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POLICY

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Technical Regulation on Seed Potatoes

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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

Potatoes and Potato Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Planting Seeds

WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

This report contains the unofficial translation of the technical regulation on production, testing, packaging and certification of seed potatoes. The imported seed potato market is \$25 million, with no U.S. commercial sales currently allowed. This measure has not been notified to the WTO.

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries No. 622-11 of Rabii II 10, 1432 (March 15, 2011) on the Approval of the Technical Regulations for the Production, Testing, Packaging and Certification of seed potatoes.

(BO No. 5940 of Mai 05, 2011, Page 1597)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARITIME FISHERIES,

Considering the [Dahir No. 1-69-169 of joumada I 10, 1389 \(July 25, 1969\)](#) regulating the production and the marketing of seed potatoes and seed potatoes, as it was amended and completed by [Dahir providing Law No. 1- 76-472 of Chaoual 5, 1397 \(September 19, 1977\)](#), in particular Articles 1, 2 and 5 thereof;

Having regard to [Law No. 25-08 establishing the ONSSA, promulgated by Dahir No. 1-09-20 of Safar 20, 1430 \(February 18, 2009\)](#),

Decide:

FIRST ARTICLE. - The technical regulation on the production, testing, packaging and certification of seed potatoes is approved as annexed to the original of this Order. This regulation can be consulted at the services of the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA).

ART. 2. - The seed potatoes referred to in Article 1 above may be marketed only by bodies approved by the Minister of Agriculture. They are required to report semi-annually to the National Office for Food Safety their purchases, sales and stocks available in seed potatoes.

ART. 3. - Decree No. 2101-03 of Chaoual 8, 1424 (December 3, 2003) approving the technical regulation for the production, testing, packaging and certification of seed potatoes is repealed.

ART. 4. - This Decree will be published in the Official Gazette.

Rabat, Rabii II 10, 1432 (March 15, 2011).

The Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, ***AZIZ AKHANNOUCH***

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION, CONTROL OF PACKAGING, AND CERTIFICATION OF SEED POTATOES

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION, CONTROL OF PACKAGING, AND CERTIFICATION OF SEED POTATOES

1. INTRODUCTION

The certification of seed potatoes is organized in accordance with the provisions of the present technical regulation adopted in application of [Dahir No. 1-69-169 of Joumada I 10, 1389](#) (July 25, 1969) regulating the production and marketing of seed potatoes and seed potatoes. , as amended and supplemented by the [Dahir Law No. 1- 76-472 of Choual 5, 1397](#) (September 19, 1977) in particular its Articles 1, 2, and 5. The performance of control and certification operations is assigned to the competent services of the National Office for Food safety (ONSSA) / Seed potatoes and Seed potatoes Control Division, hereinafter referred to as "certification body". Control is exercised at all stages of seed potato production and marketing. Any infringement of the provisions of this technical regulation allows the certification body to refuse a lot or parcel of production of seed potatoes. The presence of certification labels does not imply any change in the principles of the law of sale. It only implies that the control operations have been carried out by the "certification body" in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation.

2. ADMISSION TO CONTROL

Natural or legal persons wishing to produce the various categories of certified potato material must meet the following conditions:

- 1) Have authentic and disease-free multiplication material specified in this technical regulation;
- 2) Have an easily accessible site that meets the standards of isolation and rotation provided for in this technical regulation and is recognized as free from golden nematodes;
- 3) Have or benefit from the services of a qualified technical staff capable of carrying out all the production operations in good conditions;
- 4) Provide facilities and equipment for the production, maintenance, protection, packaging and conservation of seed potatoes;

Applications for admission to the control must be sent one month before the implementation of the production program to the "certification body". The admission to control is valid for one crop year.

3. DECLARATION OF PRODUCTION

The production declaration must be sent to the "certification body" (Seed potatoes and Seed potatoes Control Division or Regional Seed potatoes and Seed potatoes Control office in the production area), within 15 days from the establishment of the production program, drawn up in accordance with the model in Annex I.

The declaration of production must be accompanied by:

- A sketch indicating the location of the parcel (s) to be inspected, as well as any information likely to facilitate the officer's control of their location (kilometer distances, roads and tracks leading from the nearest town to the property site);
- Receipt of the payment of the control tax;
- A soil analysis bulletin of the multiplication parcel stating that it is free of cyst nematodes;
- Documents (invoice and certificate of origin) that justify the origin of the seed potatoes used.

