



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# IMPORTER SCENARIOS FOR DEFRA PLANT HEALTH UNDER A NO DEAL SCENARIO:

## PLANT AND PLANT PRODUCTS ONLY, EXCLUDING TIMBER, WOOD AND BARK MATERIALS



# EU Exit 'no deal' Plant Health

The Government's priority is to continue to press the case for the orderly Brexit that delivers on the result of the referendum. No Deal is not something that we want, but we continue to prepare for it.

Our plant health biosecurity arrangements protect the environment from pests and diseases and we will continue to protect the nation's plant health biosecurity during and after our exit from the EU. Our work to prepare for EU Exit will ensure that biosecurity standards will continue to be met in ways that support trade and the smooth flow of goods.

This pack details specific import scenarios and how they would work on a Day 1 'no deal' scenario.

# Contents

Guidance on registering with the correct system for pre-notifying the arrival of a consignment **(Slide 4)**

## Scenario:

1. UK importer based in Kent transports own consignments of controlled plant material transiting through mainland Europe by road. All products originate from one third country, e.g. Morocco. **(Slides 5-6)**
2. Haulier transports consignment of plant product currently managed under the EU plant passport regime on behalf of several UK importers, transiting through mainland Europe. The product originates from one EU Member State. The UK customers are located in the south, midlands of England, and Scotland. **(Slides 7-8)**
3. Haulier transports mixed consignments for a number of individual UK importers through mainland Europe. All products are destined for the UK, but products are of mixed origin: some from third country and some from EU Member States. Some of the products are controlled. **(Slides 9-10)**
4. Haulier transports consignments for a number of individual importers, located both in mainland Europe and in the UK. Products originate from third country/countries and are controlled commodities. **(Slides 11-14)**
5. UK wholesaler orders controlled cut flower consignment from Dutch supplier in the mid-afternoon for delivery at the UK wholesale market in the early hours of the following morning. The consignment is transported from the Netherlands by road and is part of mixed consignments for multiple customers across the UK. **(Slides 15-16)**
6. UK retailer directly sources products currently managed under the EU plant passport regime from growers in mainland Europe for delivery direct to RDC in South of England. The consignment will be split and distributed to regional stores. **(Slides 17-18)**

# Contents

## Scenario:

7. Agent imports controlled consignments into Heathrow on behalf of UK importers. The agent has customs cleared facilities in the vicinity of the airport. The consignments have flown into Schipol from a third country as part of a larger consignment and then been brought into Heathrow. **(Slides 19-20)**
8. Agent imports consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England on behalf of UK importers. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are listed under Annex I of EU Regulation 669/2009 as 'high risk', requiring official controls by the Port Health Authority on behalf of the Food Standards Agency. **(Slides 21-23)**
9. Importer brings in consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are subject to Marketing Standards regulations. **(Slides 24-25)**

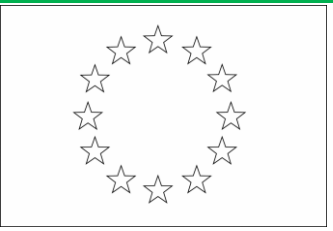
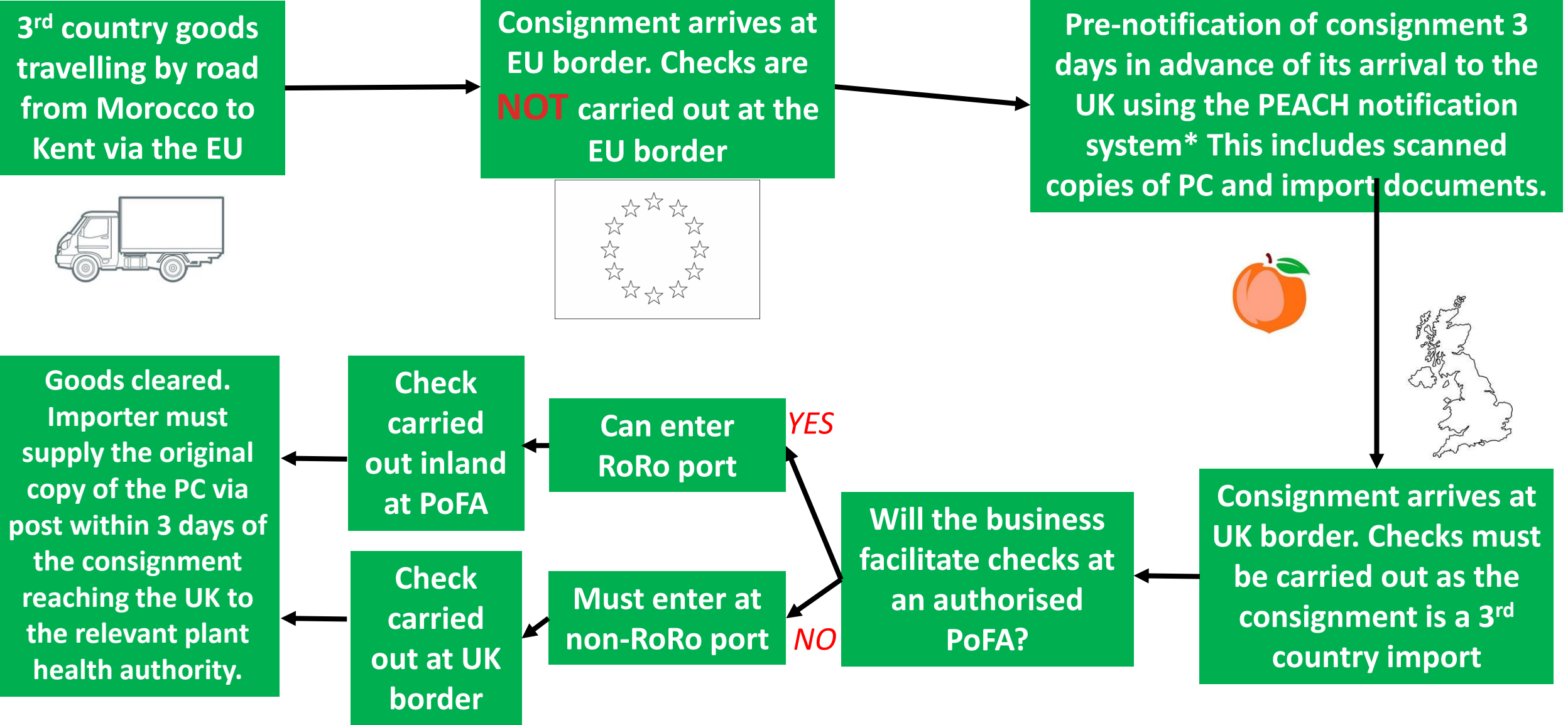
Supplementary slides providing information on imports to Scotland and Northern Ireland, mixed consignments, and consignments destined for multiple importers. **(Slide 28)**

# Scenario 1

UK importer based in Kent transports own consignments of controlled plant material transiting through mainland Europe by road. All products originate from one third country, e.g. Morocco.

1. The importer ensures that the goods are travelling with a phytosanitary certificate (PC) issued in the exporting country. A single PC can cover multiple commodities if they are travelling together.
2. The importer enters the consignment into a transit procedure upon entry to the EU.
3. Since the consignment has not had plant health checks by an EU member state, it will be treated as a 3rd country import. This means that plant health checks will need to be completed upon arrival in the UK.
4. If the importer has had their trade premises authorised as a Place of First Arrival (PoFA) with APHA, allowing them to host checks inland, they can bring their goods in via a RoRo port. The importer could also use a 3rd party PoFA, if they have such an agreement in place.
5. Before landing in the UK, the importer submits a pre-notification on PEACH. They select their authorised premises as the inspection point, which tells PHSI inspectors where the consignment will be available for checks.
6. The consignment isn't stopped at the border for plant health checks.
7. The goods will need to clear Customs when they enter the UK. Read [Importing, exporting and transporting products or goods after Brexit](#) to prepare for changes at the UK border after a 'no deal' EU exit
8. Once Customs checks are complete, the importer moves the consignment to their PoFA facility and holds them awaiting plant health checks.
9. The plant health inspector arrives and carries out plant health checks on the consignment. Now that the goods have cleared plant health checks, they are able to be placed on the market. The importer sends the original copy of the PC to APHA by post within 3 days of the goods arriving in the UK.
10. If the importer does not have access to a PoFA, they must bring their goods into the UK via a non-RoRo terminal, where checks take place at the border as for direct 3rd country imports currently.

# Scenario 1 – Import of goods from a 3<sup>rd</sup> country transiting through the EU to the UK (NO checks at EU border)

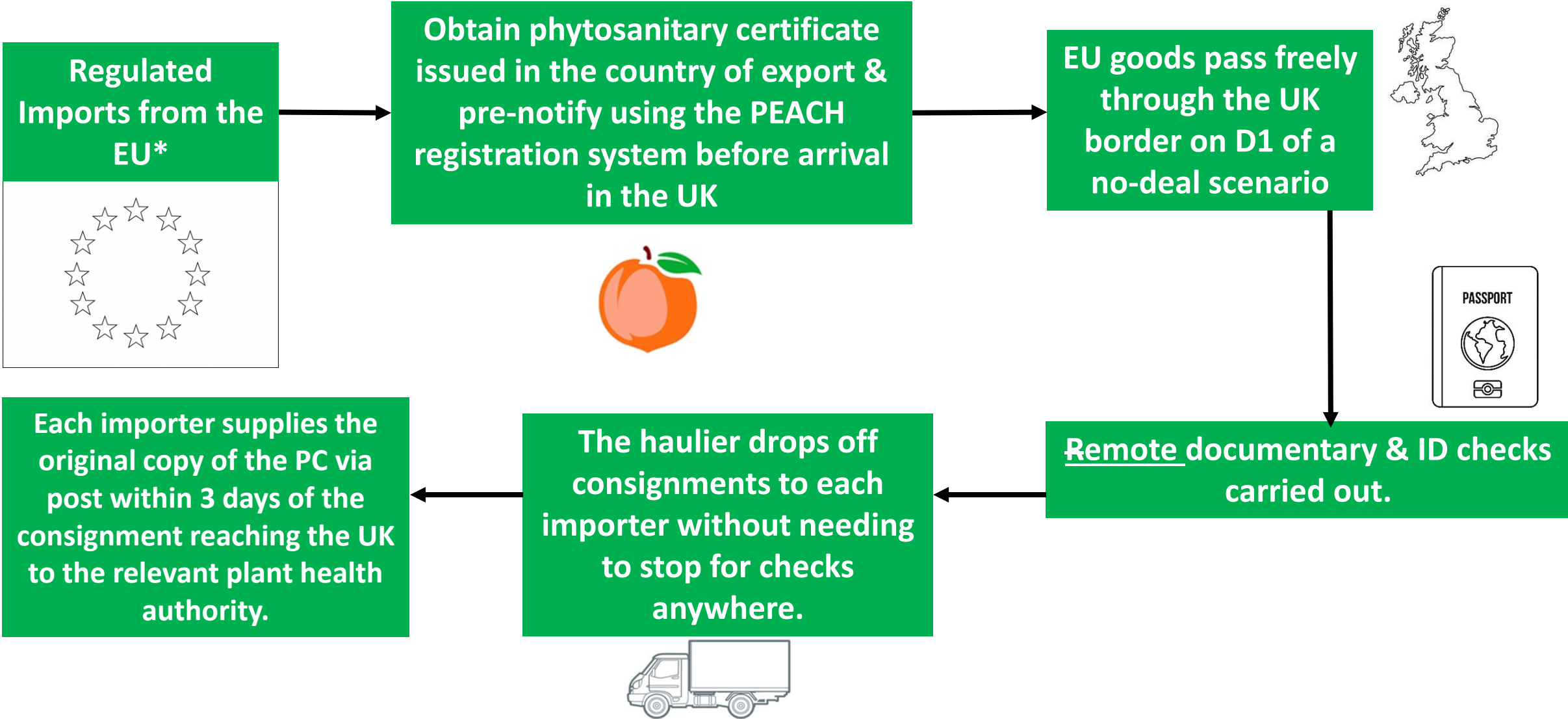


# Scenario 2

Haulier transports consignment of plant product currently managed under the EU plant passport regime on behalf of several UK importers, transiting through mainland Europe. The product originates from one EU Member State. The UK customers are located in the south, midlands of England, and Scotland.

1. As the consignment has originated from an EU member state, it will not require physical checks at the border.
2. The importers ensures that the goods travel with phytosanitary certificates (PCs) issued in the EU. PCs will be required for each separate delivery if the goods are going to separate customers.
3. The importers uses PEACH to pre-notify PHSI before arrival in the UK.
4. The goods are not stopped at the border. APHA carry out a remote documentary and identity check using scanned copies of the PC and import documents provided as part of the pre-notification.
5. The haulier completes the drops and provides the customers with a copy of the phytosanitary certificate. The customers sends the original copy of the PC to APHA by post within 3 days of the goods arriving in the UK.

