



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

York Biotech Campus
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ

Date: 29 July 2024

Dear IPPC contact point,

Temporary easement of import requirements for Tomato Ringspot Virus (ToRSV) in plants for planting of *Prunus laurocerasus* and *P. lusitanica*

We have become aware that due to changes in the distribution of ToRSV in certain European Union member state countries, it is no longer possible for those countries to meet GB (Great Britain) import requirements. Therefore, we are currently undertaking a review of the import requirements for that pest. However, in the initial stages of that review it has become clear that evergreen *Prunus* species, *Prunus laurocerasus* and *P. lusitanica* are not hosts of ToRSV.

A wider review of the hosts of and import requirements for ToRSV by the UK NPPO is ongoing, but based on initial findings we are introducing an easement in these requirements for plants for planting of *Prunus laurocerasus* and *P. lusitanica*. Therefore, these two species will be exempt from the requirements in Part C of Annex 5 of assimilated law [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2072](#), that

(a) the plants originate in areas known to be free from Tomato ringspot virus,

or

(b) the plants are derived in direct line from material which has been maintained under appropriate conditions and has been subjected, at least once within the last three complete cycles of vegetation, to official testing for Tomato ringspot virus, using appropriate indicators or equivalent methods, and has been found free from the pest, and no symptoms of diseases caused by Tomato ringspot virus have been observed on plants at the place of production, or on susceptible plants in its immediate vicinity, since the beginning of the last complete cycle of vegetation.

Please note that all other import requirements applicable to ToRSV, in assimilated law [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2072](#) remain in force, pending the outcome of the ongoing review. This includes restrictions on all other *Prunus* and *Malus* species.

Please note that this easement will be in place until approximately **May 2025** when this will be reflected in updated GB legislation, to be notified in the usual way.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Richard McIntosh
UK Assistant Chief Plant Health Officer

richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk
UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk