
Statutory notification of prunus planting material

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

RPC rating: validated

Description of proposal

Businesses and individuals are currently required to notify the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when importing prunus (e.g. cherry, plum, apricots and laurel) planting material (such as plants or trees) from countries outside the EU.

The Department plans to require similar notification for imports of prunus planting material from other EU member states in order to counter the spread of several harmful organisms that have been identified in the EU.

Impacts of proposal

The Department states that there are 980 registered businesses that could be affected, although this is likely to be an overestimate of the number of businesses affected, as not all will import prunus planting material. Businesses that import prunus planting materials will incur the labour and non-labour cost of the time taken by a worker to notify the Department when a batch of imports arrives. The Department estimates that it will take 5-10 minutes for a worker to do this for each batch of imports. The Department does not have detailed information on the number of affected batches of imports that occur each year. However, based on a similar notifying scheme for trees, the Department uses 1,768 batches of imports as an indicative figure. This results in an estimated cost to business of approximately £5,000 per year.

The Department expects familiarisation costs to be small, as importers will already be familiar with the notifying process and the Department is working with trade bodies to raise awareness of the change.

The Department states that the proposal may reduce the prevalence of harmful organisms that are damaging to prunus trees in the UK. If this occurs, it would increase prunus yields and reduce operating costs for businesses that grow them. These benefits have not been monetised.

The RPC validates the estimated annual net cost to business.

Quality of submission

The Department has not monetised the benefits or the familiarisation costs of the proposal. The IA would benefit from including more quantitative detail in these areas, even if it would be disproportionate to monetise them fully.

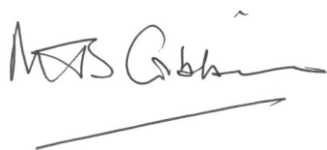
The proposal does not include a SaMBA. This is not required for fast track low-cost regulation.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	£0.005 million (partially quantified)
Business net present value	-£0.043 million
Societal net present value	-£0.043 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	£0.0 million
Small and micro business assessment	Not required (fast track low-cost regulation)



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANCB figures to the nearest £100,000.