# Scenario 2 – Import of a single product from a single EU state to multiple importers in the UK (regulated product, i.e. product currently managed under the EU PP regime)



\*We are retaining the current EU list of regulated plants and plant products.

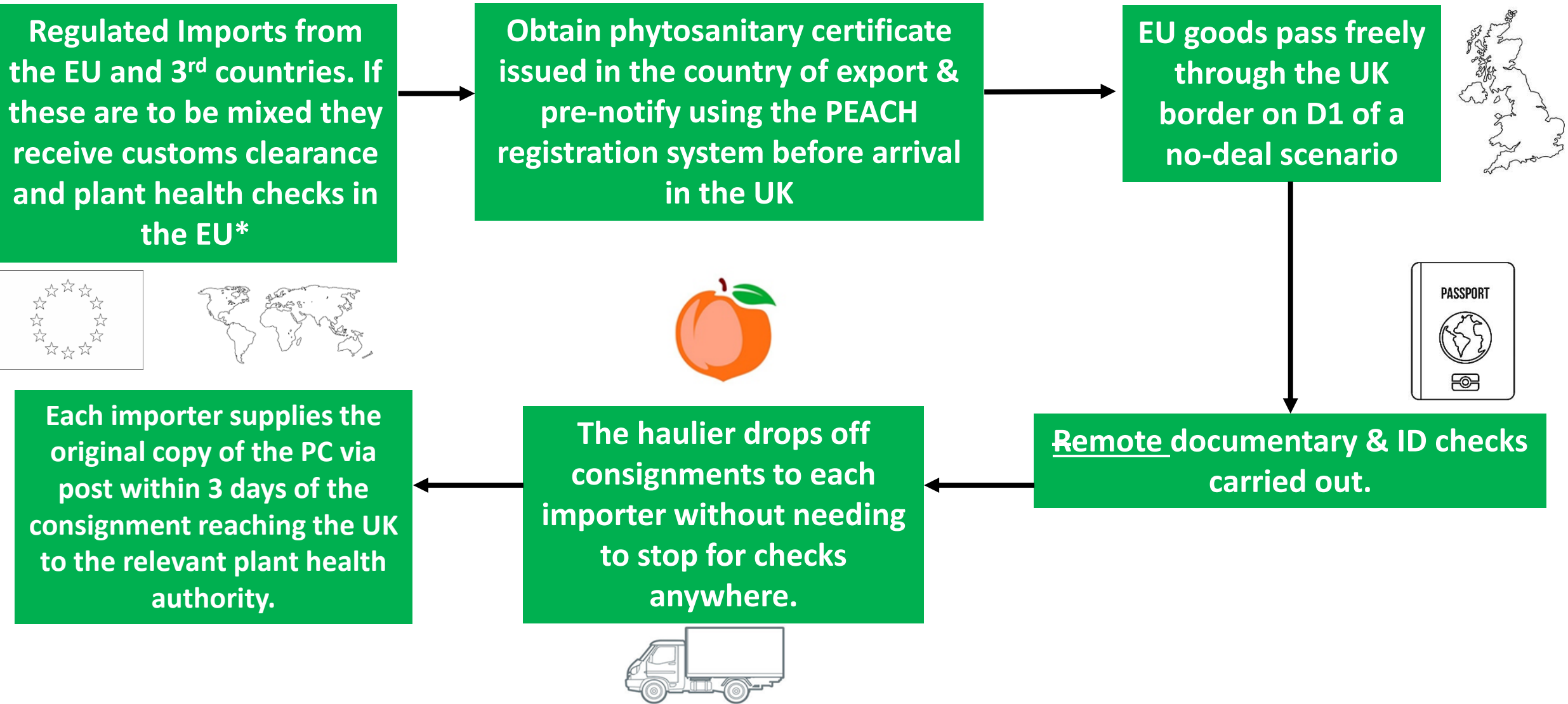


# Scenario 3

Haulier transports mixed consignments for a number of individual UK importers through mainland Europe. All products are destined for the UK, but products are of mixed origin: some from third country and some from EU Member States. Some of the products are controlled.

1. When the third country goods enter the EU, if they are going to be mixed with EU material they would need to be Customs cleared and receive plant health checks in the EU. If the goods move to the UK under a Customs transit procedure, they would not be allowed to be mixed with EU material until they had cleared Customs at their destination.
2. Having received plant health checks in the EU, the third country goods would be treated as EU material.
3. The importers ensure that they obtain a phytosanitary certificate (PC) for any products that require them. One PC can cover multiple products, but separate PCs will be required for each separate delivery unless only one customer is acting as the receiver and is re-selling the goods (in this case the receiver of the goods may need to apply UK Plant Passports for onwards movement, depending on the commodity and the plant passport controls which apply to it).
4. The importers use PEACH to pre-notify PHSI before arrival in the UK.
5. The goods are not stopped at the border. APHA carry out a remote documentary and identity check using scanned copies of the PC and import documents provided as part of the pre-notification.
6. The haulier completes the drops and provides the customers with a copy of the phytosanitary certificate.
7. The customers sends the original copy of the PC to APHA by post within 3 days of the goods arriving in the UK.

**Scenario 3 – Import of a multiple consignments for multiple UK importers. The consignments originate in a mix of EU countries and 3<sup>rd</sup> countries.**



\*We are retaining the current EU list of regulated plants and plant products.

# Scenario 4

Haulier transports consignments for a number of individual importers, located both in mainland Europe and in the UK. Products originate from third country/countries and are controlled commodities.

1. The importers ensure that the goods travel with phytosanitary certificates (PCs) issued in the 3rd country of origin.
2. As the haulier is bringing in goods for individual importers, if the goods enter the EU first, the goods would be split at the EU border. Some consignments destined for importers in mainland Europe clear Customs and plant health checks at the EU border
3. If they have not been Customs cleared in the EU, goods moving on to the UK must be entered into a Customs transit procedure. They can then move to the UK without receiving plant health checks in the EU.
4. If the goods enter the UK via non-RoRo ports, they receive third country checks at the border in the same way as a direct third country import currently. If they enter the UK via RoRo terminals, they must receive checks at authorised premises known as a Place of First Arrival (PoFA).
5. Since the goods are destined for a number of different importers, it may be less practical to use inland authorised premises for checks on third country material, unless the importers use a 3rd party PoFA if they have such an agreement in place with a business that has an authorised facility.
6. The importers and the haulier agree to enter the goods via a sea port rather than a RoRo terminal. The container is unloaded at the port and the consignment is held for checks, as a direct third country import would be currently.
7. The goods clear plant health checks and Customs and are delivered to each customer using copies of the phytosanitary certificate.

