

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

**Ministerial Decree
No. (1660) of 2014**

**Import Phytosanitary Requirements and Specifications for the
Importation of Seed Potatoes for Growing Year (2014/2015)**

Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation,

Having perused

- Agriculture law No. 53 for the year 1966;
- Ministerial Decree no. 3007 for the year 2001, concerning Egyptian plant quarantine regulations;
- Ministerial Decree no. 1448 for the year 2012 concerning the import requirements and specifications to be fulfilled in imported potato seeds for the summer growing season (2013);
- Ministerial Decree no. 1417 for the year 2013 concerning the import requirements and specifications to be fulfilled in imported potato seeds for the summer growing season (2014);
- International standards of phytosanitary measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS);
- Decisions of Plant Quarantine Works Committee;
- Opinion of relevant research institutes; and
- The approval of Agricultural Crops Seeds Committee in its meeting dated September 8, 2014.

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 by the end of October every year, the application shall include the quantity, variety, grade and the country of origin.

Article (2)

Potato seeds imported for growing year (2014/2015) 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 and according to the enforced regulations in the last years.

b. Grades:

- Potato seeds shall be of grade Elite "E" (or EEC2 according to EU standard) 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.
- In case of new varieties where their registration in Egypt has not exceeded three years, it is permitted to be imported from grade A or its equivalent with quantities do not exceed 10% of company imports from the same variety and it is not allowed to use it in producing local seeds.

Article (3)

The size of potato tubers shall be ranged between (28 mm – 60 mm) according to the natural progression of tubers sizes and it is not allowed to import only the size 55-60 mm separately documentary. 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, with the commitment that the deadline for shipping all potato

seeds shipments to the Egyptian ports is the end of the Tenth day of January (for summer growing season), copy of bills of lading shall be submitted to Plant Quarantine Service in written by the Fifteenth of 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)

Pests:

(A) Insects:

The imported potato seeds shall be totally free from infestation of the following insects or any of its stages:

- *Leptinotars decemlineata* (Say)
- *Phthorimaea operculella* (Zeller)
- *Euzophera osseatella* (Treitscke)
- *Premnotrypes* spp.
- *Epitrix cucumeris* (Harris)
- *Epitrix subcrinita* (Le conte)
- *Limonius canus*
- *Limonius californicus*
- *Ctenicera pruinina*
- *Epicauta* spp.
- *Phyllophaga* spp.
- *Hydraecia micacea* (Esp)

(B) Diseases

1- Imported potato seeds shall be originated in places of production free from the following diseases and its pathogens; these places should be established according to the relevant international standards of phytosanitary measures:

- *Synchytrium endobioticum*
- *Globodera* spp.
- *Trichodorus* spp. and *Paratrichodorus* spp.
- Potato Yellow Dwarf Virus
and Phytoplasma
- *Clavibacter michiganensis* sub. sp.
sepdonicus
- *Ralstonia solanacearum*
- *Dickeya* spp.

2- Imported potato seeds shall be totally free from frost injury and the infection with the following diseases :

- *Ditylenchus destructor*
- *Meloidogyne* spp.
- Spindle Tuber Viroid

3- Infection with the following diseases shall not exceed the indicated percentage opposite to each disease in the sample representing the lot:-

a- Corky Ring Spot (Tobacco Rattle Virus):

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection percentage exceeding 0.1%.

b- Potato Leaf Roll Virus:

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection percentage exceeding 0.1%.

c- Mop Top Virus (MTV):

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection percentage exceeding 0.1%.

d- *Pectobacterium carotovorum* :

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection percentage exceeding 0.5%.

e- *Pectobacterium atrosepticum* :

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection rate exceeding 1%.

f- *Phytophthora erythroseptica*:

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection rate exceeding 0.1%.

g- *Phytophthora infestans* :

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection rate exceeding 0.1%.

4- Infection with following diseases shall not exceed the indicated percentage opposite to each disease, and the total percentage for all of them shall not exceed 5%:

a) <i>Alternaria solani</i>	0.5%
b) <i>Fusarium</i> spp.	1.0%
c) <i>Verticillium</i> spp.	0.5%
d) <i>Phoma</i> spp.	0.5%
e) Internal Brown Spot and Browning or Black Spot & Vascular Discoloration	0.5%
f) Hollow heart	0.5%
g) Skin necrosis	0.5%
h) Mechanical damage	3.0%

5- Infestation with following diseases shall not exceed the indicated percentage opposite to each disease in the sample:

a- *Spongospora subterranea*:

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection rate exceeding 1%; the amount of pimples shall not exceed 10% of tuber surface area.

b- *Streptomyces scabies* :

Infected tubers with common scab are being allowed to enter according to the Netherlands Standard number (1.5).

c- *Rhizoctonia solani* :

It is not allowed to enter infected tubers with infection rate exceeding 5% and the infected part of the tuber surface shall not exceed 10%.

d- *Helminthosporium solani*:

It is not allowed to accept infected potato seeds with infection rate exceeding 10% per sample. Infection spots on tubers must

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be scattered and not exceeding 10% of its surface area and not covering the eyes.

- It is prohibited to import potato tubers that originated in grower numbers (place of production) previously infected with one of ring rot diseases, or infected with *Dickeya* spp. in the previous years of exportation.
- 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.
- All Ministerial Decrees and regulations contradicting with the provisions of this present are hereby abrogated.
- 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: October 1, 2014

Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

Dr. Adel El-Beltagy