Any declaration that does not meet these conditions will be considered inadmissible, even if it is formulated in due time to the certification body. Any person, who produces the declaration provided for above, is obliged to let the agents authorized by the "certification body" to enter on his property and in

his packing and storage premises in order to carry out all the control operations provided for by this technical regulation.

4. ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCTION

4.1 Varieties admitted to certification

Only seed potato varieties registered in the official catalog of species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco may be certified.

4.2 Category of certified seed potatoes material

The different stages of multiplication of the seed potatoes take the following names:

- Starting seed potatoes.
- Pre-basic seed potatoes.
- Basic seed potatoes.
- Certified seed potatoes.

4.2-1. Starting seed potatoes

This is the initial material of the authentic variety and free from the following pests:

- The leaf-roll virus (PLRV);
- The virus Y (PVY);
- The virus X (PVX);
- The virus A (PVA);
- The virus M (PVM);
- The virus S (PVS).
- Blackleg (*Erwinia* sp., and *Dickeya* sp.);

The starting material must be recognized as free from quarantine pests and diseases in accordance with the phytosanitary legislation in force.

4.2-2. Basic seed potatoes

Basic seed potatoes consist of genealogical families older than three years from F1 to F3. Each head of the family consists of the first direct progeny of a tuber of the starting material. The family heads are produced under insulated cage. The progeny of a family head is multiplied by an approved laboratory and constitutes a family (F1). Families in the second year (F2) and possibly in the third year (F3) are multiplied by farmers.

4.2-3. Basic seed potatoes: (Super Elite and Elite classes)

Super Elite class seed potatoes are derived from the multiplication of pre-basic seed potatoes and consist of families up to four years old.

Elite-class seed potatoes are derived from a single-generation multiplication of Super Elite basic seed potatoes or pre-basic seed potatoes.

4.2-4 Certified (Class A and B)

The certified seed potatoes class A are the result of single-generation multiplication of basic seed potatoes (Super-Elite or Elite Class).

The certified seed potatoes class B are the result of the decommissioning of basic seed potatoes (SE or E) or certified Class A seed potatoes.

4.3 PRODUCTION

4.3-1. Production conditions

4.3-1-1. Identification

Parcels of multiplication must be identified by signs stating:

- The name of the producer;
- The name of the variety;
- The lot number;
- The area.

Varieties and lots are identified on the farm, at the time of transport and in the storage premises by means of labels bearing the name of the variety, the category and the reference number of the lot.

Every lot is identified by a number assigned to it from the production declaration.

4.3-1-2. Minimum area

The minimum area of a parcel presented to the control for the production of seed potatoes may not be less than half a hectare (0.5 ha) for basic seed potatoes and one hectare (1 ha) for certified seed potatoes.

4.3-1-3. Rotation

Parcels intended for the production of certified seed potatoes must not have planted with potatoes for a period of at least three years for pre-basic and basic seed potatoes and at least two years for certified seed potatoes A and B.

4.3-1-4. Isolation

Seed potato production parcels should be sufficiently isolated from other solanaceous crops, crucifers, orchards, and certain stone-fruits trees (peach, almond, plum and apricot) that may host viruses and/or virus vectors. The isolation distances are specified in Annex II.

4.3-1-5. Varietal and sanitary treatment

Purification is obligatory from the beginning of the vegetation until the haulm destruction. It involves the grubbing-up of foreign and non-compliant roots, stunted roots, regrowth and roots with virus diseases once the symptoms are in evidence, blackleg roots, severe Rhizoctonia, Verticillium, and fusarium. The uprooting must be complete, no tuber should remain in the ground, the haulms and tubers must be removed from the field.

4.3-1-6. Defoliation

The complete defoliation, by grubbing-up or by chemical means, must be carried out within the deadline set by the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA), under penalty of decommissioning or rejection of the crop in accordance with Annex III. The harvesting deadline is determined by the maturity of tubers and climatic conditions.

5. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONTROL

"The certification body" exercises control at all stages of the production and marketing of certified seed potatoes. This includes:

- Field control;
- Control in the laboratory;
- Control during storage;

- Marketing control;
- A subsequent verification.

