

OVERVIEW FOR ALL LEVELS

This is about having an in-depth understanding and knowledge of how your role fits with and supports 'Protecting Plant Health – A Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain'.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307355/pb14168-plant-health-strategy.pdf

You would recognise that plants and trees are an essential economic, environmental and social asset making a vital contribution to our food and timber supply, rural economy and provide important ecosystem services.

For all colleagues, it is about focusing your contribution on the activities which will help in protecting agriculture, forestry and the natural environment both nationally and internationally whilst recognising the need and importance of international trade in plants and plant products. You would understand that threats to plant biosecurity have increased with the globalisation of trade and travel and that predicted climate change effects may influence the impact of damaging pests not yet present in the UK but also ones that are present and have associated management practices. The level of your involvement and influence will range from local, regional, national to international and short term to long-term with increasing responsibility and competency level from associate, to registered to senior plant health professional.

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Assessors will be looking for evidence for the following areas in tree health and plant biosecurity:

Understand:

- What plant biosecurity is, principles of good practice and why it is important.
- The range of plant pests and pathogens that can cause damage, how they may be introduced and/or spread
- The value of the accurate identification of both hosts and pests and the approaches used to achieve this
- Impacts of pests and pathogens on agriculture, forestry and horticulture throughout the entire supply chain and the impact on landscape, amenity and the wider environment
- principles of protecting plant health through risk-based decision making and the appropriate use of international Phytosanitary legislation
- factors that can influence risk such as globalisation of trade and predicted climate change
- responsibility for reducing risk sits with those who benefit from the reduction of those risks (where appropriate)
- diversity of organisations affected by plant health
- impact of pests and pathogens on health and safety particularly in relation to trees e.g. Oak Processionary Moth or Tree /limb falls due to cankers etc.
- principles, implementation and impact of control strategies and measures

The level of knowledge and evidence will increase with the competency level from associate, to registered to senior plant health professional.

Competency	Assessors will be looking for evidence that you know / do / take an active part in:		
	Associate	Registered	Senior
1. Understand how Plant Health Services operate in the UK	Be able to describe the different government departments responsible for Plant Health and Forestry in the UK	Describe how information on plant health is communicated in your organisation Understand the range and diverse nature of sectors that could be affected by biosecurity e.g. trade and natural environments	Describe how you initiate the flow of information and decision making within your organisation and communicate with counterparts in other UK organisations
2. Understand the key set of guidelines and regulations that must be followed: a) International Plant Health Standards, e.g. International Plant Protection Convention (IPCC), WTO-SPS, ISPM b) European and National Plant Health Standards e.g. EPPO standards and EU Plant Health regimes, Plant Health and Plant Health (Forestry) Orders and associated powers	Be able to explain the basic principles of the guidelines and regulations that you use in your role and how it helps protect plant biosecurity	Provide the detail for a specific area and an appreciation of differing practices Show an appreciation of the global spread of pests and pathogens and opportunities for improved biosecurity Demonstrate a working knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibited, controlled and unrestricted classifications • Use of phytosanitary certificates and plant passports 	Actively contribute to national and international initiatives to improve practices Dissemination of good practice internationally
3. Understand the plant Biosecurity Continuum	Be able to explain the concept of pre-border, border and post-border surveillance	Give an appreciation of border activity and opportunities for improved biosecurity	Demonstrate implementation of surveillance and detection methodologies as they become available, and control strategies and