**Scenario 4a – Import of a multiple consignments for multiple UK and EU importers. The consignments originate in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries.**



**Do goods undergo plant health checks in the EU?**



**YES**

**NO**

**Goods are checked in the EU and become EU consignments**

**Goods are not checked in the EU and remain 3<sup>rd</sup> country goods**

**See slide 12 for 3<sup>rd</sup> country imports**



**Goods pass into the UK freely as currently**

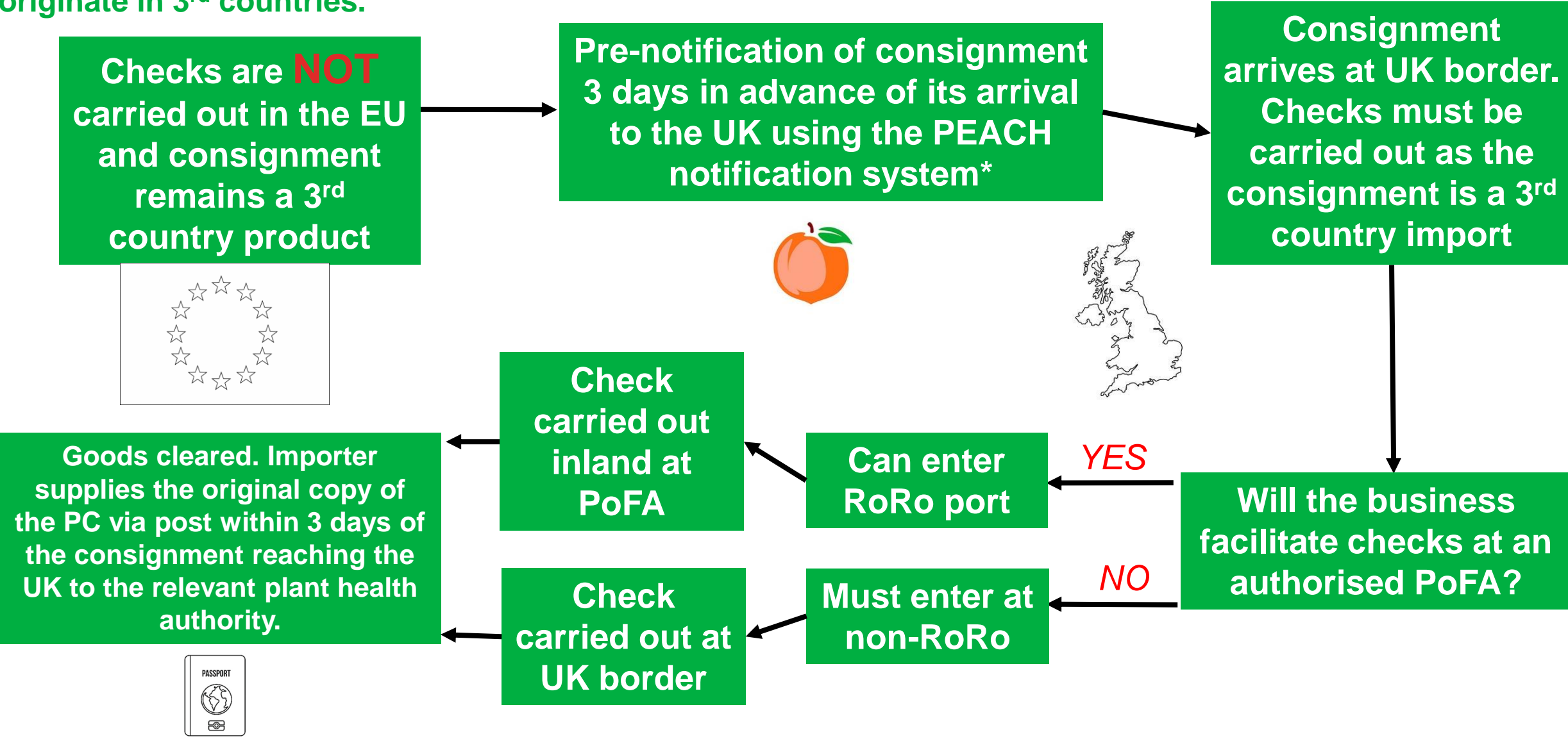
**Are the goods currently managed under the PP regime?**

