

Potato Growers – Seed, Plant Health and Record Keeping Requirements

Potato plant health and record keeping legislation is intended to protect the health status of Irish potato crops and to ensure traceability in the event of a disease outbreak. The following are the main requirements of this legislation.

Seed and Plant Health: Seed Potatoes (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2010 (S.I. No. 577 of 2010).

- Growers may plant only certified pre-basic or basic seed potatoes or one year's direct progeny of such potatoes, where the direct progeny was grown by themselves.
- Growers must retain official labels as well as a sales note, delivery note, invoice or similar documents for at least two years as proof of origin of the seed potatoes.
- Anyone intending to bring more than 10 kg of seed potatoes into Ireland from other countries must give at least three days advance notification by submitting a Notification of Importation Form to the Department. This form can be posted to Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Crop Policy, Production & Safety Division, Potato Section, Floor 2, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Alternatively it can be faxed to 353- 1- 6275994 or emailed to potatoonline@agriculture.gov.ie. This form is published on our website at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/potatoes/>

Record Keeping: Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 637 of 2001).

- Seed potatoes for planting – quantity and date acquired as well as variety, class, grower's number and country of origin.
- Seed and ware potatoes grown – area planted and yield of each variety grown.
- Sales (other than for use by the buyer) – quantity, sale date and purchaser name and address for each variety sold.

Audits are carried out on growers to check for compliance with legislation on potato plant health and record keeping