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## Morocco

**Post:** Rabat

### Phytosanitary Control for Seed Potatoes

**Report Categories:**

Potatoes and Potato Products

Planting Seeds

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

This report contains the unofficial translation of the phytosanitary control procedures for seed potato imports. The imported seed potato market is valued at \$25 million and the U.S. currently does not have commercial market access.

# PROCEDURE CODE 02 ONSSA

Date: December 1, 2010

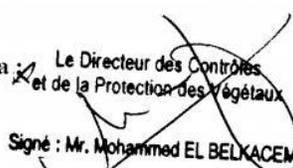
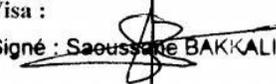
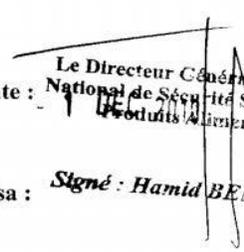
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## CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE IMPORT OF SEED POTATOES TO MOROCCO

Dissemination: External

Drafting: Plant Protection Division

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## INTRODUCTION:

This code of procedures is intended to inform the professionals of the conditions to be met for the import of seed potatoes into Morocco. This code of procedures can be downloaded from the ONSSA website ([www.onssa.org.ma](http://www.onssa.org.ma)).

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### I. LEGAL AND REFERENTIAL BASIS

#### 1) Legislative and regulatory texts

- [Dahir of September 20, 1927 \(Rabii I 23, 1346\)](#) concerning the sanitary regulation of plants amended by Dahir of September 26, 1949 (Hija 3, 1368), June 2, 1950 (Chaabane 15, 1369) and on October 7, 1954.
- [Dahir No.1-73-439 of Hija 14, 1393 \(January 8, 1974\)](#) relating to the publication of the international convention for the protection of plants (IPPC) made in Rome on December 6, 1951.
- [Law No.25-08, establishing the National office for food safety \(ONSSA\) promulgated by Dahir No.1-09-20 of the Safar 22, 1430 \(February 18, 2009\);](#)
- [Order of the Minister of Agriculture and the Agrarian Reform No.1306-85 of Rabii II 19, 1407 \(December 22, 1986\)](#) relative to the health authority of plants or plants products for import;
- [Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural development, Water and forests No.832-02 of Rabii II 30, 1423 \(June 12, 2002\)](#) amending and supplementing the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and the Agrarian Reform of Jumada II 15, 1404 (March 19, 1984) regulating the import of plants or parts of plants likely to be infested by some species of animal or plant pests;
- Circular No.2535 DPVCTRF/CT/1 of October 18, 1999 on approval of import of seeds.

#### 2) Technical references

International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in particular: ISPM No.12 (Guidelines for Phytosanitary Certificates), ISPM No.13 (Guidelines for Notification of Non-compliance and Emergency Action), ISPM No.15 (Guidelines for the regulation of wood packaging material in the international trade), ISPM No.20 (Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulation system) and ISPM No.23 (Guidelines for inspection).

- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Phytosanitary Procedures (PM 3/7 (1)): Export certification and import compliance verification for potato tubers.

## II. PHYTOSANITARY CONTROL STEPS:

The texts in force define the phytosanitary conditions to be met by the seed potatoes authorized for importation into the national territory.

It is the responsibility of the Official Plant Protection Service (NPPO) of exporting countries to ensure that phytosanitary requirements are met. Compliance with these requirements is certified by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin or by a re-export certificate issued by the country of provenance (e.g. transshipment case).

### 1) **Request for phytosanitary inspection**

For each import declaration, a request for phytosanitary control (model in Annex 1) is submitted to the competent services of ONSSA (one-stop desk for Directorate of Quality Control (DCQ)) which proceed the registration and issuing of an acknowledgement of receipt.

The phytosanitary control of imported seed potatoes is mandatory and consists of ensuring that these plants comply with the legislative and regulatory requirements in force (Annex 2).

