
Appendix 1 - Import Legislation

Imports of cut flowers into the UK are affected by various regulatory requirements:

Quality standards

These apply to imports of all types of cut flowers. Consignments are subject to inspection by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Horticultural Marketing Inspectors, to ensure that they meet certain standards laid down by the EC. Inspectors must satisfy themselves that standards of quality grading (into 'Extra' Class, Class I or Class II produce), sizing, presentation, packaging and marking, have been met.

Details of the EC Common Quality Standards for Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage are set out opposite.

Phytosanitary Regulations

Phytosanitary certificates must accompany imports of:

- Roses
- Carnations
- Chrysanthemums
- Gladioli
- Gypsophila
- Statice

Phytosanitary certificates are issued by the responsible authority in the exporting country and provide confirmation that the flowers to be exported conform to regulatory health/hygiene standards.

CITES Requirements

Several species of orchid are covered by provisions laid down by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Exports of orchids which are classified as 'endangered species' require a special licence, issued by the UK's Department of the Environment upon application by the importer.

Import and CAP Licences

A provision exists in EC legislation for the application of such licences to imports of roses and carnations. However, these regulations are not applied at the moment and have not been for several years.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

EC Common Quality Standards for Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage

The following notes on the European Community's common quality standards for fresh cut flowers (including special provisions for mimosa) and for foliage (including special provisions for asparagus sprengeri and asparagus plumosus) are provided for information only and are not intended to be a comprehensive statement of the legal requirements nor do they cover the requirements of any other legislation.

Application

The standards apply to fresh cut flowers and flower buds, foliage, leaves, branches and other parts of plants suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes. The standards define the requirements for these products when they are displayed for sale, put on sale, sold delivered or otherwise marketed at the wholesale stage within the Community either by traders or directly by the producers, and when they are imported from a country outside the Community or exported to such a country.

Requirements

All produce must have been carefully cut or picked, according to the species, and have reached an appropriate stage of growth.

1. Cut flowers

A. CLASSIFICATION AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Extra Class: Produce which qualifies for Class I without the aid of any tolerance may be marked Extra. However, this classification may not be used for American carnations with a split calyx.

Class I: Flowers in this class must be of good quality. They must have the characteristics of the species and, where appropriate, of the variety.

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They must be:

- Whole
- Fresh
- Unbruised
- Free of animal or vegetable parasites and from resultant damage
- Free of residue of pesticides and other extraneous matter affecting the appearance
- Free of development defect.

Calyx splitting is not considered a development defect of carnations. However, American carnations (as grown under glass in this country) must be ringed, packed separately in uniform lots and the packages marked accordingly.

According to the species and variety, the stems must be rigid and sufficiently strong to support the flower(s).

Class II: This class includes flowers which do not meet all the requirements of Class I but are:

- Whole
- Fresh
- Free of animal parasites.

The following defects may be present providing they do not impair the appearance, life or use of the flowers:

- Slight malformation
- Slight bruising
- Slight damage, including that caused by pest or disease
- Small marks resulting from pesticides
- Weaker and less rigid stems.

B. QUALITY TOLERANCES

Quality tolerances are permitted in each unit of presentation as follows:

Class I: Up to 5% of the cut flowers may have slight defects providing the uniformity in a unit of presentation is not affected.

Class II: Up to 10% of the cut flowers may vary from requirements of the Class. However, not more than half of this 10% may be damaged by animal or vegetable parasites. The defects in question must not impair the use of the flowers.

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C. SIZING

Cut flowers must comply at least with the size ranges given below. The stem lengths quoted include the flower head.

