

## 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.

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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 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:-   |  |   |
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|   | Associate  | Registered   | Senior  |
| Competency Cluster 1.<br>Plant Health Regulations   |  |  |   |
| 1. Understand how Plant Health Services operate in the UK and reporting mechanisms for plant health concerns  | Be able to describe the different government departments responsible for Plant Health and Forestry in the UK   | Describe the flow of information and decisions about plant health in your organisation.<br><br>Understand the economic significance, diversity of trade and natural environment that could be affected by biosecurity.   | 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 significance of:<br><br>a) International Plant Health Standards<br><br>b) International Plant Protection Convention<br><br>c) EU Plant Health regime<br><br>d) Plant Health and Plant Health (Forestry) Orders and associated powers.<br><br>d) Procedures for import of Licensed plant pests, pathogens, soil and plants | Be able to explain the basic principles of the standards (a-d) that you use in your role and how it helps protect plant biosecurity. (Detail is expected for at least one and not all. If your role does not use them directly, your answer should address at least one based on your reading)<br><br>If relevant to your role:-<br><br>a) Explain how UK regulations fit in with other international phytosanitary agreements and | Provide the detail for a specific area and an appreciation of differing practices.<br><br>Show an appreciation of the global spread of pests and pathogens and opportunities for improved biosecurity<br><br>Demonstrate a working knowledge of:-<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prohibited, controlled and uncontrolled classifications.</li> <li>• Use of phytosanitary certificates and plant passports</li> </ul> | Actively contribute to national and international initiatives to improve practices<br><br>Dissemination of good practice internationally                    |

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|  | <p>requirements</p> <p>b) demonstrate the ability to work safely in quarantine licensed facilities.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Containment and mitigation strategies for working with quarantine licensed organisms</li> </ul>   |   |  |
| 3. Understand the 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>Give an 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> | Demonstrate implementation of new detection methodologies and control strategies and enhanced intelligence with stakeholders  |  |
| <p>Competency Cluster 2</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities in reporting plant health concerns</p> |   |  |   |  |
| 4. Demonstrate communication of risks and plant health policy                                    | <p>How do you explain your job to others and its role in UK biosecurity</p>   | <p>How do you explain the principles of plant biosecurity to a wider audience.</p> <p>How do you make use of existing networks of communication and/or developing new ones</p>   | <p>Show how you lead, negotiate and support regional, national and international plant health policy and campaigns to enhance Plant Biosecurity</p>   |  |
| 5. Understand the National Legal Plant Health framework- roles and responsibilities              | <p>Be able to explain who is responsible for surveillance, monitoring, containment/eradication and reporting pests and diseases:</p>  | <p>Understand the need to escalate potential plant health concerns.</p> <p>Work with sectors to develop good practice e.g. certification schemes with industry</p> <p>The process for</p>                                    | <p>Understand how changes in plant health legislation will affect your work</p> <p>Show how you disseminate good practice; understanding and overcoming barriers to plant health regulations amongst stakeholders</p> |  |
| <p>a) <i>within</i> your organisation</p> <p>b) <i>outside</i> your</p>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>within your</li> </ul>   |  |   |  |

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| <p>organisation with stakeholders and officials</p> <p>c) Plant Health and Plant Health (Forestry) Orders and associated powers.</p> | <p>organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and reporting to statutory bodies in your organisation</li> </ul>                | <p>containment/eradication and EU notification of Listed and high risk pests and pathogens.</p> <p>Understand the implications on international trade of submitting quarantine pest/pathogen notifications</p>   |   |
| <p>Competency Cluster 3</p> <p>Risk based decision making</p>  |   |  |   |
| <p>6. Understand risk based decision making and identify which pests and pathogens are <i>high risk within your area</i> of work</p> | <p>Be able to explain the principles of Risk (Hazard x Likelihood)</p> <p>Describe what is the UK Risk Register and how you can use it.</p> | <p>Understand risk based decision making and knowledge of the principles of risk assessment and the UK Risk Register.</p> <p>Give examples of how you have used the Risk Register for 'horizon scanning' for new and emerging problems relevant to your business</p> | <p>How have you Informed your team of the results of horizon scanning and changes to the Risk Register ensuring they are upskilled as required.</p> <p>Show how you:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>monitor, manage and review your team's performance in dealing with high risk pests and pathogens and contribute to strategy for their control.</li> <li>Influence policy following identification of new plant health risks.</li> <li>Communicate risks appropriately and follow up action where needed</li> </ul> |
| <p>7. Understand:</p> <p>a) the <i>range</i> of notifiable</p>   | <p>Be able to give examples of the range of pest and</p>  | <p>Be aware and able to explain that not all organisms are harmful</p>   | <p>Be able to explain the significance of accurate identification and the</p>   |

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| pests and pathogens that threaten the UK   | pathogens detrimental to plant health, common symptoms to help recognise them and examples of common hosts they affect  | Demonstrate awareness of new and emerging problems within and threatening the UK   | consequences of taxonomic revision  |  |
| b) Sampling strategies   | Be able to give examples of taking different types of samples and packaging for plant pest and disease diagnosis  | Show how you design and develop sampling strategies on a local basis and review effectiveness  | Show how you design, develop and critically assess sampling strategies and effectiveness on a regional and national basis   |  |
| 8. Understand how trade in commodities provides pathways of introduction that impact on biosecurity and measures taken to reduce risk and prevent introduction | 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   |  |
| Competency Cluster 4   |   |  |   |  |
| Contingency planning and outbreak management   |   |  |   |  |
| 9. Demonstrate knowledge of good biosecurity practice within work area   | Be able to define "biosecurity"<br><br>Give examples of how you carry out biosecurity practices to prevent spread of plant pests and diseases within work area      | Understand good biosecurity practice<br><br>Use and improve biosecurity protocols to deal with pest and disease management within your organisation. | Show how you develop biosecurity protocols to deal with pest and disease management on a national basis<br><br>Demonstrate an awareness and adaptation of international protocols |  |
| 10. Contingency planning   | Be able to describe what a contingency plan is and  | Describe the steps you take to prepare in the case of an   | Show how you test new ways to enact speedier, effective methods of  |  |

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| <p>and outbreak management</p>  | <p>why it is needed</p> <p>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</p>   | <p>outbreak (policy, surveillance or lab preparedness as appropriate)</p>                | <p>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 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 disease 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 of an outbreak and management practices at a regional level</p> | <p>Understand the impact of an outbreak and management practices at a national and international level</p>  |  |