

MALEDIVES

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PLANT QUARANTINE REGULATION

1. Introduction & Title

- (a) This regulation has been made by authority given to the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources under its mandate to control the importing to the Maldives and exporting from the Maldives of plants, plant products, timber and anything that may adversely affect plants. This regulation provides for the quarantine of plants, parts of plants, plant products, timber and pests imported to the Maldives and exported from the Maldives via sea and air.
- (b) This regulation shall be cited as "Plant Quarantine Regulation".

2. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to control the importing to the Maldives of origins of plant disease and plant pests. Further to protect Maldivian plants from the said types that may be imported to the Maldives with plants and parts of plants. Further to work towards exporting plants and parts of plants from the Maldives in accordance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

3. Importing of plants, parts of plants, and plant products

All plants, parts of plants, plant products, and anything that may include pests and origins of disease of such items shall be imported to the Maldives in accordance with this Regulation. In addition, insects, micro-organisms, bacteria and other organisms not living in fresh and sea water shall be imported to the Maldives in accordance with this Regulation.

4. Plants and parts of plants imported to the Maldives for planting and ornamental purposes

Plants and parts of plants imported to the Maldives for planting and ornamental purposes and flora must generally be as specified below.

- (a) Plants, parts of plants and flora must be imported to the Maldives free from origins of disease, carriers of disease, and any sign or symptom of disease.
- (b) Imported items must have been grown in good health. Dry parts of any such items must not be included with such items at any amount.
- (c) Imported items must be free from sand and water.
- (d) Except for items stipulated in the phytosanitary certificate, no other things must be present with such items.
- (e) Items must be separated by type and species with their scientific and common names printed in English and packed.
- (f) Roots of such items must be packed using perlite, vermicular, cotton, peat moss or rock wool that will remove germs.
- (g) Seeds brought for purposes of planting must be thoroughly cleaned, packed, sealed and scientific and common names of such items printed in English outside the seal.

- (h) If seeds brought for planting have been treated, the name of chemical used and amount used must be stipulated.
- (i) Except for seeds brought for planting that is written on the label outside the seal, nothing else must be present.
- (j) Plants and parts of plants imported to the Maldives for re-export purposes without being planted and used in the Maldives must be kept under the control of the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.
- (k) Information on items brought via sea as cargo must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit 48 hours in advance of inspection of such items by quarantine officers.
- (l) Such items shall be checked and inspected by the quarantine officers from the first place they are kept after offloading and when they have not been opened.

5. Submission of phytosanitary certificate

- (a) All items brought via sea and air for planting, growing or ornamental purposes shall be imported to the Maldives with the submission of phytosanitary certificate with such items to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit. Phytosanitary certificate must be submitted for the following types:
 1. plants
 2. seeds brought for planting
 3. parts of plants brought for planting
 4. plants and parts of plants brought for ornamental purposes
 5. raw flora
- (b) Raw flora and bouquets and garlands made from fresh flora weighing less than 500 grams may be imported without a phytosanitary certificate.

6. Plants and parts of plants imported to the Maldives for consumption and other purposes

Plants and parts of plants imported to the Maldives for consumption and other purposes must be as specified below.

- (a) Wheat products and other types of seeds brought for human consumption and as feed for animals and birds must be imported to the Maldives thoroughly dried and packed.
- (b) Items specified below must not be present with items brought for human consumption and as feed for animals and birds:
 1. plants and parts of plants not included in the invoice
 2. origins of disease for plants and parts of plants
 3. carriers of disease for plants and parts of plants
 4. sand
 5. ?
- (c) Deep-frozen items shall be excluded from items brought for human consumption and as feed for animals and birds.

7. Dry plants and parts of plants brought for medicinal and herbal purposes

Dry plants and parts of plants imported to the Maldives for medicinal and herbal purposes must be as specified below.

- (a) No living part of plants must be present when importing dry plants and parts of plants to the Maldives for medicinal and herbal purposes.
- (b) The following must not be present with such items:
 - 1. origins of disease for plants and parts of plants
 - 2. carriers of disease for plants and parts of plants
 - 3. sand
 - 4. ?

