

## 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](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.

## OVERVIEW FOR ALL LEVELS

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 diseases 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 diseases 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 diseases 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:			Plant Biosecurity Strategy for GB report ref
	Associate	Registered	Senior	
Competency Cluster 1. Plant Health Regulations				
1. Understand how Plant Health Services operate in the UK and reporting mechanisms for plant health concerns	<p>Be able to describe the different government departments responsible for Plant Health and Forestry in the UK</p> <p>Be able to define "biosecurity"</p>	<p>The flow of information and decisions about plant health in your organisation</p> <p>The economic significance, diversity of trade and natural environment that could be affected by biosecurity</p> <p>Understand good biosecurity practice</p>	<p>Initiate the flow of information and decision making within your organisation and communicate with counterparts in other UK organisations.</p>	Page 6
<p>2. Understand the significance of:</p> <p>a) International Plant Health Standards</p> <p>b) International Plant Protection Convention</p> <p>c) EU Plant Health regime</p> <p>d) Plant Health and Plant Health (Forestry) Orders and associated powers.</p> <p>d) Procedures for import of</p>	<p>Be able to explain the basic principles of at least one of the standards (a-d) and how it helps protect plant biosecurity .</p> <p>Explain how UK regulations fit in with other international phytosanitary agreements and requirements</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability</p>	<p>The detail for a specific area and shared knowledge of differing practices</p> <p>Appreciation of global spread of pests and pathogens and opportunities for improved biosecurity</p> <p>Working knowledge of prohibited, controlled and uncontrolled classifications.</p> <p>Use of phytosanitary certificates and plant passports</p>	<p>Actively contribute to national and international initiatives to improve practices</p> <p>Dissemination of good practice internationally</p>	<p>p 15</p> <p>p 16</p>

Licensed plant pests, pathogens, soil and plants	to work safely in quarantine licensed facilities	Containment and mitigation strategies for working with quarantine licensed organisms		
3. Understand Plant Biosecurity Continuum	<p>Be able to explain the concept of pre-border, border and inland surveillance</p> <p>Be able to give examples of different types of surveillance, inspection or Identification approaches (select at least 1)</p>	<p>Appreciation of border activity and opportunities for improved biosecurity</p> <p>Understand different technologies and their benefits/limitations for surveillance, inspection, diagnosis and identification</p>	Implementation of new detection methodologies and control strategies and enhanced intelligence with stakeholders	p 18
<p>Competency Cluster 2</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities in reporting plant health concerns</p>				
4. Demonstrate communication of risks and plant health policy	Explaining your job to others and its role in UK biosecurity	Making use of existing networks of communication and/or developing new ones	Leading, negotiating and supporting regional, national and international plant health policy and campaigns to enhance Plant Biosecurity	p 13/14
<p>5. Understand the National Legal Plant Health framework- roles and responsibilities</p> <p>a) <i>within</i> your organisation</p> <p>b) <i>outside</i> your organisation with</p>	<p>Be able to explain:</p> <p>who is responsible for surveillance, monitoring, containment/eradication and reporting pests and diseases in your organisation</p> <p>Statutory action in your</p>	<p>Understanding the need to escalate potential plant health concerns.</p> <p>Monitor data and reports from those responsible. Use the Pest Risk Register and other reference points for informing decisions</p>	<p>Analysis of data and recommendations for action at an organisational level</p> <p>Disseminating good practice; understanding and overcoming barriers to certification or similar schemes amongst</p>	p 20

stakeholders and officials  c) Plant Health and Plant Health (Forestry) Orders and associated powers.	organisation  Give examples of who else might be affected across various sectors and the impacts on their work	Work with sectors to develop good practice e.g. certification schemes with industry	stakeholders	
Competency Cluster 3				
Risk based decision making				
6. Understand risk based decision making and identify which pests and pathogens are <i>high risk within your area</i> of work	Be able to describe the range of organisms and the damage/symptoms they may cause  Be able to identify which pests and pathogens are high risk and why and where you find out this information	Be aware and able to explain that not all pests and pathogens present a significant risk. Understand risk based decision making and knowledge of the principles of risk assessment and the UK Risk Register.  The process for containment/eradication and EU notification of Listed and high risk pests and pathogens. Understand the implications on international trade of submitting quarantine pest/pathogen notifications	Be able to explain the significance of accurate identification and the consequences of taxonomic revision  Monitor, manage and review your team's 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	Page 11 (risk register)
7. Understand the <i>range</i> of notifiable pests and pathogens that threaten the UK	Be able to give examples of the range of pest and pathogens detrimental to plant	To be aware of new and emerging problems within and threatening the UK  To be able to use the Risk	Inform your team of the results of horizon scanning and changes to the Risk Register	Page 11 (risk register)

	<p>health, common symptoms to help recognise them and examples of common hosts they affect</p> <p>Be able to give examples of taking different types of samples and packaging for plant pest and disease diagnosis</p>	<p>Register for 'horizon scanning' for new and emerging problems relevant to your business</p> <p>Design and develop sampling strategies on a local basis and review effectiveness</p>	<p>ensuring they are upskilled as required.</p> <p>Design, develop and critically assess sampling strategies and effectiveness on a regional and national basis</p>	
8. Understand how trade in commodities provides pathways of introduction that impact on biosecurity and measures taken to reduce risk and prevent introduction	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the significance of the different origin of plants, wood, wood products and bark and other materials capable of harbouring pests and pathogens</p> <p>Explain how plant pests and diseases may be introduced or spread (Introduction pathways)</p>	<p>How pests and pathogens spread naturally such as via air, water, soil and via vectors</p> <p>Have the principles of how to manage a programme of quarantine pest and disease surveillance and subsequent action</p>	<p>Demonstrate an understanding of different pest and pathogen lifecycles and survival strategies and the significance on control strategies</p> <p>Measure and strategies to prevent introduction and spread</p>	p 12 (PRAs)
<p>Competency Cluster 4</p> <p>Contingency planning and outbreak management</p>				
9. Demonstrate knowledge of good biosecurity practice within work area	<p>Give examples of how you carry out biosecurity practices to prevent spread of plant pests and diseases within work</p>	<p>Use and improve biosecurity protocols to deal with pest and disease management within your organisation.</p>	<p>Develop biosecurity protocols to deal with pest and disease management on a national basis</p>	P21

	area		Awareness and adaption of international protocols	
10. Contingency planning and outbreak management	Give an example of steps you take to prevent the introduction or spread of a pest as part of outbreak management or contingency planning for your work area	Preparedness for outbreak management  Have processes for and undertake resilience testing of contingency plans	Testing new ways to enact speedier, effective methods of outbreak control  Knowledge and adoption of industry best practice as applicable	p 20
11. Understand the impact of control strategies and measures on:  a) economic losses  b) social and environmental impact  c) health and safety	Give examples of how the introduction of a pest or disease may impact upon economic, social, environmental and health and safety issues  .	Understand the impact of an outbreak and management practices at a regional level	Understand the impact of an outbreak and management practices at a national and international level	P21