



WARE POTATO MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2016 CROP

1. GENERAL PLANT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The Marketing of ware potatoes is governed by the Marketing of Potatoes Regulations (NI) 1989 as amended and the Marketing of Potatoes Act (NI) 1964 as amended. Plant health matters are determined by the Plant Health Order (NI) 2006 as amended. Fees are set in the Marketing of Potatoes (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

1.1 Exports to EC Countries

Phytosanitary (plant health) certificates are not required for intra-Community trade.

For potatoes moving within the EC (inc within GB and NI) “trace-back” controls are in operation. Growers must put their plant health registration number on each package or in the case of loose loaded potatoes transported in bulk, on the documents accompanying the load. Name and address can also be included.

Where a trader replaces the grower’s registration number on any consignment with his own registration number, he should keep records, which enable the origin of the consignment to be verified. Where consignments are mixed before further trading the packer must use his own registration number on the packaging and documents and keep similar records so that the origin of the consignment can be traced.

1.2 Exports to non-EC Countries

Ware potatoes for shipment to non-EC countries must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by Plant Health Inspection Branch. This also applies to shipments to the Canary Islands.

1.3 Exporting merchants are advised to give growers a reasonable amount of time to grade and pack consignments in order to allow at least two days for “curing” prior to farm inspection, sealing and loading for despatch. This is particularly important for shipment in containers.



- 1.4 All ware potatoes supplied must conform to at least the prescribed minimum standards of size and quality, and be packaged and labelled, as specified in the Marketing of Potatoes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989, (SR 1989 No. 221).
- 1.5 Merchants are reminded that, where necessary, ware potatoes must conform to any higher or additional standards of quality, health and packaging set by the importing country. They should also ensure compliance with any other conditions and regulations of the importing country.
- 1.6 Ware Potatoes for Shipment
- (a) to EC Countries (inc GB and ROI) do not have to be inspected or sealed and do not require a phytosanitary certificate;
- (b) to all other destinations must be inspected and sealed on the farm of origin to enable a phytosanitary certificate to be issued.

Notes

- (i) For consignments at (a) above, sealing may be carried out on request.
- (ii) A prescribed fee £4.30 per tonne or part of a tonne is payable when consignments are sealed.

Further Requirements for the export of ware to the Canary Islands and other Non EC countries

2. STANDARDS OF PACKAGING

- 2.1 Packages of potatoes and any packing materials used in them must be:-
- (a) new, clean and non-toxic; and





- (b) sufficient to avoid any external or internal damage to the potatoes contained in the package.

2.2 The contents of each package or lot must:-

- (a) be of a uniform size;
- (b) contain potatoes from the same country of origin; and
- (c) contain potatoes of which at least 98% by weight are of the same variety.

2.3 Where a lot of potatoes consists of more than one package, each package in that lot must, as far as practicable, be of the same weight. Merchants intending to ship ware potatoes in 500 kg or 1000 kg bags must inform the local inspector of their intention prior to the commencement of packing to facilitate inspection. For the 2016 crop the plastic seals will continue to be used on these bags.

3. SIZE

3.1 Maincrop Potatoes

Potatoes shall not pass through a square mesh of 35 mm by 35 mm other than in the case of a variety of potatoes whose average length is at least twice its average width.

3.2 Limits of Tolerance

- (a) Not more than 3% by weight shall fail to comply with these standards;
- (b) NO POTATOES SHALL PASS THROUGH A SQUARE MESH OF 28 MM BY 28 MM.

These tolerances apply to the contents of each package – ie if the label indicates the size, as 40 mm by 60 mm not more than 3% by weight should fail to meet the size stated and none should be smaller than 28 mm by 28 mm.





4. LABELLING

4.1 The particulars listed in paragraph 4.2 must be:-

- (a) on a label which is secured to the fastening of the package; or
- (b) on a label placed inside the package, which must be legible from outside the package; or
- (c) legibly and indelibly marked directly on one side of the package.

4.2 The name and address of the packer or, if appropriate the dispatcher, and, if shipped by a licence-holder, his name, trade brand or licence number.

The grower's or merchant's plant health registration number (see paragraph 1.2 above).

Northern Ireland Table Potatoes
Variety
Net Weight
Date of Packing
Chemical treatment if appropriate

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RECORD THE ABOVE INFORMATION

4.3 Merchants are recommended to use labels similar in size to the official EC seed potato passport – 110 mm x 76 mm approx. – with a layout as illustrated below.