5.1 Field control:

Field control covers all categories of seed potatoes. These must be authentic and meet the phytosanitary standards specified in Annex IV.

5.1-1. Starting and pre-basic material

The control of the starting and pre-basic material is the direct responsibility of the breeder or maintainer.

5.1-2. Basic seed potatoes:

Super Elite (SE) and Elite (E) Classes and Class A and B Certified seed potatoes:

Super Elite and Elite class seed potatoes and Certified Class A and B seed potatoes are subject to at least 3 periodic visits.

The first (1st) visit is made before the establishment of the crop, and consists of:

- Take the soil sample for hematological analysis;
- Check the origin of the seed potatoes;
- Check the respect of isolation and rotation.

The second (2nd) visit is carried out one month after the full lifting, and consists in controlling:

- The general condition of the crop;
- Evaluate the rate of contamination by viral, bacterial and cryptogammic diseases;
- Check the quality of the purification.

The third (3th) visit is when the varietal characters are clearly visible and consists of:

- Evaluate the rate of contamination by viral, bacterial and cryptogammic diseases;
- Check varietal purity;
- Estimate the yield;
- Set the date for the defoliation.

5.2 Laboratory control

Crops accepted for field control will be analyzed in the laboratory. This analysis is made on samples taken in the field after top killing. The size of the samples to be taken per lot must be at least 220 tubers for the basic seed potatoes and 110 tubers for the certified seed potatoes. Laboratory control standards for virus diseases are set out in Annex V.

5.3 Control during storage

The purpose of this control is to check the storage conditions, the disinfection of storage rooms, and if the seed potato treatments also consists to assess the damage that can be caused by diseases during storage (Fusarium, mildew, soft rot, silver scurf, gangrene etc.).

5.4 Marketing Control

A check is made on the conditioned seed potatoes intended for sale to ascertain their origin, the conditions and the duration of conservation, their sanitary condition, the condition of the tubers and sprouts, as well as the weight of the bags, size and variety.

5.5 Subsequent verification

Subsequent verification is exercised on samples taken from lots certified by the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA) at various stages of production, at storage and marketing of certified seed potatoes.

6. PACKAGING

Before bagging, the tubers must be subjected to the following operations:

- Sorting: This consists of eliminating all rotten, wounded, deformed, out of size tubers and inert material (soil, tops, foreign bodies);
- The wiping: The tubers must be well wiped;
- Sizing: The size of the tubers should be between **30 and 65 mm** for round varieties and between **28 and 55 mm** for oblong varieties. All tubers below or above this size must be discarded;
- Prior to bagging, potato tubers must be fungicidally treated with approved products to fight against diseases of conservation and the black scurf. Insecticide treatment with approved products can be used when needed;
- Packaging: After carrying out the various operations mentioned above, the tubers will be put in new jute or net bags of 25 or 50 kilograms, which will then be sealed.

7. CERTIFICATION AND LABELING

The lots submitted for certification must meet all the requirements of this Regulation. The certification standards are specified in Annex VI.

When the seed potatoes is ready for sale, producers must notify the certification body to proceed with the labeling and sealing of the potato bags.

The bags must bear a double label inside and outside bearing the following indications:

- Lot number:
- The variety:
- The class:
- The size:
- The net weight:
- The date of filling:
- The name of the treatment product (in case of treatment):

The color of the labels will be:

- White for the Super Elite and Elite classes;
- Blue for class A;
- Red for class B.

8. CHECKING IMPORTED EQUIPMENT

The certified material produced abroad and imported into Morocco must be checked and must meet the requirements of this technical regulation for the domestic seed potatoes of the same category, and the phytosanitary regulations in force.

The imported certified potato material shall be subject to subsequent verification regarding health condition and varietal authenticity.

ANNEX I

MODEL DECLARATION* FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES

I undersigned, (1)..... Farmer in douar (village)..... Caidat (area)..... Province....., declare that I have read the regulations in force regarding the production, control, packaging and certification of seed potatoes, and asks to submit my productions hereinafter designated to this control and in advance of the results.

VARIETIES	CATEGORIES AND CLASSES TO PRODUCE (2)	PLANTED AREAS	Origin of the plants (seller, sealing date, lot number). Planting date

Done at..... on (date).....
Name and signature

(1) Specify the name and the quality of the signatory in the case of a legal person.

