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## **The Marketing of Fruit Plant Material (England) Regulations 2016**

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**RPC rating: confirmed as a non-qualifying regulatory  
provision**

### **Description of proposal**

The regulations will transpose three EU directives on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material. The regulations are intended to harmonise requirements for identity, quality, labelling and packaging and provide consumer protection. The Department states that there is no gold-plating as the transposition does not go beyond the scope of the directives.

The Department notes that the UK already has a quality assurance scheme in place and that the new regulatory provisions, apart from a new labelling requirement, broadly mirror the requirements of the current UK voluntary certification scheme.

### **Impacts of proposal**

The affected market consists of 10-15 small and micro businesses. The Department states that the actual number of businesses using the voluntary scheme in any one year varies. The range of 10-15 is based on the 10 businesses using the service in 2015 and the five other businesses which used the service in previous years, but not in 2015.

The Department estimates that the total annual costs of the measure will be £74,000. The largest part of this cost, £56,000, is the cost of official inspection of field stocks by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. The remaining £18,000 is based on the administration of the service by the Nuclear Stock Association, sampling and laboratory testing for diseases in cases of doubt, and costs of complying with the additional requirements for labelling the marketed propagating material.

Businesses will benefit from an annual saving of £4,000 as result of savings in the cost of inspection provided in the new regulations, relative to the existing UK scheme.

This will be a non-qualifying regulatory provision that will not score under the business impact target.

## Quality of submission

The Department's submission is extremely succinct, which is appropriate for a non-qualifying measure with a low impact. However, its assumptions are not fully justified in the original submission; it has provided additional supporting information in an email. It would have been useful had some of this been included in the original submission.

## Departmental assessment

Classification	Non-qualifying regulatory provision (EU)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	Not applicable (low cost non-qualifying regulatory provision)

## RPC assessment

Classification	Non-qualifying regulatory provision (EU)
Small and micro business assessment	Not required (low-cost regulation)



**Michael Gibbons CBE**, Chairman