

Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation

Draft Ministerial Decree No 562 of 2019

Concerning Egypt's Plant Quarantine

Rules & Regulations

The Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation, after reviewing:

- Law No 53 of 1966, promulgating the Law of Agriculture,
- the Criminal Procedure Code,
- the Anti-narcotics Law No 182 of 1960, amended by Law No 122 of 1989, schedules attached thereunto and all the amending and implementing resolutions thereof,
- the Decree of the Minister for Justice No 1124 of 1971, amending Article 1 of the Decree No 51 of 1967 granting to certain members of staff of the Ministry of Agriculture the capacity of judicial control officers,
- the Decree of the Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation No 3007 of 2001 concerning quarantine rules and the amendments thereof,
- Inter-ministerial Decree No 824 of 2010 and the amendments thereof,
- Inter-ministerial Decree No 670 of 2017,
- Ministerial Decree No 154 of 2018,
- the International Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and
- the recommendations of the Plant Quarantine Committee (PQC) convened on ...

has reached the following decision:

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**Chapter Two
Import and Processing**

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Article 23: Potato tubers shall be imported in accordance with the requirements prescribed in Annex 14.

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**Annex 14
Regarding Article 23 – Importation and Treatment
Regulations for importing potato tubers**

First: Rules and conditions governing the import of potato tubers for the purpose of cultivation:

- 1- The potato seeds shall be imported with an import permit issued by the Agricultural Crops Committee based on a request submitted by the importing authority to the Agricultural Crop Seeds Committee every year on the appropriate form and specifying the quantities, item, rank and origin.
- 2- Egyptian Plant Quarantine shall annually receive a list of agricultural land codes allocated for growing potato tubers for the purpose of exporting seeds and the plans at

least one month prior to the importation, and in the event of any change in the above-mentioned codes or plans, the competent authority in the exporting country shall notify Egyptian Plant Quarantine of such change in due time.

- 3- The potato seeds shall be imported as per the quarantine requirements set forth herein and provided that they are accompanied by the phytosanitary certificate certified by the concerned authority in the country of origin, certifying the validity of the potato seeds and in which there is an additional acknowledgement indicating the compliance with the quarantine requirements, as well as the additional requirements in paragraph 4 below.
- 4- The following requirements must be complied with for potatoes imported from abroad:

1- Insects:

- The imported potato seeds shall be completely free from the infestation of any of the following insects in any phase:
- *Leptinotars decemlineata* (Say) Colorado potato beetle
- *Phthorimaea operculella* (Zeller) Phthorimaea operculella
- *Euzophera osseatella* (Treitscke) Eggplant Fruit and Shoot borer
- *Premnotypes* spp. Andean susses
- *Epitrix cucumeris* (Harris) Cabbage Llea Beetle
- *Epitrix subcrinita* (Le conte) Western potato flea beetle
- *Limonius canus* Wired Worms Group
- *Limonius californicus*
- *Ctenicera pruinina*
- *Epicauta* spp. Bitter beetle
- *Phyllophaga* spp. Cyclocephala
- *Hydraecia micacea* (Esp) Potato leg digger

2- Diseases

First: The imported potatoes should be free from, and produced in, places free from the following diseases and their causes. Such places shall be established in accordance with the relevant international phytosanitary standards:

1- Fungi

Synchytiium endobioticum

2- Nematodes

Globodera spp.

Trichodorus spp. and *Paratichodorus* spp.

3- Bacteria

<i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> subsp. <i>sepdonicus</i>
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>
<i>Dickeya</i> spp.
Candidatus <i>Liberibacter solanacearum</i>

4- Virus and Phytoplasma

<i>Potato Yellow Dwarf Virus</i> and <i>Phytoplasma</i>

Second: The final importation of potato seeds is prohibited from any farm that has been infected with one of the diseases listed in item 1 during the year preceding the import season.

Third: Potato seeds must be completely free from the following diseases:

1- Nematodes

<i>Ditylenchus destructor</i>
<i>Meloidogyne</i> spp.