The different control steps include:

- Documentation Control;
- Identity control;
- Phytosanitary control.

### 2) **Documentation control:**

The systematic documentation control is the verification of the existence and conformity of different documents concerning the nature and quantity of imported goods to ensure they are complete, consistent, accurate and valid.

#### a) **Documents required by the phytosanitary regulations in force:**

These documents are:

- The export phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin or the re-export certificate issued by the country of provenance; and
- Copy of the commercial invoice

#### b) **Other complementary documents:**

- Single goods declaration (DUM),
- Copy of the import authorization,
- Copy of the non-GMO certificate,
- Copy of the packing list,
- Copy of bill of loading or carriage voucher; and
- Copy of movement certificate (EUR1).

### 3) **Identity control:**

The identity control is performed at the point of entry of the goods and allows:

- Check that the species corresponds to that mentioned on the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin or country of provenance and clearly identifiable;
- Check the conformity of the quantities declared;
- Check for the possible presence of other undeclared species in the shipment;
- Check that the description of the goods (customs nomenclature) declared corresponds to the product controlled.

#### 4) **Phytosanitary control**

Phytosanitary control is carried out on the basis of a visual examination of representative samples. It covers the conformity check of the goods as well as the wooden packaging and pallets used.

The aim is to carry out a visual check of the seed potatoes, which is supplemented, if necessary, by laboratory observations and analyzes.

##### 1. **Sampling:**

The seed potatoes lot consists of **the same variety, same category, same class, same producer and same origin**. Sampling is carried out randomly, within the same lot; from two (2) bags for every 25 tons, (the maximum quantity of the lot subject to be sampled is 250 tons). Phytosanitary control consists of a visual examination of the presence of the symptoms of regulated pests.

For the subsequent verification, 200 tubers are sampled per lot.

For bacteriological and nematological analyzes, a total of 200 tubers are sampled per every 50 tons.

All precaution should be taken to avoid mixing or possible contamination of the samples.

Samples taken are sent to the authorized phytosanitary laboratory, together with the identification and analysis request sheets; the lot number is marked on those sheets and on the sealed sample package.

##### **Note:**

- In the case of conventional arrivals by boat, the check and sampling are carried out only after the total unloading of the lot. The unloaded lots must be individualized and identified in order to facilitate phytosanitary control.
- In the case of containers, the importer or his representative must facilitate access to the goods for the phytosanitary control and sampling.

##### 2. **Laboratory analysis:**

Samples coding:

As the seed potato samples arrive to the laboratory, they are registered and encoded for their identification.

The registration and coding of the samples aims to:

- Avoid mixing or confusion between samples during analyzes;
- Facilitate the traceability of the sample;
- Treat the samples in an impartial manner.

##### 3. **Control results:**

The lots presented to the control must meet all the requirements of the phytosanitary regulations in force. Non-conforming lots are either returned or destroyed at the expense of the importer. The phytosanitary control results as well as those of the laboratory are recorded in a phytosanitary inspection and sampling minutes. The Plant Protection Services issues, for controlled lots, a Certificate of Phytosanitary Inspection for Import (C.I.P.I: Annex 3) within 72 hours from the date of taking the samples.

**Note:**

In case of compliance (torn bags, damaged bags when handled at the port), the phytosanitary inspection certificate for the Import for removal will be issued for all the goods with mention that the estimated damaged quantities by 8 16 CP 02 / DCPV / 10 / A at commission or failing to meet seed control requirements should not be marketed as certified seed.

The supervision commission for the compliance operation is composed of the following members:

- Department of plants protection, seed and plants control;
- Department of health control of plants and plants origin products;
- Regional inspection of seed and plant control;
- Importer or his representative;
- Representative of the Association of Seed Potatoes Importers.
- Representative of the Customs Administration

After sorting at the port, the quantities damaged must be the subject to a report drawn up by the aforementioned committee and the importer must indicate the destination of these quantities.

Any transshipment of rejected goods must be the subject of a written request to the authorized services of plant protection (DCQ).



