

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Certification scheme fruit plants

Explanatory guide to micropropagation propagating material

October 2023

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1. Introduction

This document is a guide to micropropagation propagating material taken from The Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 and The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020

2. Applications

The scheme is open to any grower in England and Wales who can meet the general conditions for entry and comply with the specific conditions of entry. Applications for entry of material to be submitted through the approved administrator, presently APHA. Please request an application form, from FPCS.admin@apha.gov.uk

Growers will need to apply to APHA and be registered to issue Plant Passports or registered as producers under the scheme.

3. Labelling / sealing / supplier and variety registration

Refer to separate documents covering labelling, sealing, supplier and variety registration.

4. Grades

Any recognised grade within the Certification Scheme for:

Cydonia oblonga Mill.

Fragaria L.

Malus Mill.

Prunus avium, *Prunus amygdalus*, *Prunus armeniaca*, *Prunus cerasus*

Prunus domestica, *Prunus persica*, *Prunus salicina*

Pyrus L.

Ribes L.

Rubus L.

Vaccinium L.

5. Requirements concerning multiplication

Laboratories must have recognised protocols of EPPO or other internationally recognised protocols in place.

Only protocols that have an established method on the relevant genus or species to allow phenotypic validation of the plants as regards the trueness to type and description of the variety based on the observation of the fruit production or of the vegetative development of rootstocks can be approved.

6. Freedom from quarantine diseases

Growers who become aware of or suspect the presence of any quarantine disease must notify the Plant Health Inspector immediately.

7. Isolation distances

For the weaning process separation must be sufficient to ensure varieties of the same grade do not mix. Field isolation distances apply between different grades; exceptionally approval to reduce isolation distances may be granted from PHSI requiring additional precautions and standard operating procedures.

8. Number of inspections

Laboratory Once a year

Plants Once just before despatch

For planting material maintained for a period over 3 months an additional inspection will be required

9. Standards to be met

Refer to the summary of pests and diseases for the appropriate category and grade.

10. Maximum permitted number of generations

For **BASIC** category

	Maximum number of generations	For rootstocks See below *
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i> Mill. <i>Malus</i> Mill. <i>Pyrus</i> L.	2	3
<i>Fragaria</i> L.	5	
<i>Prunus amygdalus</i> , <i>Prunus armeniaca</i> , <i>Prunus domestica</i> , <i>Prunus persica</i> , <i>Prunus salicina</i>	2	3
<i>Prunus avium</i> , <i>Prunus cerasus</i>	2	3
<i>Ribes</i> L.	3 #	
<i>Rubus</i> L.	2 #	
<i>Vaccinium</i> L.	2	

* Where rootstocks are part of basic mother plants, those rootstocks shall be basic material of the first generation.

Ribes mother plants shall be maintained as mother plants for a maximum of six years.

Rubus mother plants of each generation shall be maintained as mother plants for a maximum of four years.

11. Validity of certificates

Micropropagated material will be given the same grade as the material from which it was micropropagated.

The certificate is valid at the appropriate grade until 31 May in the year after certification.

12. Record keeping (critical points plan)

The micropropagation laboratory must maintain relevant information to monitor the key points in the production process of all stocks entered for certification.

These include:

- Location and number of plants
- Micropropagation operations
- Weaning house plans
- Packaging, storage and transportation operations.

The information should remain available for at least three years and made available to PHSI upon request.

Explanatory guide to micropropagation (10/23)



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