

**Animal and Plant Health Agency**

# **Certification scheme fruit plants**

## **Explanatory guide to labelling, sealing and packaging of fruit plant propagating material**

**April 2021**

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# 1. Introduction

This document is a guide to labelling, sealing and packaging as set out in the Marketing of Fruit Plant and Propagating material (England) Regulations 2017 as amended.

## 2. Labelling requirements

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 propagating material officially certified as Pre-basic, Basic or Certified can only be marketed if they comply with specific requirements. The label shall be indelibly printed and easily visible and legible.

From 2017 certification labels must be a specified colour:

<b>Pre-basic</b>	white with a diagonal violet stripe
<b>Basic</b>	white
<b>Certified</b>	blue

Label designs must be agreed with APHA and they can be produced by label suppliers or by the plant producer. Producers may label material under official supervision. The label shall contain the following information:

- a) The words 'UK rules and standards'
- b) responsible official body or respective code i.e. DEFRA
- c) name of supplier or its registration number issued by the responsible body i.e. Plant Passport Registration number.
- d) reference number of package or bundle, individual serial number, week number or batch number
- e) botanical name
- f) category, and for basic grade also the generation number
- g) variety or clone, in the case of rootstocks not belonging to a variety, the name of the species or the interspecific hybrid, for grafted fruit plant, the rootstock and the top-graft. For varieties where an application for official registration or for plant variety right is pending, the words 'proposed denomination' and 'application pending'
- h) the indication 'variety with an officially recognised description', where appropriate

- i) quantity
- j) year of issue
- k) in case the original label is replaced by another label: the year of issue of the original label

The label must be fixed to the plants to be marketed as propagating material or fruit plants. If sold in a package, bundle or container then that should be labelled.

Removing the label will render it invalid.

### **3. Sealing and packaging**

Material must be sold in sufficiently homogenous lots. Plants in a lot shall be in a sealed package, bundle or container. Sealing means closed in such a way that it cannot be opened without damaging the closure, or in the case of a bundle, tying up in such a way that the plants in the bundle cannot be separated without damaging the tie.

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<http://www.gov.uk/apha>