



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Plant Health (Official Controls and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2019

Measures to be taken to comply with SPHN

The presence of *Phytophthora ramorum* is suspected on *Larix* sp. (Larch) and must be destroyed using the agreed specification below by [deadline].

Specification:

1) No plants, or parts thereof, including timber, of any susceptible genera and species shall be removed from the premises specified in Section 3 without the written authority of an Inspector.

A Movement Licence to manage the movement of the unprocessed roundwood situated within, or originating from trees felled within, the treatment area (see map at Annex 1) will be required. You will need a Processing Licence from Scottish Forestry if you plan to process roundwood from the area described by this Notice. A Woodfuel Boiler End Use Licence will also be required in some cases.

For further information on obtaining a movement license, please contact the Forestry Commission cross border plant health team on Telephone: 0300 067 5155 or E-mail: plant.health@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

2)

a) Larch infection – tree felling:

All larch (*Larix* species) present within the red hatched "treatment area", as defined within the SPHN, are to be felled and the branches removed from the stems as required. Felling and clearance is to commence without undue delay from the date of this notice. Branches and other residue are to be retained on the premises or burned in situ. Any regeneration of larch developing during the Notice period must be cut off below the lowest live branch or killed with herbicide.

b) Where any products associated with the host material covered by this SPHN are to be taken from the SPHN site (for use, disposal, processing or other reasons), a Movement licence is required for all vehicles carrying the material.

c) An SPHN issued by the Conservancy (or in some cases, a Processing licence) will be required, when host material from the SPHN site is stacked outside the SPHN boundary, and will include any locations where the material is stored or transferred from or between vehicles or vessels.

- 3)** All forestry operations carried out under this SPHN will be planned and implemented within the scope of the [UK Forestry Standard](#)¹ and to the deadlines set out in this order.. Where conflicts exist this should be highlighted to the responsible Scottish Forestry Officer at the earliest possible opportunity. Where burning is to take place the current regulations and exemptions associated with these operations must be observed.
- 4)** The biosecurity protocols in Annex 2 must be followed at all times unless specifically agreed in writing with the responsible officer from Scottish Forestry.
- 5)** This Notice shall remain in force until [deadline plus three years] unless amended or revoked by an Inspector.

¹

<https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland>

Annex 2 Biosecurity guidance applicable to this Statutory Notice

Ramorum on larch, caused by the water mould *Phytophthora ramorum*, is now well established in Scotland, so eradication is no longer possible. However, slowing the rate of spread and trying to restrict the scale of the disease is still a priority. This is in order to minimise financial losses by keeping within the capacity of the forest industry to harvest larch timber, and to reduce negative impacts on the landscape and local communities. Removing the main source of new infections by acting quickly to fell affected larch is by far the most important thing we can do to tackle this devastating disease. Even once infected trees are felled, *Phytophthora ramorum* can still be spread from site to site, woodland to woodland, in mud and plant material stuck to vehicles, machinery or footwear. Implementing sensible forest hygiene measures will help to reduce that risk.

What you can do to avoid spreading *Phytophthora ramorum*

Implementing the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard¹, including good site management and timely road maintenance, will significantly reduce the excessively wet and muddy conditions favoured by *Phytophthora ramorum*. That, and a responsible approach to other forest hygiene measures, such as regularly cleaning boots, equipment, vehicles and machinery, will help protect your (and other people's) woodlands from this disease and a wide range of other potentially damaging pests and diseases.

Required biosecurity actions on sites issued with a Statutory Plant Health Notice for *Phytophthora ramorum*

Staff and contractors working on the site must be made aware of these responsibilities before commencing operations and reminded of them regularly during the course of their work. Keep a record of these conversations in site diaries. Appropriate cleaning facilities must be provided.

Footwear, clothing, personal equipment, hand tools and motorised tools

- Clean and then disinfect footwear before leaving the site. This can be as simple as using a bucket of water and a stiff brush to remove mud and plant material and then spraying footwear with an approved disinfectant.* Make sure run-off from cleaning and spraying does not enter watercourses.
- Clean any hand tools, motorised tools or other personal equipment used before leaving the site, then spray with an approved disinfectant. Make sure run-off from cleaning and spraying does not enter watercourses.
- Brush or wipe any plant material or excessive mud off your outer clothing before leaving the site.

*Approved disinfectants which are proven to work against *Phytophthora ramorum* include: Propellar (which does not cause rust on metal tools) and Cleankill Sanitising Spray (which does not damage fabric and glue on footwear and outerwear). Always follow the guidance in the Safety Data Sheets for each product. Broad-spectrum farm disinfectants are not effective against *Phytophthora*

ramorum. Surfaces need to be cleaned before applying disinfectant in order for it to be effective.

Vehicles and machinery

- Do not bring cars or vans onto the site unless strictly necessary.
- Park on hard standing areas that are as free of mud and plant material as possible.
- Any vehicles or machines that leave the forest road e.g. harvesters and forwarders, as well as civil engineering machines used to create and maintain roads, represent a high risk of spreading *Phytophthora ramorum* spores carried in mud and plant material. Cleaning of these is required before use at another site.
- Vehicles and machines for which cleaning is required must be pressure washed before use at another site (including other *Phytophthora ramorum* sites, as this helps reduce the risk of different strains of *Phytophthora ramorum* combining and producing even more damaging strains). Focus on removing mud and plant material from areas where this is likely to build up e.g. tracks, tyres, wheels, mud flaps, sills, wheel arches, guarded areas, harvester heads and forwarder grapples.
- Clean vehicles and machines on site wherever possible, following water regulations and guidelines: <http://www.confor.org.uk/resources/forestry-water-scotland/on-site-tools/>
- If it is not possible to fully comply with water regulations and guidelines at this site, then vehicles and machines can be transported for cleaning at a SEPA-approved designated area (including commercial garage facilities). See: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1414/gpp-13-v2-plussepa-plusniea-plusnrw.pdf>
- Vehicles that do not leave the forest road, including HGVs, represent a relatively low risk of spreading *Phytophthora ramorum* spores, so cleaning of these vehicles is not required before leaving the site. Nevertheless, it is good practice to clean such vehicles regularly, particularly if they have been driven on muddy, poorly maintained forest roads.

Site layout and maintenance

- Ensure roads are well-maintained throughout the three year period of the SPHN.
- Comply with the UK Forestry Standard's requirements and guidelines for water management.
- Place appropriate biosecurity information signage at site entrances and exits, for people visiting or working on the site and for the general public.
- Keep stacking areas clean and free of debris. Where feasible, avoid forwarders having to track on forest roads, as tracking mud and plant material onto the road will increase the risk of spreading disease for all vehicles using the road.

Find more information and guidance on forest biosecurity on the [Scottish Forestry website](#).

Remember - always clean these before use at another site:

- Footwear
- Tools
- Off-road machinery and vehicles