EU Plant Health Law Proposals

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The Scottish Government

Outline

- Background to EU Plant Health Regime
- Update on ‘Official Controls’ and ‘Plant Reproductive Material’ proposals
- Key issues
- Update on recent developments
- Impact on Potato Sector
- What next?

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EU Plant Health Regime

- Directive 2000/29/EC, the Plant Health Directive
- To prevent the introduction into and spread within the EU of pests and diseases harmful to plants and plant products
- Facilitate trade within the EU
- EU Review of current regime commenced 2009
- Commission issued new PH proposals in May 2013

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What are UK aims?

- Faster decision making (to get ahead of new pests)

- Better risk targeting:
  - Regionalisation, where technically justified by difference of risk,
  - More focus on higher risk plants for planting,
  - Introduction of precautionary controls in relation to new and emerging trades

- Better collaboration between Plant Health services across the EU.

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Commission's aims

- More proactive emphasis on prevention and preparedness
- Greater recognition of global context
- Risk targeted
- Need for public awareness of threats
- Need for partnership working between official services and other stakeholders
- Need for greater collaboration between MS's

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Smarter Rules for Safer Food

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Progress on Official Controls & PRM

Official Controls

- Completed negotiation at Council Working Group level
- Text now being discussed by ‘Attachés’
- Main outstanding issue is mandatory ‘Charging’
- UK position remains that MS’s should have ability to determine approach to charging

PRM

- PRM proposals been withdrawn by the Commission
- No information at this stage about alternative plans

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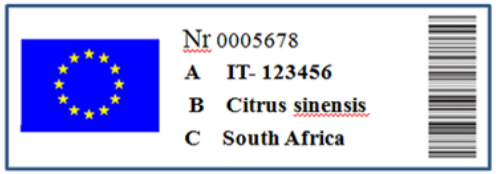
Progress with Plant Health Law – Issues for UK

- Import Strategy
- Registration
- Plant Passporting
- Passenger Baggage Concession
- Tertiary legislation



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Plant Health Law issues
Registration

- Clarify scope and when obligations begin and end
- Statutory obligation to register and update information
- Need to ensure procedures and required data is justified and risk based
- Enable use of existing registers
- Exemptions for small quantities, how to establish risk posed?

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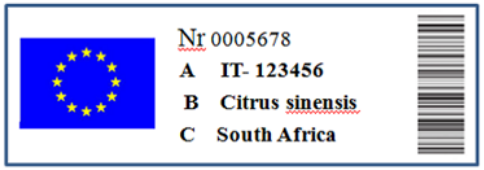
Plant Health Law issues
Plant Passport

- Scope extended to all plants for planting
- Authorised operators to demonstrate competence
- Prescriptive format for passports
- MS views split between light touch approach for plants ready for sale to final user versus need for traceability



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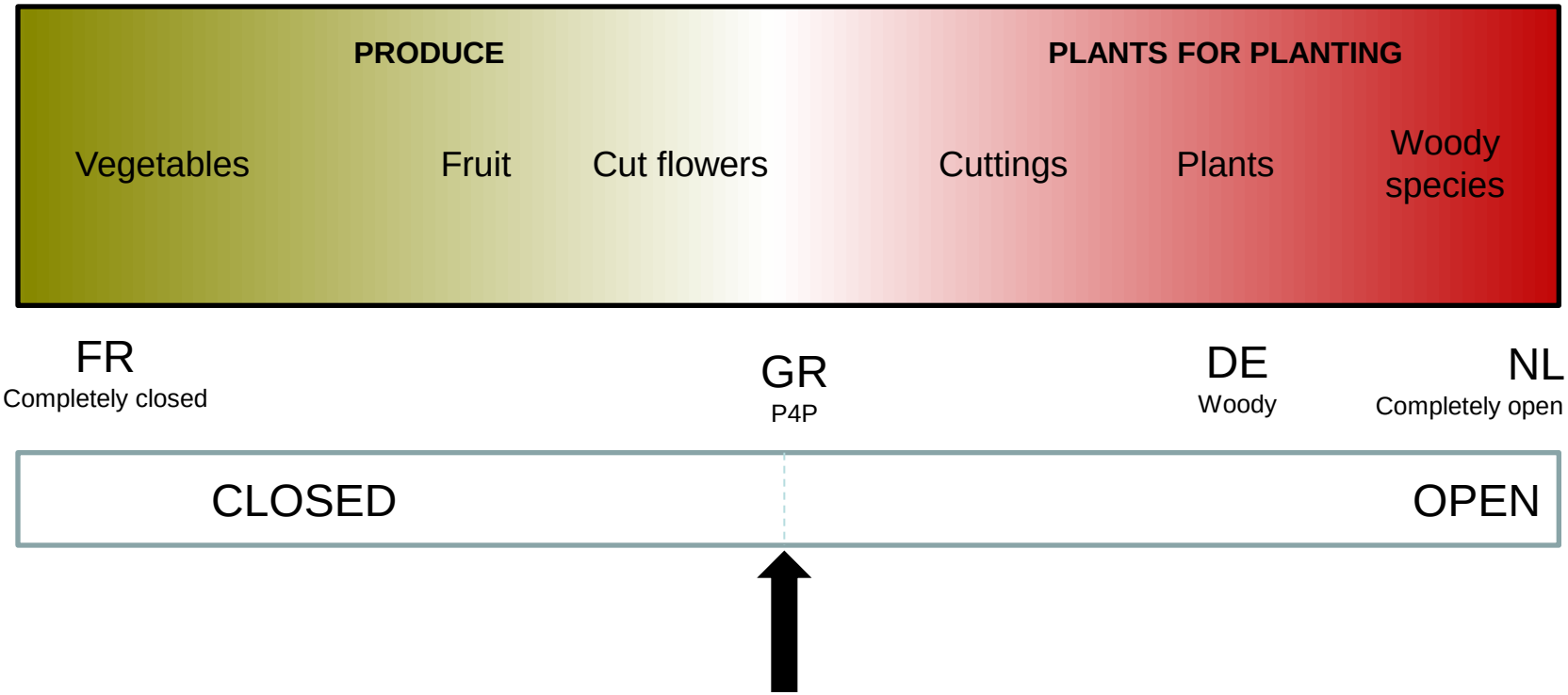
Plant Health Law issues
Imports

Lower risk
Higher volume

Higher risk
Lower volume



WHERE ALONG THE CONTINUUM?

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Impact on Potato Sector

- Registration obligation to include all potato growers, requiring annual update of premises
- New prescribed format of certification labels when used in combination with PP
- Tightened import controls
- Potato Control Directives (BR/RR/PCN/Wart) will remain but will require to be brought in line with new PH regulations

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What next?
EU

- Council Working Party meetings under the Latvian Presidency completed on 3-4 June
- Proposals currently with ‘attachés’
- Trilogue discussions anticipated to begin late summer/Autumn 2015
- Agreed text expected by mid-2016

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What next?
UK

- Anticipate implementation of new EU Plant Health law in 2019/2020
- This provides 3-year transition phase once new Law adopted – to develop & agree Implementing and Delegated Acts – and period for implementation
- Use the UK Plant Health Advisory Forum to continue consultation/discussion with industry
- Government will also continue to work closely and continue to develop bi-laterals with other MS's

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Questions?

- Happy to take any questions

- Couple of points to consider:
  - Registration?
  - Farm Saved Seed?

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