2- Virus and Viroid

<i>Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid</i>
<i>Tobacco Necrosis Virus (TNV)</i>
<i>Tobacco ring spot nepo Virus (TRSV)</i>

3- Physiological diseases/Others:

<i>Frost injury</i>

Fourth: The following diseases if present should not exceed the percentage indicated in each of the samples taken from the lot:

1- Bacteria

<i>Pectobacterium carotovorum</i> Tubers infected with a rate of more than 0.2 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt
<i>Pectobacterum atrosepticum</i> Tubers infected with a rate of more than 0.2 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt

2- Fungi

<i>Phytoplithora erythroseptica</i> Tubers infected with a rate of more than 0.1 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt
<i>Phytophthora infestans</i>

Tubers infected with a rate of more than 0.1 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt
<i>Colletorichum Coccodes</i> -(<i>Colletorichum atramentarium</i>) Tubers infected with a rate of more than 20 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt
<i>Alternaria Solani</i> Tubers infected with a rate of more than 0.5 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt
<i>Verticillium spp.</i> Tubers infected with a rate of more than 0.5 % shall not be permitted to enter Egypt

3- Viral viruses

- **The Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) may mandate experts' committees of the Plant Quarantine in coordination with the Institute of Plant Pathology Research to examine signs of viral infection in the crops in the countries exporting potatoes and verify that the total percentage of all manifestations of viral infection in the fields does not exceed 4 %.**
- **It is prohibited to let enter into Egypt tubers infected with the following percentages of viruses respectively:**

Corky Ring sport (Tobacco Ratte Virus) (0.1 %)
Mop Top Virus (MTV) (0.1 %)
Potato Leaf Roll Virus (0.1 %)
Alfa Alfa Mosaic Virus (0.4 %)
PVY (0.4 %)
PVX (0.4 %)
PVA (0.4 %)

❖ **The total percentage of infection from such viruses should not exceed 0.8 %**

Fifth: The following diseases should not exceed the percentage specified for each one respectively and provided the total percentage shall not be more than 5%:

1- Fungi

<i>Fusarium spp.</i> (0.1 %)
<i>Phoma Spp.</i> (0.5 %)
<i>Watery wound rot caused by Pythium spp</i> (0.5 %)

2- Others /Physiological diseases:

<i>Internal Brown spot and Browning or Black sport & Vascular Discoloration (0.5 %)</i>
<i>Hollow heart (0.5 %)</i>
<i>Black heart (0.5 %)</i>
<i>Skin Necrosis (0.5 %)</i>
<i>Mechanical Damage (3 %)</i>

Sixth: The infection in samples should not exceed the following percentages as indicated:

1- <i>Powdery scab caused by</i>	<i>Spongospora subterranea</i>
<i>Seeds shall be banned from entry if more than 1 % is affected and the pustules cover more than 10 % of the surface area of the tuber.</i>	
2- <i>Common Scab caused by</i>	<i>Streptomyces scabies</i>
<i>Potato seeds with common scab are allowed in accordance with Dutch Standard No 1.5</i>	
3- <i>Black crust and other pathological symptoms that cause the fungus caused by</i>	<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>
<i>Seeds shall be banned from entry if more than 5 % is affected and the infected area of the tuber surface exceeds 10 %</i>	
4- <i>Silver scurf caused by</i>	<i>Helminthosporium solani</i>
<i>No more than 20 % of infected pests should enter and the patches should cover no more than 20 % of the surface area of the tuber</i>	

Second: Rules and Conditions for importing potato tubers for processing purposes:

The following requirements shall be applied when importing and inspecting imported potato tubers for manufacturing purposes in the ports of arrival in Egypt:

- 1- The imported potato seeds should be completely free of infection from the following insects in any of their phases:

