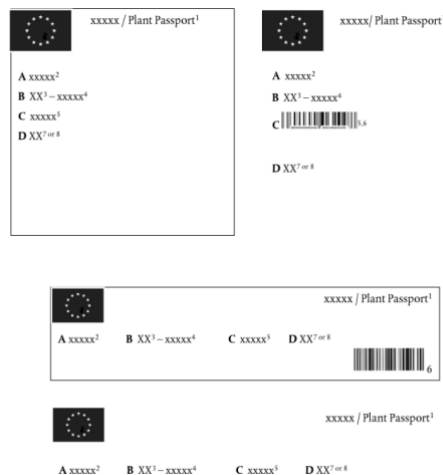


Smarter rules for safer food

The smarter rules for safer food (SRSF) is a set of EU regulations which aim to protect the EU against animal disease and plant pests. SRSF will apply in EU member states from 14th December 2019 with the aim of developing a more resilient mechanism for trading plants.

The elephant in the room, of course, is the continued uncertainty regarding the United Kingdom's membership of the EU; the precise details of any long-term arrangement between the UK and EU have still not been decided.



Following an extension of the Brexit deadline until 31 January 2020, the UK will remain in the UK for a little while longer, which means that – as an EU member – the UK will adopt the regulations within contained with the Smarter rules for safer food framework.

A key theme surrounding the smarter rules for safer food (SRSF) scheme is the greater scope of plant passport use. Currently, plant passports are used on consignments of plants which pose a particular risk to the biosecurity of an EU country. In the new SRSF system, the plant passport system will be expanded significantly. The list of plant, plant products and other objects for which a plant passport is required is under constant review. The current list may be reviewed here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiative/11932/publication/5735481/attachment/090166e5c6c5b24e_en

Under the SRSF scheme, plant passports must be issued by nurseries and wholesalers to landscape professionals. The plant passport must be attached to the smallest trade unit at the relevant marketing stage e.g. if a business sells plants on a pallet, trays or in boxes, the plant passport must be attached to each of these units.