

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation  
The Minister

**Ministerial Decree  
№. (748) of 2019**

**Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation,**

*Having perused*

- Agriculture law №. 53 for the year 1966 and its amendments ;
- Ministerial Decree №. 3007 for the year 2001, concerning Egyptian plant quarantine regulations & the decisions of higher committee of plant quarantine affairs.
- Ministerial Decree №. 483 for the year 2016 concerning the approval of importing seeds for private use.
- Ministerial Decree №. 1202 for the year 2018 concerning the import requirements and specifications to be fulfilled in imported potato seeds for the growing season (2018/2019);
- Ministerial Decree №. 562 for the year 2019 concerning the Egyptian plant quarantine regulations.
- International standards of phytosanitary measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS);
- Opinion of relevant research institutes.
- The approval of Agricultural Crops Seeds Committee in its meeting dated June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019; and
- The opinion of the ministry legal advisor № 10995 dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

*Decided*

**Article (1)**

Importation of potato seeds shall be upon technical import approval issued by the Agricultural Crops Seeds Committee through a yearly application submitted by each importing entity to the Agricultural Crops Seeds Committee, the application shall include the quantity, variety, grade and the country of origin.

**Article (2)**

The imported seed potatoes shall meet the following conditions: -



**a. Varieties:**

The varieties should be registered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation or recommended by the Committee of Varieties Registration. However, it is permitted to import limited quantities of new unregistered varieties after the approval of Agricultural Crops Seeds Committee not exceeding 10 tons in the first year and 50 tons in the two subsequent years, providing that necessary quarantine conditions for import potato seeds are met according to the enforced regulations , it is allowed to import for private use or re-export of the production of the unregistered varieties after the supervision of the cultivations by the competent authorities .

**b. Grades:**

- Potato seeds shall be of grade Elite "E" (or EEC2 according to EU standard) (Union Grade E) or its equivalent or more superior, which is authorized for handling in EU or other potato seeds producing and exporting countries that approved by the Egyptian Plant Quarantine as approved origins for importing seed potatoes.

**Article (3)**

The size of potato tubers shall be ranged between (28 mm – 55 mm). According to natural grading of tubers size for all varieties and purposes (trade- private use- cultivation process and export), Tubers shall be vigorous, fleshy and with no shrinkage. The packages shall be appropriate and homogeneous in its quantity and variety in the same lot.

Each package shall be accompanied with affixed card stating the variety - grade – production date - country of origin and grower number.

Sprout shall not exceed 2 mm – each package shall be free from varieties mix and free from tubers malformation.

**Article (4)**

Potato seeds shall be shipped onto means of transport fulfilling the conditions and specifications that ensure the safely arrival of the shipments and its compliance with the specifications laid down in this decree, the last date of shipping is December 31. Copy of bills of lading shall be submitted to Plant Quarantine Service in written by the 5<sup>th</sup> January with the shipped quantities first by first with all information related to these consignments (vessel name, shipped quantity, varieties).



**Article (5)**

The requirements and specifications stated in articles (2, 3, 4) in the present decree don't apply to the imported potatoes (Micro tubers – Mini tubers) produced in tissue culture and were not produced in normal soil. In all cases, only registered varieties are allowed to be handled.

**Article (6)**

Potato seeds importation shall be in accordance with the quarantine requirements specified in this decree. Imported potato seeds shall be accompanied with a valid phytosanitary certificate, issued by the competent authority in the country of origin confirming its validity as seeds and confirming, or by an additional declaration, its compliance with Egyptian plant quarantine conditions and also the details laid down in article (3) of this decree.

**Article (7)**

The enforcement of the ministerial decree №562/2019 concerning the Egyptian plant quarantine regulations including annex № 14 of chapter № 23 Importation and treatment (The phytosanitary import requirements of seed potatoes for cultivation purposes ) which is attached to this decree , to be implemented

**Article (8)**

This present decree shall neither contradict the general operative plant quarantine rules and conditions nor the provisions of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Rome 1951, and its annexes.

**Article (9)**

All competent authorities shall apply this decree, all ministerial decrees and regulations contradicting with the provisions of this present are hereby abrogated.

**Article (10)**

This decree shall be published in the official Gazette and shall be enforced as of the day following the date of its publication.

**Done in: July 4th, 2019**

**Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation**

**Dr. Ezz El-Din Abou Steit**