**NO**

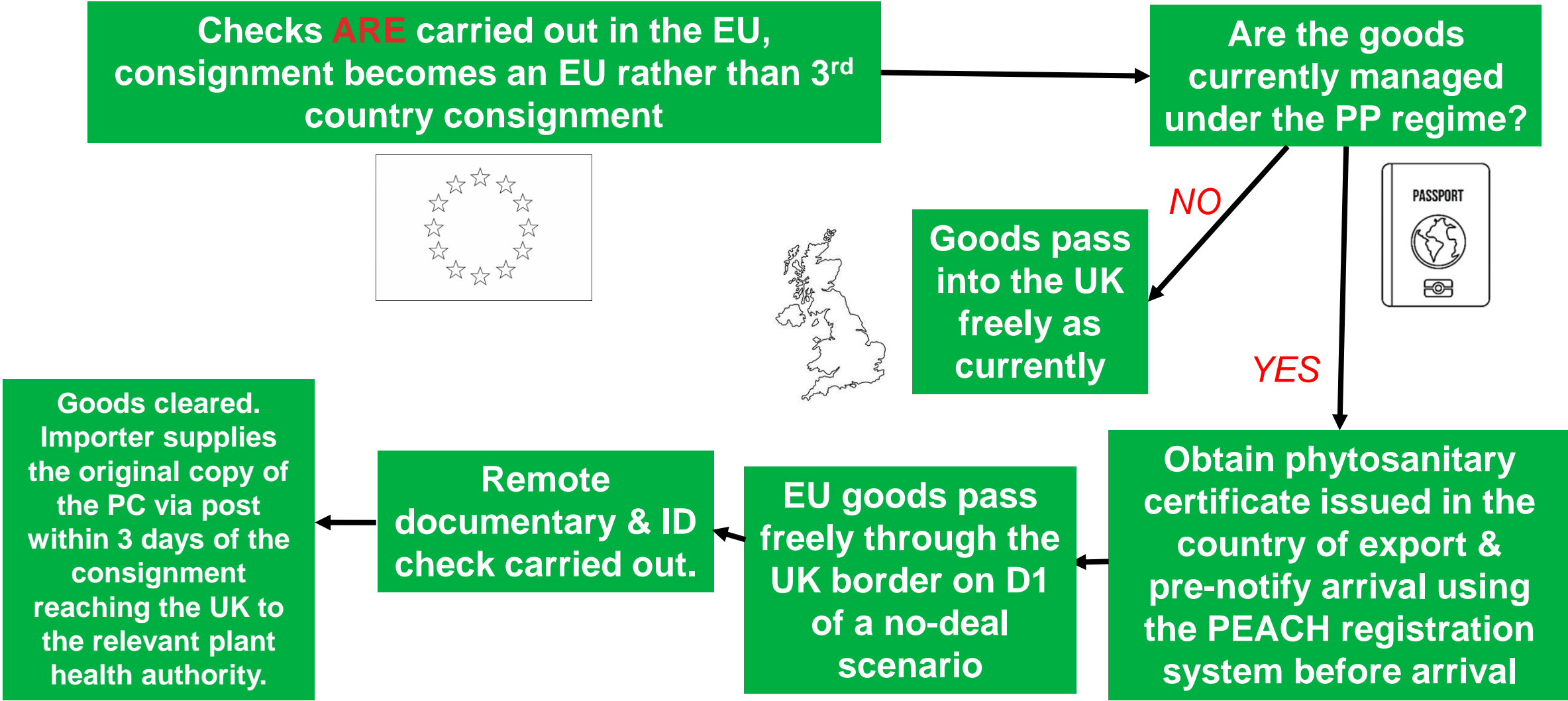
**YES**

**See slide 13 for regulated EU imports**

**Scenario 4b – Import of a multiple consignments for multiple UK and EU importers. The consignments originate in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries.**



**Scenario 4c – Import of a multiple consignments for multiple UK and EU importers. The consignments originate in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries.**



# Scenario 5

UK wholesaler orders controlled cut flower consignment, originating in a 3<sup>rd</sup> country, from Dutch supplier in the mid-afternoon for delivery at the UK wholesale market in the early hours of the following morning. The consignment is transported from the Netherlands by road and is part of mixed consignments for multiple customers across the UK.

1. If the cut flowers are being sourced from a Dutch supplier, plant health checks on 3rd country material will have already occurred in the EU when the Dutch supplier originally imported them into the Netherlands.
2. If this is the case then there will be no change to the current process. Consignments from EU member states (other than material currently managed under the EU plant passport regime) will not be checked at the border, will not require a phytosanitary certificate, and will not need to be pre-notified in advance.

# Scenario 5 – Import of cut flowers from the Netherlands to the UK at mid-afternoon for delivery at UK wholesale market early hours of the following morning.

Cut flowers imported to the Netherlands from a 3<sup>rd</sup> country

Checks carried out in the Netherlands when imported by the Dutch supplier

Are goods currently managed with EU PPs?

Freely moves into the UK with no **plant health** checks.



*NO*

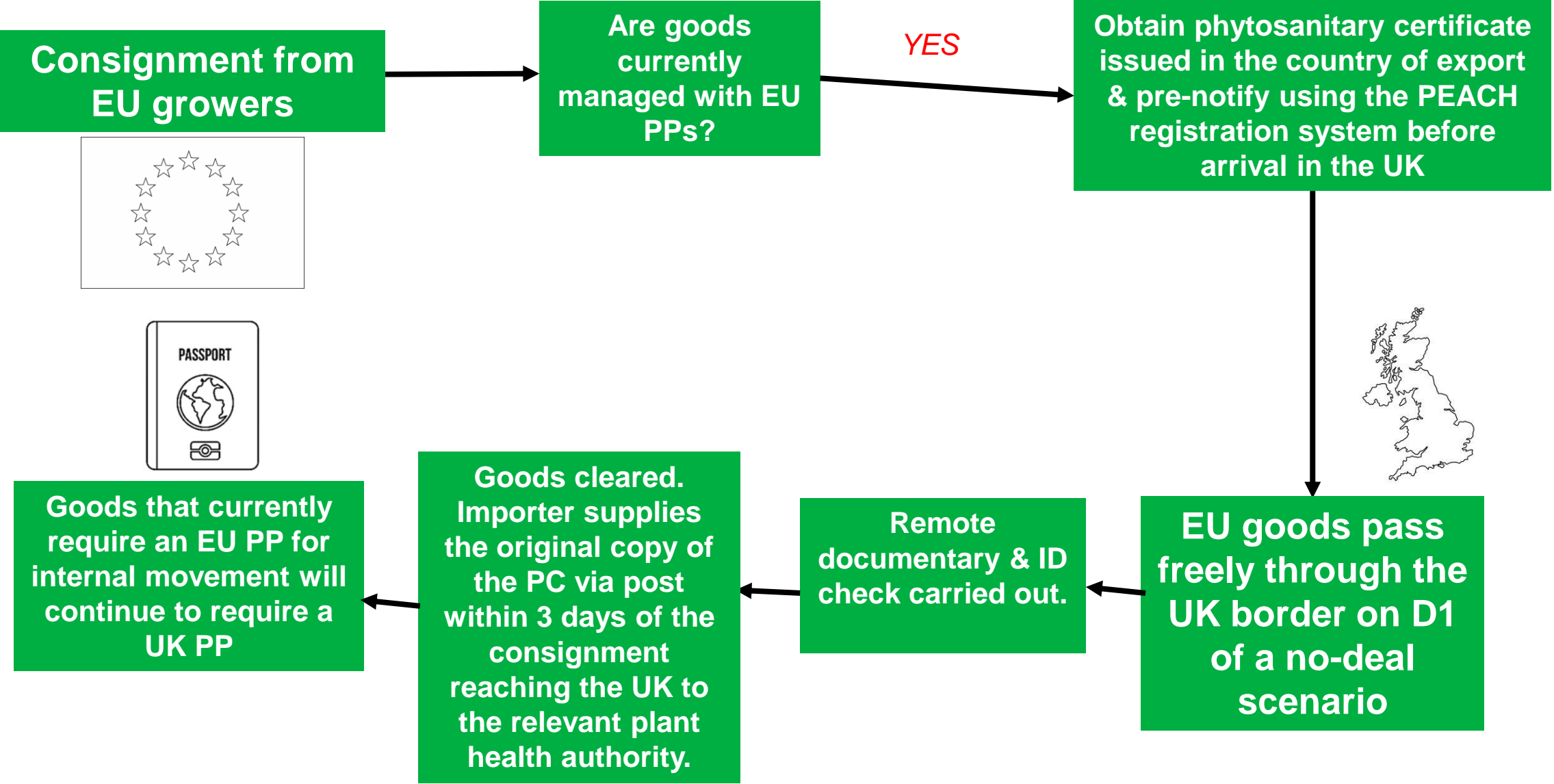


# Scenario 6

UK retailer directly sources products currently managed under the EU plant passport regime from growers in mainland Europe for delivery direct to regional distribution centre in South of England. The consignment will be split and distributed to regional stores.

