



With the date for leaving the EU fast approaching, we ask ourselves are we ready? Here at Palmstead we believe we are, but as a company committed to business partnerships, we would like to provide you with as much information as we can about what you may need to be considering in a post Brexit future. Below are the main points we recently highlighted in our short video on how we as a business are preparing for Brexit, and how we feel we can work together to successfully adapt to any changes that may happen:

- You may need to look at your documentation for importing and exporting material from 1 November 2019;
- We believe that both in partnership and with some planning we can give you a little bit of insight regarding what is likely to happen in a post Brexit future;
- Plant passporting – there will be changes implemented on 14 December 2019 to do with plant passporting. Plant Passports have been around for a long time and we already record a considerable amount of information about a whole range of trees, shrubs and other plants so that where necessary they can be inspected by the authorities. The inspection process itself produces records which mean that the Ministry can check, inspect and visit sites where plants that are under the plant passport scheme are being planted. As a result of the new regulations the inspection process may become extended and require plants to be inspected in more than one place;
- Increased inspections could result in delays and so if you are importing items for your orders it would be beneficial to allow yourself more time. We would suggest considering adding an additional 10-14 days to your timeline moving forward;
- If you are on a short timeline and cannot afford that extra wait, are you able to consider using an alternative product? Can you adjust the required pot size? Can you adjust your plant size? Have you considered asking for items that are in stock?;
- The other big change will concern record keeping, and this is the bit we need to work with you on. All parties will be under the obligation to keep records for 3 years, which provides information on traceability, origin, etc. Moving forward, your sales orders, delivery notes and invoices could all carry the information we are required under legislation to retain. However, due to the volume of information we need to communicate, the need to go electronically paper-free becomes paramount. If we have to record and then print everything required, we think our paper and printing consumption could double (not to mention the amount of filing)! Plus, from the environmental perspective, moving to electronic documentation is a necessity;
- The HTA have a very good site which offers up to date information about Plant Passports. Please click on the following link to find out more:  
<https://hta.org.uk/assurance-compliance/plant-passporting.html>
- For further information about Plant Passports in general you can also visit the government site:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-the-eu>
- Unfortunately, we do not have all the answers and, like you, we are still waiting for things to be finalised. Therefore, we are looking to put together a Q&A page where you can tell us your thoughts and ask questions, and we can then share our experiences. You will be able to email us with your questions and we will do our very best to answer them; posting both the questions and answers on the Q&A page which will go live on our website on 16 October 2019. Please email us at: **brexit@palmstead.co.uk**