

Application for Official Soil Sampling for Potato Cyst Nematode

1. Growers wishing to apply for land to be soil sampled either for the growing of seed potatoes for marketing or to comply with the plant health import regulations of overseas countries should complete the form attached and not the general conditions below. Completed application forms for soil sampling should be returned to the Fera Senior Plant Health and Seeds Inspector in the area where the soil sampling is to be carried out. Contact details for all our offices are available on the fera website at: www.defra.gov.uk/fera/contactUs/contactPlh.cfm.
2. **General Conditions under which applications are invited and accepted**
 - (a) Applications for soil sampling in order to enter any seed potato crops intended for classification in Fera's statutory scheme, should be made not later than 15 February in the year of planting.
 - (b) If your application is for seed potatoes for marketing, please indicate for each field on page 2 of form PH 13 whether you wish to be able to market the seed as meeting the requirements for movement into a rhizomania Protected Zone (Zpd1 on the label).
 - (c) If Zpd 1 is required you must tell us if the field is known to be infected with rhizomania.
 - (d) If rhizomania is not known to be present in the field you must tell us if any types of beet (sugar/fodder/red etc.) have been grown in the field since 2003.
 - (e) Any certificate of the result of soil testing shall be used only in respect of any premises to which it purports to relate, and then only for the purpose for which the testing was carried out.
 - (f) No guarantee is given by Fera that any soil testing carried out will comply with or meet the requirements of any overseas country or importer.
 - (g) Fera and its officers shall be entitled to rely on the accuracy of all information supplied by or on behalf of an applicant for soil testing.
 - (h) The issue of any certificate as a result of soil sampling does not provide eligibility of a crop of seed potatoes for entry into a Fera classification scheme unless such a crop meets the rotational and other conditions for entry into the scheme.
3. Applicants should be aware that under the Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993 the future cropping of any land officially declared to be infested with Potato Cyst Nematode will be restricted as mentioned below.
 - Seed Potatoes
The growing of seed potatoes will be prohibited.
 - Ware Potatoes
The growing of ware potatoes will be prohibited except where the potato varieties to be grown are resistant to Potato Cyst Nematode or where Fera authorizes the growing of a crop to be harvested before the cysts mature or where a soil treatment approved by Fera for control of Potato Cyst Nematode is used.
- Plants for Transplanting
The removal of plants for transplanting elsewhere will be prohibited, except where they are to be transplanted on the infested land.
4. Where the applicant is not the owner of the land it is the applicants responsibility to ensure that:
 - the owner understands the cropping restrictions that will be placed on the land if Potato Cyst Nematode is found; and
 - they have the owners agreement for the sampling to go ahead.
5. **Fees will be charged for official soil sampling in connection with the export of potatoes, bulbs or plants.** Details of the fees are given in a separate explanatory leaflet (PHE 1) available on the Fera website at: www.defra.gov.uk/fera/plants/forms/plantHealthForms.cfm or from your local Fera PHSI office. **DON NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH THIS FORM** – an invoice will be sent to you later. Prompt settlement of the invoice will help to meet the overall cost of providing these services and may therefore affect the level of fees.
6. **Data Protection Act 1998**

Information provided will be used for the processing of your application. It can also be used to determine the eligibility of your crops for export. Details will be held in our computer system and may be used to compile statistics on activity in your sector and to inform Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors, Defra, other Government Departments of their appointed agents of the location of crops in emergency situations, such as pest outbreak. It may also be used by Fera for scientific research. Fera may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations, the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Fera will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. Fera, Defra or its appointed agents may use the name, address and other details on your application form to contact you in connection with occasional customer research aimed at improving the services that Fera provides to you.

This page should be retained by the applicant