1. The importer ensures the goods obtain a phytosanitary certificate in the EU and pre-notifies PHSI using the PEACH system before entry into the UK.
2. As the products have originated in an EU member state, there will be no requirement for plant health checks at the border.
3. APHA carry out a remote documentary and identity check using scanned copies of the PC and import documents provided as part of the pre-notification.
4. Once the consignment reaches the RDC, it is split. If this commodity requires a plant passport for all movements within the UK, the importer issues UK plant passports to accompany each split consignment.

# Scenario 6 – Import of consignment from the EU to a single UK importer. Consignment will be split and distributed to regional stores.

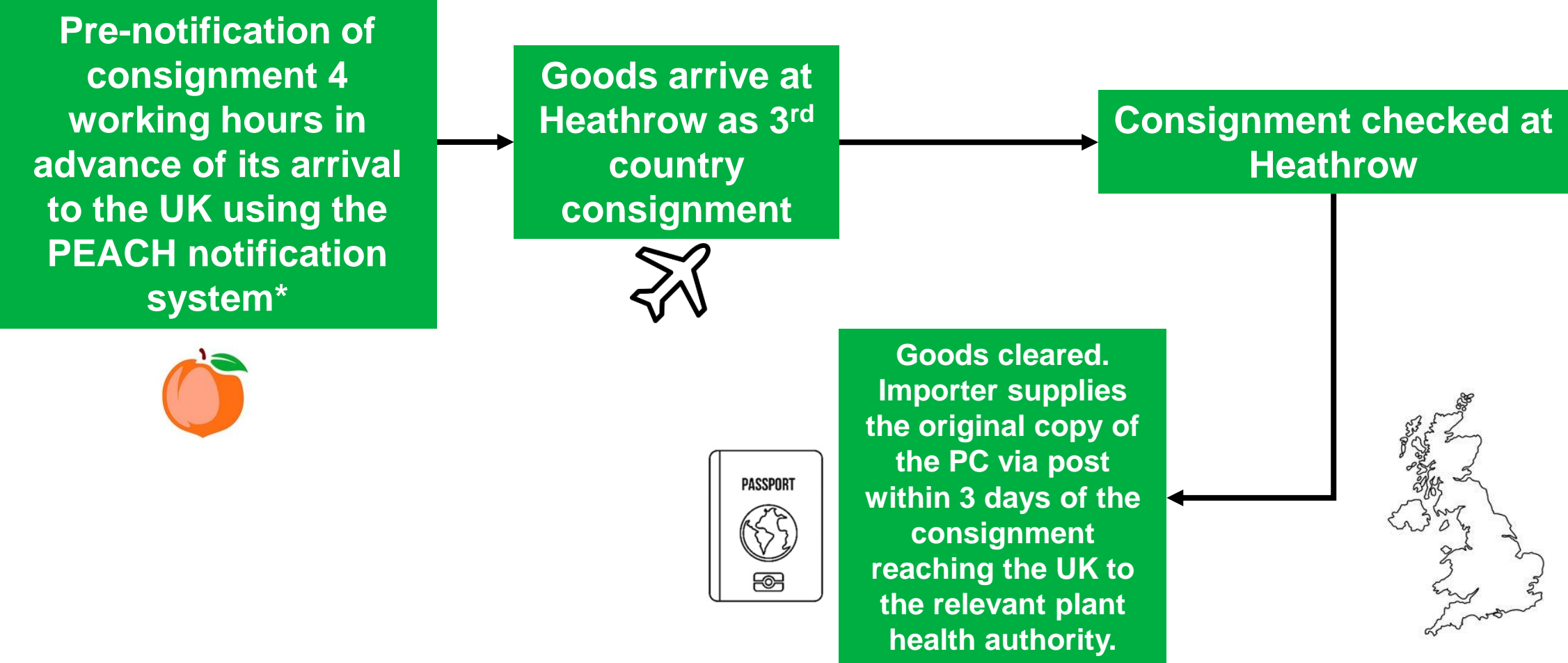


# Scenario 7

Agent imports controlled consignments into Heathrow on behalf of UK importers. The agent has customs cleared facilities in the vicinity of the airport. The consignments have flown into Schipol from a third country as part of a larger consignment and then been brought into Heathrow.

1. At Schipol, the consignment is moved straight onto a plane to Heathrow without being split or changed. The goods do not clear Customs and move under a transit or transshipment procedure.
2. The consignment has not had plant health checks by an EU member state so it will be treated as a 3rd country import. This means that plant health checks will need to be completed upon arrival.
3. The importer will need to notify APHA 4 hours before the goods arrive at the airport.
4. Plant health checks are completed at the border at the customs cleared facilities and the goods can move through the UK as normal.

**Scenario 7a – Import of 3<sup>rd</sup> country consignment to Heathrow Airport which has arrived via Schipol Airport (Netherlands). The importing agent has customs cleared facilities in the vicinity of the airport. Goods **WERE NOT CHECKED** in the Netherlands**

