



Notification of Department of Agriculture
Re: Conditions for Import of Potatoes for Processing from Laos
B.E. 2552 (2009)

The Department of Agriculture has completed pest risk analysis for commercial importation of potatoes for processing from Laos into Thailand. By virtue of the provisions of Section 8 and Section 10 of the Plant Quarantine Act B.E. 2507 (1964) amended by the Plant Quarantine Act (No. 3) B.E. 2551 (2008) with particular provisions that may restrict the right and freedom of any person in which Section 29 together with Section 32, Section 33, Section 41 and Section 43 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand permits by virtue of the law. The Director-General of Department of Agriculture through the recommendation of the Plant Quarantine Committee, hereby announces the conditions that have to be met in order to import potatoes for processing purpose from Laos into Thailand as follows:

1. Plant species

Tuber of potato, *Solanum tuberosum*

2. Responsible organizations

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| 2.1 | Thailand: | Department of Agriculture
(hereinafter referred to as DOA) |
| 2.2 | Laos: | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,
Department of Agriculture
(hereinafter referred to as MAF-DOA) |

3. Import permit

- 3.1 Import permit issued by DOA is required.
- 3.2 Applicants eligible to apply for permit to import potatoes for processing shall operate potato processing plant.

- 3.3 The import permit will be issued if the importing establishment has facilities for safe disposal of soil, culls, and wash water indicated in Section 5.

4. Means of conveyance

Potatoes shall be directly imported from Laos to Thailand by cargo through land border.

5. Registration of processing facilities

- 5.1 The imported potatoes for processing into Thailand must be processed in facilities registered and approved by the DOA. The processing facilities must be inspected by quarantine officials for compliance with specified conditions. The approval of processing facilities will be based on the capability of the importing company to comply with the following conditions:
- 5.1.1 The importing plant must possess equipment suitable for cleaning and decontamination.
 - 5.1.2 All water from potato washers and peelers must be discharged into approved sewage treatment system or other approved discharge system.
 - 5.1.3 Soil and sweeping must be disposed of in an approved manner.
 - 5.1.4 An importing company is required to maintain an accurate record of potatoes received and processed. No diversion to any other plant is permitted without the approval of the DOA.
- 5.2 The processing facilities must be audited annually for compliance with specified conditions. The costs of such audits must be borne by the importing company.
- 5.3 The processing facilities must adhere to compliance conditions specified by DOA. Where conditions cannot be met, the import permit of potatoes for processing must be revoked.

6. Phytosanitary import requirements

To mitigate the risk associated with nematodes and the presence of infected tubers, potatoes imported for processing must be subjected to one of the following phytosanitary measures.

- 6.1 Potatoes must be washed so as to be practically free of visible soil. or

- 6.2 In case of unwashed potatoes, the tubers must be thoroughly brushed so as to be practically free of soil. The weight of loose soil shall not exceed 100 g per 50 kg potatoes (equivalent to 0.2 % soil by weight). For caked soil, potatoes which have more than 20 % of the surface of the tuber with caked soil should not exceed 30 tubers in a 600 unit sample (equivalent to 5 %). In addition, the potatoes must be treated with a sprout inhibitor. or
- 6.3 Potatoes must be thoroughly brushed so as to be practically free of visible soil, packed in containers and shipped within one month of harvest.

7. Phytosanitary Certification

- 7.1 A Phytosanitary Certificate must accompany with each consignment of potatoes from Laos.
- 7.2 A Phytosanitary Certificate shall bear the following additional declaration.

“The potatoes in this consignment were produced in Laos in accordance with the conditions governing entry of potatoes for processing to Thailand.

and

“The potatoes in this consignment have been washed.”

or

“The potatoes of this consignment were treated with a sprout inhibitor.”

or

“The potatoes of this consignment were packed and shipped within month of harvest.”

Effective on this date henceforth.

Issued on 15 July B.E. 2552 (2009)

Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul

Director-General
Department of Agriculture

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- UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
 - This is an English translation. In case of any difference in meaning between the Thai text and the English translation, the Thai text shall be applied.