger and turmeric rhizomes and citrus fruit from the Americas apply from **15 October 2026**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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