Description code	Minimum and maximum stem length
0	less than 5 cm or flowers marketed without stems
5	5 - 10 cm
10	10 - 15 cm
15	15 - 20 cm
20	20 - 30 cm
30	30 - 40 cm
40	40 - 50 cm
50	50 - 60 cm
60	60 - 80 cm
80	80 - 100 cm
100	100 - 120 cm
120	more than 120 cm

Uniformity of sizing

In any one unit of presentation (e.g. bunch, bouquet or box, etc.) the maximum permitted difference between the shortest and longest stem lengths is as follows:

	Description Code	Stem length
For stem lengths less than 20 cm	0-15	2.5 cm
For stem lengths 20 - 60 cm	20-50	5 cm
For stem lengths greater than 60 cm	60 and over	10 cm

The differences may be doubled for flowers in flat-backed bunches; also for flat-backed bunches of large flowered chrysanthemums of stem lengths 20 - 60 cm (i.e. codes 20 - 50) the permitted variation is further increased to a maximum of 20 cm.

The size scale and uniform lengths set out above do not apply to mimosa (see special provisions for mimosa).

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D. PRESENTATION AND PACKAGING

A unit of presentation (bouquet, bunch, box, etc.) must consist of 5, 10 or a multiple of 10 pieces with the exception of:

- Flowers normally sold singly
- Flowers normally sold by weight
- Direct sales to retailers of consumer units at a fixed selling price outside wholesale markets provided that the seller and buyer have agreed to vary the number of flowers in a unit; the flowers are accompanied by a document (bill, delivery note, etc.) showing the selling price and the contents in the ultimate consumer pack are clearly identifiable
- Flowers for export to the USA or Canada when this requirement may be varied to meet the trade requirements of these countries.

Each unit of presentation must contain flowers of the same genus, species or variety and of the same quality class and which have reached the same stage of development. However, mixtures of flowers and mixtures of flowers with foliage of the same quality class but of different genus, species or variety are permitted provided they are so marked.

E. MARKING

The following information must be shown in respect of each consignment or lot. When packaged it is preferable that the containers are marked legibly and indelibly on one side or end.

Identification

Packer and/or Despatcher: Name and address, or officially issued or accepted code mark

Nature of produce

- genus
- species or variety or colour of flowers
- where appropriate 'Mixture' or equivalent term

Origin of produce (optional)

- country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name

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Commercial specifications

- class
- size - length code or minimum and maximum lengths (optional)
- number or net weight.

Presentation

If the number of flowers per unit of presentation does not correspond to the provisions of Section D above, packages must be marked to show the exact composition of the units of presentation contained therein.

Official control mark (optional)

2. Special provisions for Mimosa

A. QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Mimosa must satisfy the quality requirements of Class I specified in the previous section. However, the rigidity requirement does not apply to the upper ends of the flower stems. The base of the branches must not be too woody.

In addition to the Class I quality requirements Mimosa must:

- have stems well furnished with flowers
- have unbroken or untrimmed tips.

However, stems with broken tips are permitted where the broken section has a diameter of less than 2 millimetres.

Mimosa may be presented in bloom or not. For Mimosa in bloom, the blossom should be normal for the variety and the numbers of green flowering heads not yet in bloom must not exceed:

- 60% for floribunda
- 20% for other species and varieties.

The flowering heads must be of normal colour, unspotted and firmly fixed to the inflorescence. For Mimosa which is not in bloom, 80% of the flowering heads must be yellow (slightly open).

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B. SIZING

Stems must not be less than 20 cm in length except that bundles and bouquet composed exclusively of small sprigs less than 20 cm in length are permitted providing they are marked 'shorts', 'short stemmed' or an equivalent term.

C. PRESENTATION

A unit of presentation, even when offered in bulk, must be of uniform composition and only contain branches of the same species and variety.

Branches of Mimosa must be either arranged in layers or presented in bunches of either 150 grammes, 250 grammes or multiples of 250 grammes.

Mimosa not in bloom must be packed in small bags made of polythene or a similar substance.

D. MARKING

In addition to indicating the packer or despatcher on each package, the marking must include the following particulars:

- the genus
- the species or variety (cultivar)
- the words 'in bloom' or 'not in bloom'
- where appropriate, the words 'shorts' or 'short stemmed' or equivalent term
- the total net weight or the number of bunches and the weight of each bunch.