## ANNEX II

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform No. 1306-85 of Rabia II 19, 1407 (22 December 1986)  
on the health control of plants or plant products on the import.

(BO No 3870 bis of December 31, 1986)

The Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform.

Having regard to the Dahir of Rabii I 23, 1346 (September 20, 1927) concerning the Sanitary Regulations of Plants.

Having regard to Dahir No. 1-73-439 of Hija 14, 1393 (January 8, 1974) concerning the publication of the International Convention for the Protection of Plants, done in Rome on December 6, 1951,

### Decree:

**First Article.** The entry or transit of the goods or articles listed in article 5 of the aforementioned Dahir of Rabii I 23, 1346 (September 20, 1927) may take place only by:

- The ports of Agadir, Al Hoceima, Casablanca, El Jadida, Kenitra, Laayoune, Larache, Nador and Tangier,
- Beni-Ansar (Nador), F'Nideq (Tangiers) and Jouj Beghal (Oujda) border posts,
- The airports of Agadir, Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech, Oujda, Rabat-Sale, Tangier and Tetouan.

Subject to the provisions of Article 5 below, the products or articles referred to in the first paragraph above shall be entered at the aforementioned ports, border posts or aerodromes, subject to health control in the forms and on the conditions laid down in the aforementioned Dahir of Rabii I 23, 1346 (September 20, 1927).

**Article 2.** Shipments of plants, layers, cuttings, grafts, flowering onions, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, seed, seeds and cut flowers shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate conforming to the model reproduced in the Annex of the International Convention for the Protection of Plants, done in Rome on December 6, 1951 referred to above, together with a copy of the commercial invoice of the shipment, certified by the sender or importer, mentioning the species and botanical varieties, the name and the address of the sender and the establishment of origin, the name and address of the consignee, the weight of the packages and the details of the contents of each of them. In addition, shipments of seed potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant must be accompanied by an additional declaration issued by the official phytosanitary services of the countries of origin specifying that:

- 1) The shipment is free from the following diseases and pests
  - Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*).
  - Potato cyst nematodes (*Globodera rostochiensis* and *Globodera pallida*).
  - *Ditylenchus destructor*
  - Meloidogyne spp.
  - Potato Wart Disease (*Synchytrium endobioticum*).
  - Powdery scab (*Spongospora subterranea*),
  - Bacterial wilt (*Corynebacterium sepedonicum*).

- Tubers Spindle Tuber Viroid (Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid).
  - *Angiosorus solani*.
  - *Clavibacter michiganense* pv. *michiganense*.
  - *Pseudomonas solanacearum*.
- 2) It has been screened, cleaned and packed either at the border post in the port or at the shipment airport under the supervision of an official of the phytosanitary authority service of the country of origin or at a packing station supervised and approved by the said service and, in this case, inspected by sampling at the shipping by an official of the same service.
- 3) In addition, it is free of soil, haulm and other debris. However, it is tolerated the entry of seed potatoes whose rate of diseases or parasites does not exceed, Within the maximum of 10% by weight, the following limits:
- a) For fungal and bacterial diseases
- 2% by weight for tubers suffering from each of the following diseases:
    - Downy mildew (*Phytophthora infestans*)
    - Soft rot (*Erwinia* sp.).
  - 5% by weight of the affected tubers, on an area greater than 1/3, by the common scab (*Actinomyces scabies*), or silver scurf *Helminthosporium Solani*.
  - 10% by weight of tubers affected by black *Rhizoctonia* (*Rhizoctonia solani*).
- b) For pests
- 5% by weight of wounded tubers with more than 5 net wireworm bites (*Agriotes* sp.).

**Article 3.** Where the products or articles referred to in Article 1 above are imported by air, the consignee or his representative his agent or the declarant must insure.

Under the monitoring conditions laid down by the Customs Administration, the carriage of packages from the airports to the office of the plant protection inspector only for shipments destined or belonging to the same person and weighing 50 kilos or less of the products to be inspected, the inspection of shipments weighing more than 50kg is carried out at the airports.