8. Import of plants and parts of plants not commonly found in the Maldives

Plant and parts of plants not commonly found in the Maldives must be imported to the Maldives as follows.

- (a) Plant and parts of plants not commonly found in the Maldives can be imported to the Maldives by entities registered with the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.
- (b) Registered entities with the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit must apply for such importation if their objectives under the Memorandum or Articles of Association include carrying out of agricultural research.
- (c) A paper including technical and scientific information about such plants and parts of plants must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit before the import of such items.
- (d) Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit shall have the authority and discretion to take samples from plants imported to the Maldives for planting for research purposes.
- (e) Plants shall not be transported from the area or island in which they were planted to another area or island unless after a minimum of 5 years.
- (f) A report of plants imported to the Maldives must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit from 6 to 12 months from the time of importing them to the Maldives.
- (g) Prior to giving of such plants to another party and any commercial use, a technical report for each type must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.
- (h) It is prohibited to use such plants for commercial purposes or to give to other parties before approval is received from the Plant and Quarantine Unit after the technical report has been submitted.

9. Plants and parts of plants prohibited from import to the Maldives

Plants and parts of plants prohibited from import to the Maldives are as follows.

- (a) All parts of Maldivian coconut trees (*cocos nucifera*) except timber
- (b) Any plant or parts of plants prohibited from import to the Maldives by law or regulation

- (c) As determined by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and as specified in Annex of this Regulation, plants and parts of plants included as “invasive species”

10. Import of insects, micro-organisms, bacteria and other organisms to the Maldives

It is prohibited to import any type of insect, micro-organism, bacteria, modified or transgenic or any other living organism or living parts thereof to the Maldives. However, importing insects, micro-organisms and bacteria to the Maldives for an economic benefit by permission under this Regulation shall be exempt from this prohibition.

- (a) Items approved by FAO for eradication of origins of plant disease and plant pests used as parasitoid
- (b) Insects, micro-organisms, bacteria and modified organisms used to gain an economic benefit that are imported to the Maldives by permission under this Regulation

11. Insects, micro-organisms and bacteria imported to the Maldives for economic purposes

Insects, micro-organisms and bacteria used to gain an economic benefit shall be imported to the Maldives as provided below.

- (a) Insects, micro-organisms, bacteria and modified organisms allowed under this Regulation can be imported to the Maldives by legal entities who operate for economic benefit and whose objectives include carrying out of agricultural research.
- (b) Such living organisms can be imported by entities registered with the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.
- (c) A paper including technical and scientific information about such living organisms must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit by the party applying for such approval and approval must be obtained before the import of such items.
- (d) Together with such items, information included in Annex of this Regulation and a certificate from the institute that produced such item must be brought.
- (e) Such items shall not be transported from the area or island in which they are handled to another area or island unless after a minimum of 5 years
- (f) A report of such items must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit from 6 to 12 months from the time of importing them to the Maldives.
- (g) Approval from the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit must be received prior to using such items for commercial purposes or to give to other parties.
- (h) Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit shall have the authority and discretion to take samples from such items for checking and research purposes.

12. Exporting plants, parts of plants and flora from the Maldives

Plants, parts of plants and flora for planting and growing purposes shall be exported from the Maldives as follows.

- (a) Plants and parts of plants shall be exported from the Maldives with a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.

- (b) Even if plants and parts of plants brought for re-export have been used or planted in the Maldives, they will be considered as plants and parts of plants being exported from the Maldives.

13. Applying to obtain phytosanitary certificate

Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit shall issue phytosanitary certificate as provided below.

- (a) Applications to obtain phytosanitary certificate must be submitted in a form designated for such purpose by the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit. A sample form is provided in Annex of this Regulation.
- (b) Phytosanitary certificates shall be issued for plant, parts of plants and flora that are free from origin, carrier, sign or symptom of disease.
- (c) Phytosanitary certificate shall be issued for plants, parts of plants and flora grown in healthy conditions. Any dead or dried parts must not be contained with such items.
- (d) When applying for phytosanitary certificate for plants and parts of plants, types of plants and their scientific and common names must be printed in English and packed.
- (e) Plants and parts of plants exported from the Maldives via air must be free from sand and water.
- (f) Phytosanitary certificate shall be issued after payment of a fee to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit. Amount of fee is stipulated in Annex of this Regulation.