Appendix 2 - Customs Tariffs

UK tariffs on imports are governed by the Common Customs Tariff of the European Community.

The EC has a number of preferential trade agreements with certain individual countries or groups of countries outside the EC. All of the developing country members of the Commonwealth belong to one or more of these groups and, as such, are entitled to reduced and, in most cases, nil tariffs on imports of cut flowers to the UK. Applicable rates are given in the product profiles. There are also some other countries, particularly in the Mediterranean Basin area, which have negotiated preferential tariff rates, some of which apply to cut flowers. However, these are not separately quoted because the countries in question are not significant suppliers of flowers to the UK market.

The following is a list of relevant preferential trade groups showing those Commonwealth developing countries which are members of the group and are eligible for preferential customs duties. (Some countries are members of the GSP group, but are not entitled to preferential rates because they have not complied with the administrative requirements of the EC. These countries are not listed.)

Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Group

Includes:

The Bahamas	Kenya	Singapore
Bangladesh	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Barbados	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Belize	Malawi	Swaziland
Botswana	Malaysia	Tanzania
Brunei Darussalem	Maldives	Tonga
Ghana	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Guyana	Pakistan	Western Samoa
India	Papua New Guinea	Zambia
Jamaica	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe

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African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group

Includes:

Antigua and Barbuda	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
The Bahamas	Lesotho	Swaziland
Barbados	Malawi	Tanzania
Belize	Mauritius	Tonga
Botswana	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Papua New Guinea	Tuvalu
The Gambia	St. Christopher - Nevis	Uganda
Ghana	St. Lucia	Vanuatu
Grenada	St. Vincent and the	Western Samoa
Guyana	Grenadines	Zambia
Jamaica	Seychelles	Zimbabwe
Kenya	Sierra Leone	

Least Developed Developing Countries (LDDC) Group

Includes:

Bangladesh	Malawi	Tonga
Botswana	Maldives	Western Samoa
Kiribati	Sierra Leone	
Lesotho	Tanzania	

Appendix 3 - Contacts

IMPORTERS

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Telex: 336707

Continental Farms

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Isleworth
Middlesex TW7 5EU

Tel: 081 569 9995

Crystal Import Sales Ltd

Unit 6
River Gardens
Business Centre
Spur Road, Feltham
Middlesex TW14 0SN

Tel: 081 844 0050

W. Daniel & Son Ltd

Smithfield Market
Pershore Street
Birmingham
West Midlands

Tel: 021 622 4771
Telex: 336 707

John Dennis (Flowers) Ltd

Smithfield Market
Pershore Street
Birmingham
West Midlands

Tel: 021 643 8374
Telex: 338968

Florimex Ltd

Florimex House
Clayton Road
Hayes, Middlesex

Tel: 081 569 2348

Francis Nicholls

New Covent Garden
London SW8

Tel: 071 720 8355/6

The House of Heyes Ltd

13/14 Market Centre
Western International
Market
Hayes Road, Southall
Middlesex

Tel: 081 848 4555
Telex: 934310

J. & E. Page Ltd

230-238 Flower Market
New Covent Garden
London SW8

Tel: 071 720 7681

S. Robert Allen Ltd

282 Flower Market
New Covent Garden
London SW8

Tel: 071 720 9432

CLEARERS

Pan Express

Unit 7
Ascot Road
Bedfont, Feltham
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OTHERS

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Appendix 4 - References

- **International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT**
'Floricultural Products, A Study of Major Markets (1987)'
- **The Grower**
50 Doughty Street
London
WC1N 2LS
- **Flower Trades Journal**
Yew Tree Publishing Co Ltd
17 Wickham Road
Beckenham
Kent BR3 2JS
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**
'EC Common Quality Standards for Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage'
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**
'Plant Health Import Legislation, Guide for Importers'
- **Ministry of the Environment**
'Controls on the Import and Export of CITES Species'