



Department for International Trade

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Dear Partner,

We are writing to you with respect to the UK – European Union transition period that ends on 31st December 2020 and the continued trading relationship between the UK and Zimbabwe

The UK government is continuing important preparatory work to start implementing concluded UK trade bilateral agreements which will come into force once the transition period with the European Union ends on 31 December 2020. Regardless of the agreement we reach with the European Union on our future trade relationship, the UK will be leaving the EU single market and customs union, and **trading rules will change**.

On 31 January 2019, the ESA States (Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe) signed the ESA-UK Economic Partnership Agreement. Zimbabwe ratified and completed all domestication processes for the EPA in September 2020. This EPA replicates the intended effects of the ESA-EU interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) that was signed between the ESA States and the EU. The ESA-UK EPA secures immediate and long-term duty-free and quota-free access to the UK for Zimbabwean exports.

Rules of Origin (ROO) – Proof of Origin

Products originating in an ESA State shall, on importation into the UK, benefit from the provisions of the Agreement and qualify as duty- and quota-exempt upon submission of either:

- (a) a movement certificate EUR.1; or
- (b) an ‘invoice declaration’, given by the exporter on an invoice, a delivery note or any other commercial document which describes the products concerned in sufficient detail to enable them to be identified;

The UK EUR.1 will be available on gov.uk from 1 January 2021 at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-movement-certificate-eur1-c1299>.

An “invoice declaration” referred to above may be made out by an approved exporter authorized as appropriate by the customs authorities (ZIMRA).

Plant Health and SPS Certification

There will be no changes to the operational processes for importing plants and plant products into the UK from non-EU countries such as Zimbabwe. For example, pre-notification and phytosanitary certificates will still be required and checks will continue to be carried out at Border Control Posts.

In addition, during the first few months (January/February) of 2021, the IT system used to facilitate the pre-notification of imports of plants and other regulated articles will change from the current PEACH system to a new service, but businesses can continue to use the existing service until directed to register for the new service once migration has completed.

Further details on the UK's phytosanitary import controls will be available on the [UK's country profile page on the International Phytosanitary Portal](#).

Goods passing through the EU or other third countries

Goods being exported from Zimbabwe to the UK via the EU will not be subject to the same restrictions as those in transit through other third countries with which the UK does not have Trade Agreements. This means, as long as they remain under customs surveillance, consignments in the EU may undergo operations including unloading, reloading, splitting, storing, labelling, marking or any operation designed to preserve them in good condition.

Transit through any other third country is possible but your goods should remain under customs surveillance and should not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good condition.

Goods cleared into free circulation in the EU, including cut flowers being sent to Dutch flower auctions, which are subsequently exported to GB will be treated as imports from the EU and will require a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) issued by the competent authority of the EU Member State that consignments are sent from. Such imports will be subject to the phased introduction of import controls. Most cut flowers, fruits and vegetables will only need a PC from April 2021.

Further details on the UK's phytosanitary import controls will be available on the [United Kingdom's country profile page on the International Phytosanitary Portal](#).

Any questions regarding changes being made to plant health controls should be directed to the UK's IPPC official contact point via UKNPPO@defra.gov.uk.

Additional Information

Further information is also provided through the links below:

- [View an online summary](#) of the information contained in this letter
- [Check how to export goods \(CHEG\)](#) helps UK businesses prepare their goods for export to another country.
- [Trade with the UK \(TWUK\)](#) provides overseas businesses with information on UK tariffs, regulations and other key processes to help them trade with the UK effectively.
- How to [export plants and plant products](#) from the 1st of January 2021
- [Fresh fruit and vegetables standards from January 2021](#)

For further help and assistance, you can also contact the Transition Period Enquiry Service [here](#). The Enquiry Team will ensure that enquiries are directed to the relevant team or will provide an answer directly.

Alternatively you could call David Gate on +263-784-166-587 from the British Embassy's Trade team in Harare and we will do our best to help you.

Warm Regards,

Tom Hill,
DIT Country Director, Zimbabwe

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Market Access and Trade Policy Officer, Zimbabwe