

Revision of EU Plant Health Law

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Regulation

[Proposal](#) for a Regulation on multiannual survey programmes, notifications concerning the presence of regulated non-quarantine pests, temporary derogations from import prohibitions and special import requirements and establishment of procedures for granting them, temporary import requirements for high-risk plants, plant products and other objects, the establishment of procedures for the listing of high-risk plants, the content of phytosanitary certificates, the use of plant passports and as regards certain reporting requirements for demarcated areas and pest surveys

What is changing and why?

Regulation [2016/2031](#) (the EU Plant Health Law) establishes rules to protect the EU from harmful organisms (pests) that can affect plants. These include rules that apply to plants and plant products brought into the EU from non-EU countries. The Regulation deals with two main categories of pests: quarantine pests (not commonly found in the EU) and regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs) associated with plants for planting (plants that are intended to be planted or replanted).

The European Commission has reviewed the Regulation after its first 5 years of application, and has identified areas to improve. In particular, the Commission proposes a clearer system to allow non-EU countries to apply for derogations (exemptions) to import bans if they evidence that they can manage the pest risks.

The main proposed changes that would affect exports to the EU include:

- **Temporary derogations:** The EU can restrict imports to manage pest risks. A new procedure would let non-EU countries request a temporary derogation from these restrictions by detailing what steps they are taking to reduce risk. If approved, these exemptions would last up to 5 years. They would be reviewed annually based on the exporting country's pest risk management reports.
- **High-risk plants listing:** The Commission will clarify the procedure for listing high-risk plants in order to increase transparency.
- **Official attestations:** The new proposal allows the Commission to specify what information non-EU countries must include in official attestations (alternatives to phytosanitary certificates used in some circumstances). They would no longer have to limit these details to what is included in the international standards.

- Phytosanitary certificates: Today, non-EU countries have to state in the phytosanitary certificate which option from a list of measures they are taking to manage some quarantine pests. They will now also have to do this for RNQPs.

Actions

Feedback on the proposal can be submitted via the Commission's webpage on [Targeted amendment of the Plant Health Regulation](#) until **26 December 2023**.

Timeline

The proposal will be discussed and amended by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. This usually takes 18–24 months, but may take longer due to the European Parliament elections in June 2024. The new rules may only take effect in 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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