	Be able to give examples of different types of surveillance, inspection or identification approaches (select at least 1)	Understand different technologies and their benefits/limitations for surveillance, inspection, diagnosis and identification	enhanced intelligence with stakeholders
4. Demonstrate communication of risks and plant health policy	Demonstrate how you explain your job to others and its role in UK biosecurity	Demonstrate how you explain the principles of plant biosecurity to a wider audience Explain how you make use of existing networks of communication and/or develop new ones	Show how you lead, negotiate and support regional, national and international plant health policy and campaigns to enhance Plant Biosecurity
5. Understand the roles and responsibilities that are required: a) <i>within</i> your organisation b) <i>outside</i> your organisation with stakeholders and officials	Be able to explain who is responsible for surveillance, monitoring, containment/eradication and reporting pests and pathogens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within your organisation • and reporting to statutory bodies in your organisation 	Understand the need to escalate potential plant health concerns Work with sectors to develop good practice e.g. plant health management or certification schemes with industry Describe the process for notification of listed and high-risk pests and pathogens. Understand the implications on international trade of submitting quarantine pest/pathogen notifications	Understand how changes in plant health legislation will affect your work Show how you disseminate good practice; understanding and overcoming barriers to plant health regulations amongst stakeholders
6. Understand risk-based decision making and the use of the UK Risk Register	Be able to explain the principles of Risk (Hazard x Likelihood) Describe what the UK Risk Register	Understand risk-based decision making and knowledge of the principles of risk assessment and the UK Risk Register Give examples of how you have used	Describe how you have informed colleagues of the results of horizon scanning and changes to the Risk Register ensuring they are upskilled as required

	is and how you can use it	the Risk Register for 'horizon scanning' for new and emerging problems relevant to your business	Show how you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor, manage and review performance in dealing with high risk pests and pathogens and contribute to strategy for their control • Influence policy following identification of new plant health risks • Communicate risks appropriately and follow up action where needed
7. Understand: a) the <i>range</i> of notifiable pests and pathogens that threaten the UK b) which pests and pathogens are <i>high risk within your area</i> of work c) Sampling strategies for surveillance of plant pests and pathogens	Be able to give named examples of the range of pests (e.g. invertebrates and nematodes) and pathogens (e.g. bacteria, viruses, fungi) that are detrimental to plant health; common symptoms to help recognise them and examples of common hosts they affect Be able to describe taking different types of samples and packaging for plant pest and disease diagnosis	Be aware and able to explain that not all organisms are harmful Demonstrate awareness of new and emerging problems within and threatening the UK Show how you design and develop surveillance and sampling strategies on a local basis and review effectiveness	Be able to explain the significance of accurate identification and the consequences of taxonomic revision Show how you design, develop and critically assess surveillance and sampling strategies and effectiveness on a regional and national basis
8. Understand how trade provides pathways of introduction for pests and pathogens and the control measures that can reduce risk	Demonstrate awareness of the significance of different origin of plants, wood, wood products and bark and other materials capable of harbouring pests and pathogens	Explain how pests and pathogens spread naturally such as via air, water, soil and via vectors	Demonstrate an understanding of different pest and pathogen lifecycles and survival strategies and the significance on control strategies

<p>9. Demonstrate knowledge of good biosecurity practice within your work area</p>	<p>Be able to define “biosecurity”</p> <p>Give examples of how you carry out biosecurity practices to prevent spread of plant pests and pathogens within your work area</p>	<p>Understand good biosecurity practice</p> <p>Use and improve biosecurity protocols to deal with pest and disease management within your organisation</p>	<p>Show how you develop biosecurity protocols to deal with pest and disease management on a national basis</p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness and adoption of international protocols</p>
<p>10. Understand contingency planning and outbreak management</p>	<p>Be able to describe what a contingency plan is and why it is needed</p>	<p>Describe the steps you take to prepare in the case of an outbreak (policy, surveillance or lab preparedness as appropriate)</p>	<p>Show how you test new ways to enact speedier, effective methods of outbreak control</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge and adoption of industry best practice as applicable</p> <p>Have processes for and undertake resilience testing of contingency plans</p>
<p>11. Understand the impact and consequences of control strategies and measures on:</p> <p>a) economic losses</p> <p>b) social and environmental impact</p> <p>c) health and safety</p>	<p>Give examples of how the introduction of a pest or pathogen may impact upon economic, social, environmental and health and safety issues.</p> <p>Give examples of who else might be affected across various sectors and the impacts on their work</p>	<p>Understand the impact and consequences of an outbreak and management practices at a regional level</p>	<p>Understand the impact and consequences of an outbreak and management practices at a national and international level</p>