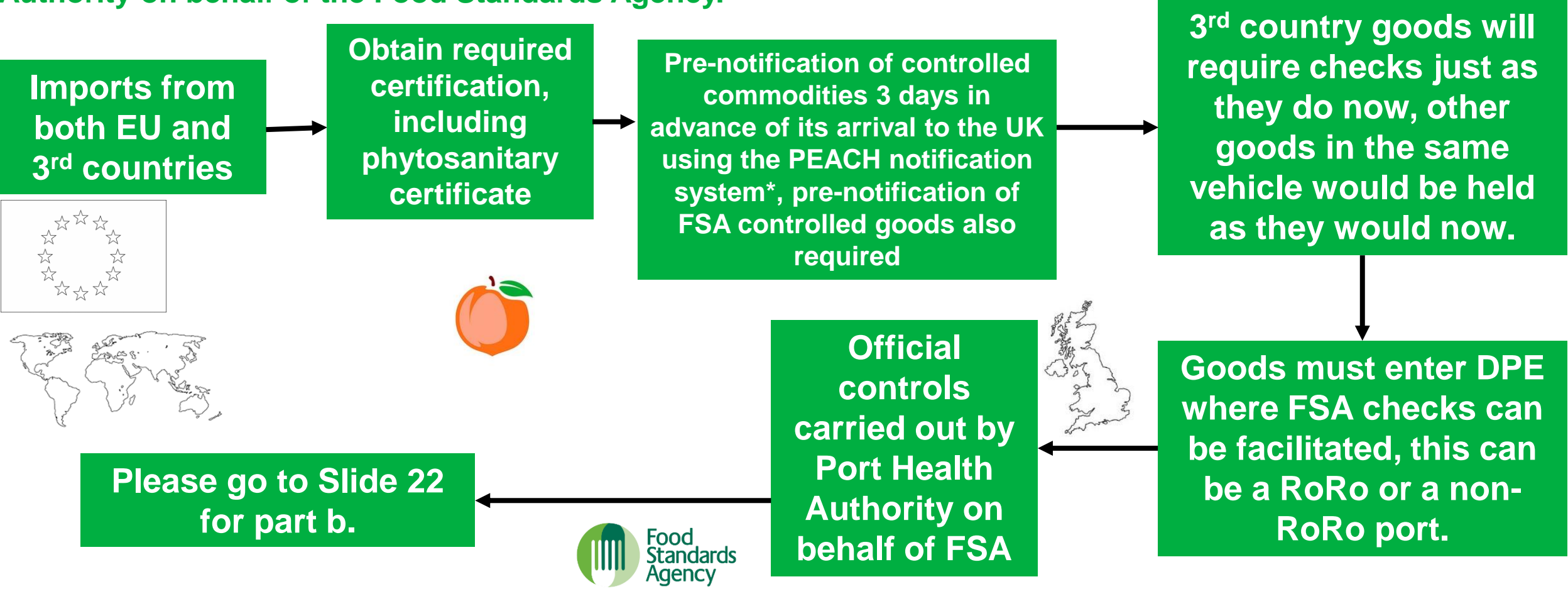


# Scenario 8

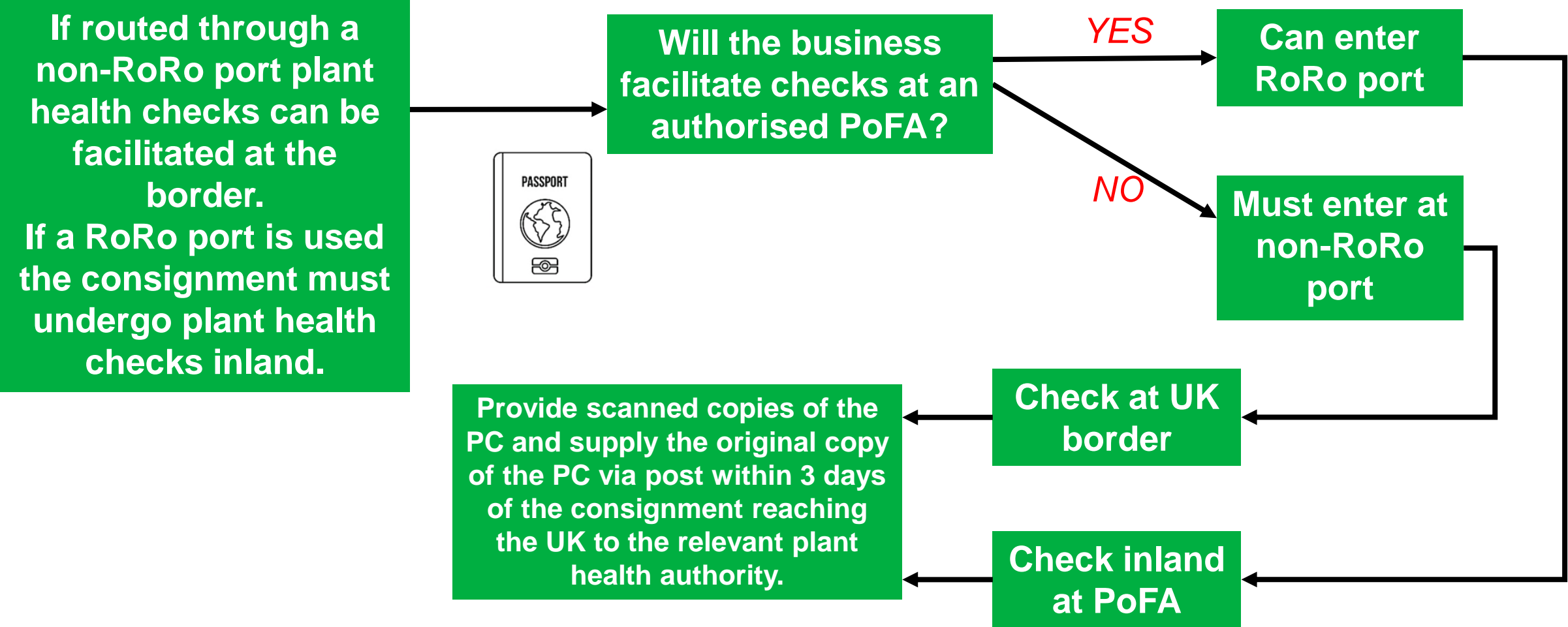
Agent imports consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England on behalf of UK importers. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are listed under Annex I of EU Regulation 669/2009 as 'high risk', requiring official controls by the Port Health Authority on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.

1. Only a very small number of commodities are expected to require both plant health and FSA checks in a no deal scenario.
2. The agent ensures that the controlled products are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and any FSA documentation required.
3. If the importer has had their trade premises authorised as a Place of First Arrival (PoFA) with APHA, allowing them to host checks inland, they can bring their goods in via a RoRo port. The importer could also use a 3rd party PoFA, if they have such an agreement in place.
4. As the goods are coming from a third country and have not been checked in the EU, they need to enter the UK at a Designated Point of Entry (DPE) for FSA checks. If the goods are entered at a DPE that is also a RoRo port, they will have FSA checks carried out at the border.
5. The agent pre-notifies arrival of the plant health controlled consignments 3 days in advance using the PEACH system, and also pre-notifies arrival of the FSA-controlled consignments. More details on importing high-risk food not of animal origin are available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).
6. The goods will need to clear Customs when they enter the UK. [Read Importing, exporting and transporting products or goods after Brexit](#) to prepare for changes at the UK border after a 'no deal' EU exit
7. Once Customs checks and FSA checks are complete, the importer moves the consignment to their PoFA facility and holds them awaiting plant health checks.
8. The plant health inspector arrives and carries out plant health checks on the consignment.
9. Now that the goods have cleared plant health checks, they are able to be placed on the market.
10. If the importer does not have access to a PoFA, they must bring their goods into the UK via a non-RoRo terminal, where checks take place at the border as for direct 3rd country imports currently.