14. Importing timber to the Maldives

Timber imported to the Maldives must be as specified below.

- (a) Timber imported to the Maldives must be dry timber from which plant cannot grow.
- (b) Timber must be free from any origin of disease, carrier of disease or any sign or symptom of disease.
- (c) Timber must be sawed and must not contain sand, ?, or bark.
- (d) If importing raw timber, micro-organisms and bacteria must have been eradicated from them as per FAO and IPCC guidelines.
- (e) A certificate issued by an authority recognized by the government of the exporting country, containing information on how the micro-organisms and bacteria were removed, the name of the chemical used and the amount, must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.

15. Import of timber products to the Maldives

Timber products imported to the Maldives must be as specified below.

- (a) When importing items produced from plants and parts of plants to the Maldives, such items must not contain any pests or origin of disease.
- (b) sand and ? must not be present in such items.
- (c) They must be dry timber from which plant cannot grow.

16. Raw timber

Timber products containing bark shall be considered as raw timber under this Regulation.

17. Importing types of sand to the Maldives

Raw plants and parts of plants, seeds from which plants can grow, plant pests and origins of disease must not be present at any level when importing types of sand to the Maldives.

18. Types of ?

Types of ? imported to the Maldives shall be as follows.

- (a) Types of ? imported to the Maldives shall not contain any type of plant pest or origin of plant disease.
- (b) Raw plants and parts of plants, and seeds from which plants can grown must not be present.
- (c) When importing ?, a document issued by an authority recognized by the government of the exporting country evidencing that ? have been sterilized, must be submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.

19. Material used for packing goods

Timber pallets used for packing goods must be imported to the Maldives as provided below.

- (a) Pallets made from raw or dry timber for packing goods, before such goods are packed, must have been treated by Methyl bromide or to a standard accepted by FAO.
- (b) Such pallets made from raw or dry timber for packing goods will be released when a document issued by an authority recognized by the exporting country evidencing treatment has been submitted to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.
- (c) If a certificate evidencing treatment has not been submitted, such items will be released only if a quarantine officer after inspection determines that they do not contain origin of disease or plant pest.
- (d) If goods have been packed using the items mentioned below, they will be exempt from this clause unless a plant pest or origin of disease has been discovered from such items.
 - 1. plywood
 - 2. particle board
 - 3. oriental strand board
 - 4. gum, veneer
 - 5. sawdust
 - 6. ?
 - 7. ?
 - 8. timber pieces not more than 6 inches in breadth

20. Items kept for quarantine

Items kept for quarantine under this Regulation are as below.

- (a) Items imported to the Maldives from which a regulated pest has been discovered or items from which a sign or symptom of such regulated pest has been discovered.
- (b) Items imported to the Maldives from which any type of insect, micro-organism or bacteria has been discovered or items from which a sign or symptom of such organisms has been discovered.
- (c) Items brought to the Maldives in contravention of this Regulation.

21. Inspection

- (a) All items covered under this Regulation shall be inspected from the first point of entry into the Maldives. Such items shall be opened and inspected with the presence of quarantine officers.
- (b) A fee of Rf. 500.00 (Rufiyaa Five Hundred) shall be levied in order to send a quarantine officer to any area for inspection of items imported to the Maldives except through an international port of the Maldives. In addition, the person importing such items shall arrange for transportation, food, lodging and other necessities of such quarantine officer.

22. Taking of samples

- (a) The Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit shall have the authority and discretion to take samples of items covered under this Regulation for inspection purposes.
- (b) Samples will be taken by quarantine officers representing Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.

23. Amount of sample taken

For inspection and research purposes, samples can be taken in an amount not exceeding 0.5% of the amount of item imported. If such percentage is not met, the whole item can be taken.

24. Discovery of non-regulated pest from items imported to the Maldives

If any non-regulated pest is discovered from any item imported to the Maldives, action will be taken as follows.