By enclosed vehicle and under escort of a customs officer, transportation to the nearest fumigation station for goods whose fumigation is prescribed by the health inspector.

Any goods which have not fulfilled the import conditions provided for in this Article shall be returned or destroyed by the consignee or the representative agent; otherwise, the goods are automatically destroyed by the official phytosanitary service at the consignee's expense.

**Article 4.** The results of the sanitary inspection shall be recorded in a minutes drawn up by the official responsible for this inspection. This document, a duplicate of which is given to the consignee or his representative, shall bear, where applicable, the disinfection mention, fumigation, suppression or destruction of the article or product by the consignee or his representative.

Before the removal of the disinfected or fumigated products or articles, the consignee or his representative shall pay the fees fixed by the regulations in force, failing which they shall be returned or destroyed by the consignee or his representative upon notification from the customs service. If the ordered operations are not carried out by the persons concerned within eight days of the notification of the suppression or the destruction of these objects or products, their destruction is carried out, automatically, at the expense of the interested parties, by the official phytosanitary service. The eight-day period may be reduced by the sanitary inspection officer when the preservation of the objects

or products constitutes a danger to public health or to crops. Any automatic destruction of objects or products must be recorded in a report drawn up by the competent authority.

**Article 5.** Are exempt from sanitary inspection:

- 1) Coffee beans (*Coffea arabica* L. *Coffea liberica* Bull and *coffee stenophylla* Dox); tealeaves (*Theachinensis* Sims)
- 2) Dried lavender (*Lavandula Vera* DC, *L. Latifolia* Vail L.), dried rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* L.), dried thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L), dried rose blossom waste, hop cones (female inflorescences of *Humulus Lupulus* L. and *Humulus japonicus* Si and Zuce), henna (dried leaves and stems of *Lawsonia alba* Lem) and licorice wood (rhizomes or roots of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. and *G. echinata* L.).
- 3) Gums, resins, gum resins, incense, benzoin, aloe resin, various gallnuts (Chinese galls, Takaout, oak galls).
- 4) Medicinal plants dried and packaged in packs;
- 5) Wood of all kinds, excluding those which can be used for vegetative propagation and those which are not debarked or which constitute all or part of plants or plant products subject to sanitary inspection, dried bark, cork, tan and tanning products other than those containing seeds or whole fruits.
- 6) Plums, figs, grapes, apricots, apples, pears, dried peaches, fruits in brine, candied or having undergone an industrial preparation other than drying, millet (les larmes de cereals), pasta, brans, cakes, straws of wheat, barley, oats, or rye, hay in mechanically pressed and bound bales, alfalfa flours, vegetable fibers, such as raffia, sisal, perfectly shorn cotton, vegetable horsehair and, in general, crushed vegetable products or sprayed.
- 7) Algae
- 8) Sesame seeds (*Sesamum indicum* L.) and *Nigella* seeds (*Nigella sativa* L.), pistachios (seeds of *Pistaci vera* L.), nut seeds (*Juglans regia* L.), hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana* L.) and shelled almonds (*Amygdalus communis* L.) when not intended for propagation.
- 9) Dried or "sterilized" plants and parts of plants treated by heat or chemically.
- 10) Cryptogams of economic or health interest, when presented under the conditions provided for by the decree of March 1, 1928 on the importation of cryptogams.
- 11) Manufactured tobacco, in boxes and packages.

**Article 6.** The Order of the Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture of September 1, 1958 concerning the sanitary control of plants or plant products on importation is repealed.

**Article 7.** The Director of Plant Protection, Technical Control and Fraud Control is in charge of the implementation of this Decree, which will be published in the Official Bulletin.

**ANNEX III**

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO  
THE NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY OFFICE (ONSSA)  
Directorate of Control and Quality at the  
Frontier Posts of the Wilaya of.....

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