



Border Force

Bringing fruit, vegetable and plant products into the UK

Don't break the law

Check the rules before you travel



There are very strict controls on what fruit, vegetable and plant products you can bring into the European Union (EU). This is because food and plants can carry pests and diseases, which can devastate our environment, and our agricultural and horticultural industries. The Foot and Mouth outbreaks in 2001 and 2007 showed what a damaging effect an animal or plant disease can have on communities, business and the economy.

Within the EU, you can bring in any plant products – as long as they are grown in an EU country, are free from pests and diseases and are for your own consumption.

But if you are travelling from a country outside the EU, many products have weight and quantity restrictions or are banned completely unless you have obtained the relevant official certificate or licence.

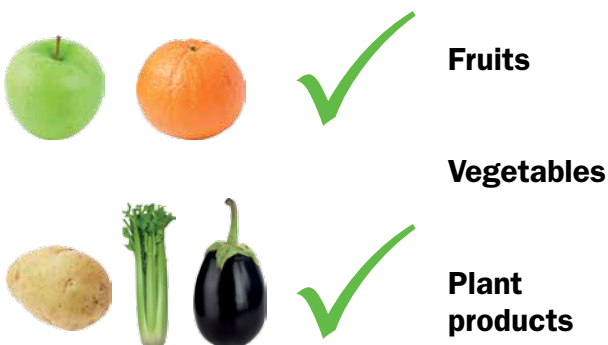
Please note that the restrictions detailed in this leaflet will vary depending on where you are travelling from, and not where the item was grown or purchased.

About this leaflet

This leaflet is not comprehensive and will only give you a summary of the rules. Because pests and diseases can occur very suddenly, these rules can change at any time without notice. For up-to-date information, contact the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) – their contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

Travelling from a country within the European Union (EU)

If you are travelling from a country within the EU (see the list below), you can bring in any fruit, vegetables or plant products – as long as they are grown in any of these countries, are free from pests and diseases and are for your personal consumption.



EU Countries are:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus (but only goods from areas effectively controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the UK (including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands)

For these purposes, EU countries also include:

Andorra, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, San Marino, Switzerland

'Please note that for these purposes, Gibraltar and the Canary Islands do not count as being part of the EU.'

Travelling from outside the European Union (EU)

If you are travelling from a country outside the EU, many products you may bring in for personal use have weight and quantity restrictions.

There are separate rules for commercial imports including Merchandise in Baggage when you will need certain licences to bring them in. For more information, contact Fera – see contact details on the back of this leaflet.

However, certain European and Mediterranean countries (see the list below) have fewer restrictions on some of the products.



Allowed



**Restricted –
check what
you can
bring in**



Banned

Certain European and Mediterranean countries include:

Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Ceuta, Croatia, Cyprus (the area not effectively controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus), Egypt, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamrahiya, Liechtenstein, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of), Melilla, Moldova (Republic of), Morocco, Norway, Russia (but only parts of – please check), Serbia and Montenegro, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine



Vegetables

Aubergine, bitter cucumber, bitter gourd, celeriac, celery and sweet basil.



'All other vegetables'



Fruit

Apple, apricot, blackcurrant, blueberry, cherry, citrus fruits (all), cranberry, custard apple, date plum, gooseberry, guava, jambolan, kumquat, mango, passion fruit, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, quince, redcurrant and rose apple.



'For restricted Fruit and Vegetables a maximum combined weight of **2kg per person**, unless accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate.'



'All other fruit'



Potatoes and potato seeds



Sweet Chestnuts

From listed European and Mediterranean countries you are allowed a combined weight of **2kg per person**.



'All other countries'



Seeds for planting (but not potato seeds)

You are allowed to bring a maximum of **five retail-packed packets of restricted seed** without a phytosanitary certificate. Please note that not all seeds are restricted. For a complete list of seeds that are restricted, contact Fera – their details are on the back of this leaflet.



Soil (loose)



Bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes for planting (excluding potatoes)

From listed European and Mediterranean countries you are allowed a combined weight of **2kg per person** unless accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate.



'All other countries'



Citrus and vine plants





Other plants or tree seedlings with or without soil

From listed European and Mediterranean countries, you are allowed a maximum of 5 plants unless accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate.



'All other countries'



Cut flowers and foliage

You are allowed to bring one bouquet of restricted cut flowers (up to 50 stems) without a phytosanitary certificate.



Please note that not all cut flowers are restricted. For details of which flowers that are restricted, contact Fera – their details are on the back of this leaflet.



Parts of trees used as decoration such as spray, wreath or Christmas tree



From listed European and Mediterranean countries, you are allowed a maximum of 1 spray, wreath or 1 cut Christmas Tree (up to 3m in height) restricted foliage without the need for a phytosanitary certificate.



'All other countries'



Natural wood – non-manufactured wood



From listed European and Mediterranean countries, you are allowed a maximum of 5 pieces without bark, each no more than 1 metre in length.



'All other countries'



Any manufactured articles of wood



Declaring your items

It is important that you declare any fruit, vegetable and plant products that you are bringing in from outside the EU.

If you are unsure about any of the products you are bringing in, speak to a Border Force Officer in the red channel or on the red point phone. If you declare any banned or restricted plant products to us, we will take away and destroy them and no further actions will be taken. If you are bringing in more than you are allowed, we will seize the whole amount.

Carrying goods that are banned is illegal, and there are heavy penalties for smuggling. If you fail to declare any items that are not permitted, you could face severe delays, fines or prosecution.

Other prohibited and restricted items

Meat, dairy and other animal products

If you are travelling from a country outside the EU, you are not allowed to bring in any meat and dairy products. You may be allowed to bring in a small quantity of other animal products, such as fish, bivalves (such as oysters, clams and mussels), eggs and honey, but this depends on where you are travelling from.

See the leaflet 'Bringing food products into the UK' for an overview of the restrictions. Available to download from www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk/food

For more information and advice, please contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on 08459 335 577. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Endangered animals or plants

Regardless of where you are travelling from, you are not allowed to bring back parts of endangered animal or plants to the UK without the correct permits. This also includes caviar, ivory, skins, hides and shells, and any products made from them.

For more information and advice, contact the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/internationally/cites or call them on +44 (0)117 372 8749 – lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

Other items

There are other items, such as alcohol, tobacco, perfume, which are restricted if you are travelling from certain countries, and some items, such as unlicensed drugs and weapons, which are banned completely.

For information about other prohibited and restricted items, see our booklet 'Travelling to the UK'.

www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods

More information

For more information about the rules referred to in this leaflet, contact the Plant Health Service of the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)

+44 (0)844 248 0071

Visit: **www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/imports**

Email: **planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk**

Visit: **www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk/plants**