- (a) If a non-regulated pest has been discovered from any thing of plant origin imported to the Maldives, such pest shall be destroyed at the place where it was discovered.
- (b) If a non-regulated pest has been discovered from any item imported to the Maldives from plant origin, such pest shall be destroyed.

25. Discovery of regulated pest from items imported

If any regulated pest is discovered from any item imported to the Maldives, action will be taken as follows.

- (a) If a regulated pest has been discovered or a sign or symptom of a regulated pest has been discovered from any item imported to the Maldives, such items shall be kept under the control of the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit for quarantine purposes.
- (b) Items kept under the control of the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit for quarantine purposes shall be released after the discovered regulated pest as well as any affect or harm such pest may cause to plants and living species of the Maldives have been identified and irradiated.

- (c) The Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit shall inform the owner of any items kept under quarantine within a minimum of 48 hours whether a regulated pest has been discovered or not.
- (d) If a regulated pest has been discovered, the owner of such item shall have the discretion to either treat the pest by irradiation or destroy the item without treatment.
- (e) There are two ways to irradiate pests from items taken for quarantine. They are:
 1. Irradiation by the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit
 2. Irradiation through such service provider registered with the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit
- (f) The owner must submit a form to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit instructing how to proceed regarding items kept in quarantine within 48 hours of the owner having being informed that a regulated pest has been discovered from items kept for quarantine.
- (g) If the owner fails to submit the form within the stipulated period, it shall be deemed that the owner does not wish that the pest to be irradiated.
- (h) If the owner has not taken his items within 7 days of the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit informing the owner that the regulated pest has been irradiated, it shall be deemed that the owner does not wish that the pest to be irradiated.

26. Items to be destroyed from imported items to the Maldives

From items imported to the Maldives, items to be destroyed under this Regulation are as follows.

- (a) Items from which a non-regulated pest has been discovered
- (b) Items which their owners do not want the pest or origin of disease to be removed
- (c) Items prohibited from importing to the Maldives under this Regulation
- (d) Items to be destroyed pursuant to this Regulation shall be destroyed by fire. If this is not practicable, burying or sinking at sea can be chosen.
- (e) Items brought without a certificate as required under this Regulation.

27. Destroying regulated pests

Destruction of regulated pests discovered from items under quarantine or any other items to be destroyed pursuant to this Regulation shall be carried out in the following manner.

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28. Providing services of irradiation of disease and destruction of items

The service of irradiation of regulated pest from quarantine items and destruction of quarantine items shall be provided by parties who have applied for and who have registered with the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit.

- (a) Registered service providers shall conduct the destruction of quarantine items or treatment of items with the presence of the owner or his representative and a quarantine officer.

- (b) After an item under quarantine has been destroyed or treated, a document evidencing such work signed by a quarantine officer as well as the owner or his representative and the service provider must be submitted to the owner and to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit within at least 48 hours of such work.
- (c) A fee of Rf 250.00 (Rufiyaa Two Fifty) shall be levied to send a quarantine officer for such purpose.

29. Spread of non-regulated pest

If news that a non-regulated pest or a plant disease is spreading within the Maldives is received by the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit from a reliable source, action must be taken as follows.

- (a) Carry out research to determine the non-regulated pest, and publicly announce information about the pest.
- (b) Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit must take all action possible to prevent further spread of such non-regulated pest.
- (c) Prohibit transportation of plants and part of plants affected by the pest to other areas.

30. Extraordinary spread of regulated pest

If news that a regulated pest is spreading extraordinarily within the Maldives is received by the Plant and Animal Quarantine Unit from a relevant government authority, action must be taken as follows

- (a) Prohibit transportation of plants and part of plants affected by the pest to other areas.
- (b) Publicly announce information about the pest or disease.

31. Importing items covered by this Regulation in contravention

Following action shall be taken against those who contravene this Regulation.

- (a) If it is proved that an item has been imported into the Maldives in contravention of this Regulation, such item shall be sought and destroyed.
- (b) If it is proved that an item has been imported into the Maldives in contravention of this Regulation, depending on the gravity of the offence, the party responsible shall be fined an amount between Rf 1,000.00 (Rufiyaa One Thousand) and Rf. 10,000.00 (Rufiyaa Ten Thousand).