Colorado beetle	<i>Leptinotars decemlineata (Say)</i>
Potato Tuber Moth	<i>Phthorimaea operculella (Zeller)</i>
Eggplant Shoot borer	<i>Euzophera osseatella (Treitscke)</i>
Andean mite	<i>Premnotrypes spp</i>
Cabbage Llea Beetle	<i>Epitrix cucumeris (Harris)</i>
Western potato flea beetle	<i>Epitrix subcrinita (Le conte)</i>
Wireworms	<i>Limonius canus</i> <i>Limonius californicus</i> <i>Ctenicera pruinina</i>
Bitter beetle	<i>Epicauta spp.</i>

scarab beetles	<i>Phyllophaga spp.</i>
Potato leg digger	<i>Hydraecia micacea (Esp)</i>

2- Potato tubers shall be free from, and produced in countries or places of production free from, the following diseases and in accordance with the standards of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC - FAO).

Brown rot caused by	<i>Ralstonia Solanacearum</i>
Ring rot caused by	<i>Clavibacter Michiganensis Sub sp.sepdonicus</i>
Black cancer (fecundity) caused by	<i>Sunchytrium endobioticum</i>
golden nematode	<i>Globodera spp</i>
Root-knot nematodes	<i>Trichodoruspp and Paratichodoruspp</i>
Potato Yellow Dwarf Virus And Phytoplasma	<i>Potato Yellow Dwarf Virus And Phytoplasma</i>
Blackleg caused by	<i>Dickkeya solani</i>
Black Dot caused by	<i>Colletorichum Coccodes Colletorichum atramentarium</i>
Zebra Chip caused by	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum</i>
	Tobacco Necrosis Virus (TNV)

3- Potato tubers shall be completely free of the following diseases:

<i>Nematodes Dry rot in potatoes</i>	<i>Ditylenchus destructo</i>
<i>Nematode Root Knot</i>	<i>Meloidogynespp</i>
<i>Potato spindle tuber viroid</i>	<i>Spindle Tuber Viroid</i>
<i>Frost injury</i>	<i>Frost injury</i>

4- In the samples representing the lot, infection by the following diseases should not exceed the percentage indicated below

Dry rot 3 %	<i>Fusarium Oxysporum</i>
Early Blight 3 %	<i>Alternaria solani</i>
Late Blight 0.5 %	<i>Phytophthora infestans</i>
Soft rot 1 %	<i>Pectobacterium Carotovorum</i>
Powdery Scab 3 % "Severe infection covers one third of the tuber surface"	<i>Spongospora Subterranea</i>
Common Scab "Dutch Standard No 1.5"	<i>Streptomyces Scabies</i>

Black scurf 10 %	<i>Rhizotonia solani</i>
Mechanical Damage 5 %	<i>Mechanical Damage</i>
Phoma sp 1 %	<i>Phoma sp</i>

- 5- The amount of natural soil attached to potato tubers in each sack shall not be more than 0.3 % of the total weight.
- 6- Provision is made for shipments in the country of origin to be treated with an anti-germination substance. It is recommended that the phytosanitary certificate shall be accompanied by a certificate confirming such treatment with its name, and the doses used. If treatment is not done abroad, it shall be completed in the stores of the owner and at the expense of the party concerned and under his responsibility.
- 7- A copy of a phytosanitary certificate shall be attached certifying the compliance of the consignment with the quarantine requirements listed in this Annex and stating that it has been treated with an anti-germination (name and doses used) and that it is not being imported for the purpose of cultivation.
- 8- Importation shall be within a limited period of time (August, September and October) so as not to interfere with the importing period of potato tubers for cultivation.
- 9- The import shall be in special packages with the mention on one of side in Arabic "Not for cultivation" and on the other side the importer's name, variety and the farm's number or the field code, in addition to an identification card to be put inside the package bearing the words "Not for cultivation".
- 10-All necessary quarantine measures shall be taken such as examination and inspection of warehouses, transport, storage, manufacture and disposal of solid waste and treatment of liquid waste and others under the supervision of Plant Quarantine and under the responsibility and at the expense of the party concerned.
- 11-The party concerned shall undertake not to use or market the consignment as seeds for cultivation.
- 12-The necessary records for registration and documentation of all previous steps and procedures under the supervision of the Plant Quarantine shall be provided.