

BALI members reminded of the need to register with Defra

BALI would like to remind landscape contractor and landscape designer members of the need to register with their competent authority (Defra in England, SASA in Scotland, DAERA in Northern Ireland) as a professional operator. This requirement was introduced by European Union legislation in December 2019 and applies to all member countries including those in the transition phase of EU membership.

The definition of professional operator includes any person involved professionally in, and legally responsible for, one or more of the following activities concerning plants, plant products and other objects:

- Planting
- Breeding
- Production, including growing, multiplying and maintaining
- Introduction into, and movement within and out of, the Union territory
- Making available on the market
- Storage, collection, dispatching and processing

The definition is sufficiently broad to encompass most businesses in the landscape industry. Registration is intended to improve traceability of plant pests and disease, and places additional responsibilities on the registered business.

Registered operators are required to keep a record of all plants they receive which require a plant passport. The aim of this record is to ensure the operator, if required, can identify which professional operator (a professional operator is a business authorised to issue plant passports) supplied them with a specific consignment of plants (commonly called a trade unit).

Technical Officer Owen Baker Tel: +44(0)24 7669 0333 owen.baker@bali.org.uk

This record should include the following:

- The entire passport (either in physical or digital form)
OR
- Supplying operator's registration number (Part B on the plant passport)
- The plants supplied (Part A on the plant passport)

AND

- The dates each consignment (trade unit) was received from professional operator
- Client you supplied the plants to

Records should be retained for 3 years and may be kept either physically or digitally.

Reference documents:

Example of plant passport document:

<https://images.app.goo.gl/98GyeXE6yCXaLmLQA>

Flowchart: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/uploads/Flowcharts-Online-PDF.pdf>

Plant passport introductory guide:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/uploads/Plant-Passport-Introductory-Guide.pdf>

Technical Officer Owen Baker Tel: +44(0)24 7669 0333 owen.baker@bali.org.uk

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NHSS
national highway sector schemes
Sector Scheme 18 Administrator



Members of the APPGHG
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