

FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIALS

Northern Ireland's Forest Reproductive Materials (FRM) regulations currently implement the EU Council Directive 1999/105/EC which sets out the controls that apply to the marketing of forest seeds and plants within the EU.

The Forest Reproductive Material Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002/404 (the Principal Regulations) has been amended by The Forest Reproductive Material (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019/50. This regulation was made on 20 March 2019 and came into operation on 22 March 2019. The amendments made by SR 2019/50 are as follows;

EU Approved Third Countries

The amendment recognises Canada, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America as EU approved third countries having equivalent forest reproductive material regulations. Master Certificates issued in these countries by the official bodies are now acceptable for imports of Forest Reproductive Material.

National Register

Forest reproductive material in production must have a reference number which is the same number as in the National Register. This refers to a single unit of production identified by the National Register number.

Advance Notification of Landing

No person may import consignments of FRM into Northern Ireland from an EU approved third country unless the Department is given notice in writing of the anticipated point of entry and the date and time of arrival. The notice must be submitted to the Department three days before its intended date of arrival into Northern Ireland. Once the Department is satisfied that all requirements have been met a Master Certificate for the material will be issued to the owner.

Master Certificate

No person can market in Northern Ireland forest reproductive material produced in an EU approved third country and imported into Northern Ireland from a third country unless a Master Certificate has been issued by the Department. This also applies to material that is not being marketed.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The UK has joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. This is an internationally recognised scheme and will help to demonstrate EU equivalence.

All consignments of permitted material from an EU approved third country must be accompanied by an OECD certificate of Provenance or a document completed by the supplier of the consignment providing the suppliers name and all information contained in the OECD Certificate of Provenance.

Each seed lot must have an OECD label attached to each consignment of planting stock and any supplier's document accompanying the seed lot must include the percentage by weight of pure seed, the germination percentage of pure seed, the weight of 1000 pure seeds, the number of germinable seeds per kilogram of the seed and the species purity.

For enquiries relating to the FRM regulations, Basic Material (e.g. new applications for approval or changes to existing details), please contact: Forest Service Plant Health Inspection Branch, Room 1019, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast BT4 3SB.
Tel: 028 90524604, Mob: 07825224282, email: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/forestry