(2) Specify if it is pre-basic, basic or certified material.

* Declaration to be completed by any producer and to be sent to the National Office for food safety (ONSSA) / Division of Seed and Plant Control B.P. 1308 - Rabat. Accompanied by:

- Sketch locating the declared parcel (s) with the property and the means of access thereto;
- Receipt of the payment of the control tax;
- Documents (invoice and certificate of origin) justifying the origin of plants.

ANNEX II

STANDARDS OF MINIMAL DISTANCES OF ISOLATION

Category	Pre-basic	Basic SE and E	Certified A and B	Solanaceous crops, crucifers crops and stone-fruits trees
Pre-basic	1 row empty	20 m	40 m	500 m
Basic SE and E	20 m	1 row empty	20 m	300 m
Certified A and B	40 m	20 m	1 row empty	200 m

ANNEX III

DEADLINES OF THE DEFOLIATION

Crops which are not defoliated or whose tubers are removed from the field at the date prescribed by the official control service are refused or decommissioned in accordance with the following specifications:

Categories	Classification according to the date of defoliation			
	Within the time	Within 15 days after delay	Between 16 and 20 days after delay	More than 20 days after delay
Base plants				
SE	SE	A	B	Refusal
E	E	A	B	Refusal
Plants				
certified				
A	A	A	B	Refusal
B	B	B	B	Refusal

ANNEX IV

FIELD CONTROL STANDARDS

Categories	Basic seed potatoes				Certified seed potatoes			
	Super Elite		Elite		Class A		Class B	
Visits	2 nd	3 rd	2 nd	3 rd	2 nd	3 rd	2 nd	3 rd
Varietal impurities	0.25 %	0.1 %	0.5 %	0.2 %	1 %	0.5 %	1.5 %	1 %
Stunted roots	5 %	_____	7 %	_____	10 %	_____	12 %	_____
Virus diseases	1.5 %	0.5 %	2 %	1 %	4 %	2 %	6 %	4 %
Bacterial diseases								
- Bacterial wilt	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
- Blackleg	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.5 %	0.5 %	1 %	1 %	2 %	2 %
Cryptogrammic diseases								
- Rhizoctonia	5 %	5 %	6 %	6 %	8 %	8 %	12 %	12 %
- Verticilliosis	0.5 %	0.5 %	1 %	1 %	3 %	3 %	5 %	5 %

Crops are refused in the event of difficult control due, in particular, to the presence of weeds, strong attack of downy mildew, alteraria, insects and following hail damage, wind or phytotoxicity, which can mask the symptoms of virus diseases and other diseases.

ANNEX V

LABORATORY CONTROL STANDARDS

Virus type	Maximum rate tolerated by Classes			
	Class-SE	Class E	Class A	Class B
(PVX, PVY and PLRV)	1.5 %	2.0 %	6 %	8 %

ANNEX VI

CONTROL STANDARDS IN SORTING

The maximum tolerances allowed for checking after sorting, sizing and bagging, by examining 5% of the bags and at least five (5) per lot are for:

1. Varietal impurities:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| ▪ Basic seed potatoes Super Elite (SE): | 0.1 % |
| ▪ Basic seed potatoes Elite (E): | 0.2 % |
| ▪ Certified seed potatoes Class A: | 0.5 % |
| ▪ Certified seed potatoes Class B: | 1.0 % |

2. Health status

a) Quarantine diseases and pests:

Potato lots containing, in a few percentages, tubers with quarantine pests and diseases are refused in accordance with the phytosanitary legislation in force.

b) Other diseases and pests:

Potato lots whose attack percentage exceeds the maximum levels as a percentage of weight are refused:

- 5 % for common scab covering an area greater than 1/3;
- 5 % for silver scurf covering an area greater than 1/3;
- 2 % for wet rot (Downy mildew, blackleg);
- 2 % for dry rot (Fusarium, phoma);
- 10 % for rhizoctonia.
- 5% for wireworms and cutworms;
- 1% for ringworm damage;

3. Impurities and defects

Potato lots whose percentage exceeds the maximum percentage of the weight are refused:

- 1 % for soil and foreign bodies;
- 2 % for misshapen or damaged tubers;
- 1 % for frozen tubers;
- 4% for off-size tubers.

The cumulative tolerances stipulated in points 1, 2 and 3 above must not exceed 10% by weight.