**Scenario 8a – Agent imports consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England on behalf of UK importers. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are listed under Annex I of EU Regulation 669/2009 as ‘high risk’, requiring official controls by the Port Health Authority on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.**



**Scenario 8b – Agent imports consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England on behalf of UK importers. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are listed under Annex I of EU Regulation 669/2009 as ‘high risk’, requiring official controls by the Port Health Authority on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.**



# Scenario 9

Importer brings in consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are subject to Marketing Standards regulations.

1. The UK importer ensure that the goods have the correct documentation, including a Certificate of Conformity for goods subject to Marketing Standards regulations (i.e. from an Approved Inspection Service (AIS), and a phytosanitary certificate for regulated third country material.
2. The importer enters the consignment into a transit procedure upon entry to the EU.
3. Since the consignment has not had plant health checks by an EU member state, it will be treated as a 3rd country import. This means that, charged for, plant health checks will need to be completed upon arrival in the UK. Marketing Standards checks may also need to be conducted on a risk basis.
4. If the importer has had their trade premises authorised as a Place of First Arrival (PoFA) with APHA, allowing them to host checks inland, they can bring their goods in via a RoRo port. The importer could also use a 3rd party PoFA, if they have such an agreement in place.
5. 3 days before landing in the UK, the importer submits a pre-notification on PEACH covering both the plant health and Marketing Standards requirements. They select their authorised premises as the inspection point, which tells PHSI inspectors where the consignment will be available for checks.
6. An HMI risk assessment is carried out using the pre-notification details. The goods are not stopped at the border for HMI checks, unless these are deemed as high risk.
7. The goods will need to clear Customs when they enter the UK. Read [Importing, exporting and transporting products or goods after Brexit](#) to prepare for changes at the UK border after a 'no deal' EU exit. Depending on the consignment other, non-plant health, checks may also be required
8. Once Customs checks and HMI checks (only if required) are complete, the importer moves the consignment to their PoFA facility and holds them awaiting plant health checks.
9. The plant health inspector arrives and carries out plant health checks on the consignment. Now that the goods have cleared plant health checks, they are able to be placed on the market.
10. If the importer does not have access to a PoFA, they must bring their goods into the UK via a non-RoRo terminal, where checks take place at the border as for direct 3rd country imports currently.



Scenario 9 – Importer brings in consignments via the EU into a port on the south coast of England. The consignments are mixed, from a third country, and include commodities which are subject to Marketing Standards regulations.

Checks are **NOT** carried out in the EU and consignment remains a 3<sup>rd</sup> country product



Pre-notification of consignment 3 days in advance of its arrival to the UK using the PEACH notification system\*  
 Consignment must include a Certificate of Conformity for commodities that require them



Consignment arrives at UK border. Checks must be carried out as the consignment is a 3<sup>rd</sup> country import  
 Marketing Standards checks may also need to be conducted on a risk basis.\*\*

Provide scanned copies of the PC and supply the original copy of the PC via post within 3 days of the consignment reaching the UK to the relevant plant health authority.

Check inland at PoFA

Can enter RoRo port

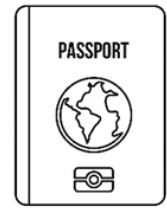
YES

Will the business facilitate checks at an authorised PoFA?

Check at UK border

Must enter at non-RoRo port

NO



\*\*If Marketing Standards deem goods as high risk, checks will be carried out at the border. Both RoRo and non-RoRo ports can be used.

\*If you are not already you will need to be registered on the PEACH system at:

# Supplementary Notes

## Imports into Northern Ireland and Scotland

- The above scenarios set out processes for goods entering the UK in England and Wales.
- Where goods enter the UK in Scotland or Ireland, the importer will need to pre-notify the local plant health authority using local processes, and send the original copy of the PC to the local plant health authority after arrival.
- Further information is available on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

## Imports of mixed consignments

- If a consignment contains a mix of regulated commodities, all destined for the same importer, these commodities can travel using a single PC.

## Consignments destined for multiple importers

- If a haulier is bringing in consignments of regulated plant material destined for multiple importers, each importer will need to have a PC issued for their batch of goods.
- If one importer acts as the receiver and re-sells the goods to the other importers, the goods can travel on one PC. In this case the receiver of the goods may need to apply UK Plant Passports for onwards movement, depending on the commodity and the plant passport controls which apply to it. More information on plant passports is available on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

## Onward movements within the UK

- Where an EU plant passport is currently required for movements within the UK, a UK plant passport will need to be used on Day 1. More information on UK plant passports is available on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

# Supplementary Notes

## Fees and Charges

Fees and charges will apply on Day 1 for the following services:

### *Imports*

- As currently, import checks on direct 3<sup>rd</sup> country imports
- Import checks on 3<sup>rd</sup> country goods entering the UK via the EU. Checks will be charged for regardless of whether checks take place at the port or at an authorised PoFA.
- Documentary and identity import checks on EU material. EU goods will not have to pay a fee for physical checks, as they will not receive these checks on Day 1. Documentary checks will be subject to charge.

### *Exports*

- As currently, issuing a phytosanitary certificate for exports to 3<sup>rd</sup> countries
- Issuing a phytosanitary certificate for exports to the EU

### *Intra-UK movements*

- Authorisation and audit visits for registered plant passporters

### *Place of First Arrival*

- Our guidance sets out that an annual charge will apply for audit inspections of PoFAs.
- We are considering the fees for initial authorisation & audit inspection of PoFA and the timescale for their introduction, and will provide further information to businesses in due course. Introduction of fees for the authorisation of these premises and annual audits will require changes to our legislation.

# Registering with the correct system for pre-notifying the arrival of a consignment

You must give notice each time you bring a consignment of controlled plants and plant products into to the UK. More information on notice periods is available on gov.uk.

Give notice by informing the relevant plant health authority on the PEACH website for England and Wales. PEACH is referenced throughout these scenarios, however importers in Scotland and Northern Ireland use their own plant health authorities, links to which can be found below.

## **England & Wales:**

PEACH: <http://ehmipeach.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Module=Register>

## **Scotland:**

SASA: <https://www.sasa.gov.uk/plant-health/plant-health-licensing>

## **Northern Ireland:**

DAERA: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/contact>

Further details on importing and exporting on day 1 in a 'no deal' scenario can be found by searching on gov.uk for: "[Importing and exporting plants and plant products if there's no withdrawal deal](#)"