



Border Force

# Bringing fruit, vegetables 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 recent discovery of infection of native ash trees by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* have shown what a damaging effect plant pests and 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 use or consumption. However, there are important exceptions to this general rule - you are not allowed to bring in any of the following if they are intended for planting:

- plants and seeds of *Fraxinus* (Ash) and *Castanea* (Sweet chestnut);
- plants of *Platanus* (Plane).

But If you are travelling from a country outside the EU, many products are banned completely or are restricted by weight and quantity. If you are bringing in restricted products in larger amounts than the prescribed limits for your own use, you must obtain the relevant phytosanitary document from the plant health authorities in the country where the product was grown to show that it is free from pests and diseases.

Please note that the restrictions detailed are based on where the material was grown and purchased from, not where you are travelling from.

## About this leaflet

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

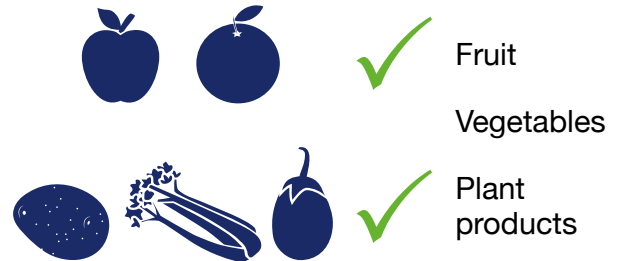
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There are separate rules for commercial imports of certain plants and plant products including merchandise in baggage when you will need a phytosanitary document issued by the source country to bring them in. For more information, contact the APHA.

## 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, other than plants and seeds of *Fraxinus* (Ash) and *Castanea* (Sweet chestnut) and plants of *Platanus* (Plane) intended for planting – 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, Croatia, 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 and the Vatican City. Please note that for these purposes, Gibraltar and the Canary Islands do not count as being part of the EU.

## Travelling from a country 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.

If you are bringing in these restricted products in larger amounts than the prescribed limits for your own use, you must obtain the relevant phytosanitary document from the plant health authorities in the country where the product was grown to show that it is free from pests and diseases.

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, 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



### Potatoes and potato seeds



Aubergine, bitter cucumber, bitter gourd, celeriac, celery and sweet basil - a maximum combined weight of 2kg per person.



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 - a maximum combined weight of 2kg per person.





All other fruit

Please note that the combined weight of 2kg per person applies to any mixture of restricted fruit and restricted vegetables.



### Seeds for planting (but not potato seeds)

You are allowed to bring a maximum of five retail packed packets of restricted seed. Please note that not all seeds are restricted. For a complete list of seeds that are restricted, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – their details are on the back of this leaflet.



**Seeds of Fraxinus (Ash) and Castanea (Sweet chestnut) for planting.** You are not allowed to bring seeds of these trees for planting.



**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.



All other countries



**Ash, 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.



All other countries



### **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 restricted foliage forming 1 spray, wreath or 1 cut.

Christmas Tree (up to 3m in height) restricted foliage.



### **Cut flowers and foliage**

You are allowed to bring one bouquet of restricted cut flowers (up to 50 stems).

Please note that not all cut flowers are restricted. For details of which flowers that are restricted, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – their details are on the back of this leaflet.



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. There is no restriction on tropical hardwood from other countries (check CITES regulations however) but certain other natural wood and bark is restricted. For details of which types of wood and bark are restricted, consult the Forestry Commission website address at back of this leaflet.



All other countries



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## Any manufactured articles of wood



## Declaring your items

There is no need to declare any unrestricted material or any fruits, vegetables or plant products to which restrictions apply provided they are within the prescribed weight and quantity limits. If you are importing material with a phytosanitary certificate, then you must declare them.

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](http://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 03459 33 55 77. 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 (any amount sent by post or above 125gms in your personal luggage), ivory, skins, hides and shells, and any products made from them.

For more information and advice, contact APHA at the Centre for International Trade – Bristol [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/internationally/cites](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/internationally/cites) or call them on +44 (0)117 372 3700 – lines are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm.

## Other items

There are other items, such as alcohol and tobacco 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 'UK customs information' available to download from [www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/banned-and-restricted-goods](http://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/banned-and-restricted-goods)

### More information and advice

For more information about the rules referred to in this leaflet, visit:

[www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk/food](http://www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk/food)

or call the Defra helpline on:

03459 33 55 77 (from the UK)  
+44 (0)20 7238 6951 (from outside the UK)  
Lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

You can also email the Food Standards Agency at:  
[imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

Or call them on +44 (0)20 7276 8018  
Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.



Notice 1

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