

Animal and Plant Health Agency

EU certification scheme fruit plants

Explanatory guide to labelling, sealing and packaging of fruit plant propagating material

December 2017

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1. Introduction

This document is a guide to labelling, sealing and packaging of fruit plant propagating material from the implementation of Council Directive 2008/90/EC and its Commission Implementing Directives 2014/96/EC, 2014/97/EC and 2014/98/EC.

2. Labelling requirements

From the 1st January 2017 propagating material officially certified as Pre-basic, Basic or Certified can only be marketed if they comply with specific requirements. The label shall be indelibly printed and easily visible and legible.

From 2017 certification labels must be a specified colour:

Pre-basic	white with a diagonal violet stripe
Basic	white
Certified	blue

Label designs must be agreed with APHA and they can be produced by label suppliers or by the plant producer. Producers may label material under official supervision. The label shall contain the following information:

- a) 'EU rules and standards'
- b) Member State of labelling i.e. UK/EW
- c) responsible official body or respective code i.e. DEFRA
- d) name of supplier or its registration number issued by the responsible body i.e. Plant Passport Registration number.
- e) reference number of package or bundle, individual serial number, week number or batch number
- f) botanical name
- g) category, and for basic grade also the generation number
- h) variety or clone, in the case of rootstocks not belonging to a variety, the name of the species or the interspecific hybrid, for grafted fruit plant, the rootstock and the top-graft. For varieties where an application for official registration or for plant variety right is pending, the words 'proposed denomination' and 'application pending'

- i) the indication 'variety with an officially recognised description', where appropriate
- j) quantity
- k) country of production and code, where different from the Member State of labelling
- l) year of issue
- m) in case the original label is replaced by another label: the year of issue of the original label

The label must be fixed to the plants to be marketed as propagating material or fruit plants. If sold in a package, bundle or container then that should be labelled.

Removing the label will render it invalid.

3. Sealing and packaging

Material must be sold in sufficiently homogenous lots. Plants in a lot shall be in a sealed package, bundle or container. Sealing means closed in such a way that it cannot be opened without damaging the closure, or in the case of a bundle, tying up in such a way that the plants in the bundle cannot be separated without damaging the tie.



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<http://www.gov.uk/apha>