FRONT

<p>MERCHANT and/or TRADE BRAND</p> <p>ADDRESS</p>
<p>PACKED BY: (NAME AND ADDRESS)</p> <p>GROWER'S OR MERCHANT'S PLANT HEALTH REGISTRATION NUMBER: UK/NI</p>

BACK

<p>NORTHERN IRELAND TABLE POTATOES</p>
<p>Variety</p> <p>Net Weight</p> <p>Date of Packing</p> <p>CHEMICAL TREATMENT IF APPROPRIATE</p>

4.4 Merchants should make their own arrangements to have labels printed. Labels, which have been stitched to bags, must be tear resistant. They must not be re-used.



5. IMPORTING COUNTRIES' REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Merchants should ensure compliance with any conditions and regulations imposed by the importing country. **Merchants or their agents should make contact with officials from the importing country to ensure that all additional requirements to be met are understood. Merchants should communicate these requirements to the grower responsible for grading consignments.**
- 5.2 For the Canary Islands and countries outside the European Community, the fields in which the ware potatoes were grown must have been sampled and been found free from Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN).
- 5.3 Ware potatoes for export to Russia (either directly or via another Member State) must have a PCN consignment test carried out in store after harvest. This consignment test will be carried out in addition to any pre planting PCN field test.

6. CHEMICAL TREATMENT

- 6.1 If the potatoes have been chemically treated, the name of the chemical used must be stated on the phytosanitary certificate. Chemical treatment should also be included on a label attached to each package.

7. INSPECTION

- 7.1 All potatoes for shipment to non-EC destinations and the Canary Islands must be:-
- (a) inspected and sealed on the farm;
 - (b) re-presented for check inspection if they have been in storage more than 14 days after sealing.
- 7.2 The necessary documents (MP3 and shipping document) must accompany each load. The shipping document must show the quantity (number of bags), the country of destination and the names of the stevedore firm and shipping agent handling the cargo or containers. Lots presented without proper documents will not be accepted. Lots may be finalised on the farm.

8. TRANSPORTATION

- (i) When cargoes are laid down in sheds, there should be heavy tarpaulin-type covers and/or heating equipment sufficient to prevent frost damage.
- (ii) Non-insulated containers are satisfactory provided the floor, sides and tops of the bags are adequately protected from frost and condensation by the use of insulative materials, eg corrugated cardboard. These containers should not be left outdoors during frosty weather after loading.

9. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES

9.1 Ordering Phytosanitary Certificates

At least 2 working days notice in writing should be given by the supplying merchant to the Department's Plant Health Inspection Branch. Applications should be emailed where possible using the application form and email address available from the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/seed-potatoes Details given should include consignor, variety, quantity, grower's plant health registration number, Northern Ireland port of shipment, consignee and eventual destination. Incomplete applications may be returned to the applicant. **UNLESS SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE IS GIVEN A PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE MAY NOT BE ISSUED.**

9.2 **Please note that the Department can no longer receive faxed applications.**

9.3 The Department will not:

- (a) Issue phytosanitary certificates at variance with those already agreed and normally accepted by customer countries, unless the shipping merchant has reached **PRIOR** agreement with Plant Health Inspection Branch **BEFORE** finalising the transaction with the customer;
- (b) Issue a phytosanitary certificate until it has received confirmation of shipment by the provision of a copy of the Bill of Lading or other communication.



10. VARIATIONS FROM THESE ARRANGEMENTS

Variations from the above arrangements will not normally be permitted, however, requests for minor variations **PRIOR TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION** will be considered.

11. It is the responsibility of the merchant to inform his haulier or agent of the shipping arrangements.

12. REBATES OF TUBER INSPECTION FEES

Businesses that export seed or ware potatoes out of the UK from Northern Ireland may be entitled to a rebate of tuber inspection fees paid to DAERA .

DAERA no longer print Rebate Claim forms (MP138) in booklet form but have produced a version on the DAERA website for growers and merchants to use.

More information on rebates including a claim form can be found on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/seed-potatoes.

13. **THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FOR GENERAL GUIDANCE ONLY. DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL SHIPMENTS TO NON-EC COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION BRANCH, ROOM 1022, DUNDONALD HOUSE, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BELFAST, BT4 3SB (TELEPHONE 028 9052 4874).**

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