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To: NFU (plus NFU Scotland and Wales), AHDB, BPTA, PPA,
FPSA, FPC, FUW, UFU, NIPMA, AFSB

Date: 9 March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

EPITRIX

As we are in the period when imports of potatoes will increase, I am writing to remind you of the importance of complying with UK requirements for potatoes imported from Spain and to make you aware of a new contingency plan on *Epitrix*. As a reminder, I have also included details of the requirements for importing potatoes (including seed) from other locations.

In response to interceptions showing evidence of the presence of *Epitrix* on potatoes from Spain, national measures remain in force requiring that such potatoes must be washed before import to the UK. The only exceptions are for potatoes clearly identified as originating from the Balearic Islands, where the risk of *Epitrix* presence is much lower than on the Spanish mainland, and potatoes from *Epitrix* demarcated areas which are accompanied by a plant passport and which may be brushed free of soil rather than washed.

The UK Plant Health Services will be continuing to monitor introductions of potatoes from Spain and will be carrying out targeted checks. Good compliance with the statutory notification scheme is encouraged, to help protect the industry as a whole.

I would like to draw your attention to a new contingency plan on *Epitrix* which has been published on the Plant Health Portal at <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/contingency-planning/>. This describes the actions expected to be taken in the event of an *Epitrix* interception or outbreak. Further information about *Epitrix* is also available on the Plant Health Portal at:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/epitrix-pest-alert.pdf>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/epitrix-potato-flea-beetle-factsheet.pdf>

We would welcome your help in the following ways:

- Disseminating this information to your members.
- Encouraging vigilance amongst your members.
- Encouraging good compliance with the statutory notification scheme, to facilitate inspections.
- Although not part of the notification scheme, it would help if importers could specify whether consignments have been washed when making their notifications.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recap on the requirements for importing seed and ware potatoes entering the UK from other sources. These are described in the Annex.

We look forward to your continuing co-operation and collaboration to help keep this damaging potato pest and other quarantine organism that the UK are free from.

Yours faithfully



Richard McIntosh
Assistant Chief Plant Health Officer
Defra, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ

Annex: import requirements

Common name	Origin	Requirement
Seed potatoes	Poland	Pre-import notification and accompanied with official ring rot test certificate
	Other EU	Pre-import notification and accompanied by a plant passport/official certificate
	All non –EU countries	Prohibited, except from Switzerland where equivalent measures to those for EU countries are in place
Ware potatoes	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, Akkar and Bekaa regions of Lebanon)	Phytosanitary Certificate
	Poland	Pre-import notification, accompanied with official ring rot test certificate and registration number
	Portugal, Romania and any part of Spain which is within the European Union	Pre-import notification and accompanied by a registration number
	Other EU countries and Switzerland	Accompanied by registration number
	Other non-EU countries	Prohibited