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Vietnam

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Vietnam Animal/Plant Inspection and Quarantine Regulation Update 2003

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Report Highlights: The Government of Vietnam recently issued new regulations to clarify the inspection and quarantine systems. Almost all agricultural and aquatic goods must be inspected before they enter or exit Vietnam. Additionally, selected products (e.g., livestock or live fish) are subject to quarantine periods and additional tests. U.S. exporters should carefully review these regulations with Vietnamese importers.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Hanoi [VM1], VM

In an attempt to improve the agricultural and aquatic products inspection systems and to strengthen coordination between customs and the inspection services, the Government of Vietnam (GOV) released a new set of regulations. Unfortunately, the GOV's informal English translation of the regulations generated new uncertainties. In Vietnamese a single word can refer to both 'inspection' and 'quarantine'. This report is based on the Vietnamese version of the regulations and Post's discussions with the GOV's animal, plant and aquatic inspection services. However, all U.S. exporters are urged to carefully discuss these new regulations with their Vietnamese importers.

On March 14, 2003 the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (MARD), and the Ministry of Fisheries issued Circular 17 to strengthen the trade inspection system for animal, plant and fishery products. The circular provides guidelines on requesting inspections, and on the supervision of those inspections. This circular (i.e., regulation) came into effect on April 1, 2003.

The formal title of Circular 17 is: Inter-Ministerial Circular 17 / 2003 / TTLT / BTC - BNN & PTNT - BTS. Guiding the Inspection and Supervision of Import/Export Goods Subject to Animal, Plant or Aquatic Product Inspection

Note: The informal translation published in the Vietnamese Official Gazette incorrectly used the English word 'quarantine' at the end of the title instead of 'inspection'. The new regulations cover inspections of all agricultural and aquatic goods, including the smaller sub-set of products that have additional quarantine requirements. The Official Gazette notes that the official version is the Vietnamese language version, not the English translation.

Circular 17 can be summarized as follows:

General regulations

- The regulation applies to all exports and imports of animal, plant and fishery products subject to inspection by MARD and the Ministry of Fisheries. MARD and the Ministry of Fisheries periodically release a list of goods subject to inspection and/or quarantine. This report includes a summary of the animal and plant products subject to inspection in Appendix 1 and 2.
- Only regional agencies assigned by MARD (Appendix 1 - Animal Products, Appendix 2 - Plant Products) and Ministry of Fisheries (Appendix 3) have authorization to certify the request for inspection forms (Appendix 4) and grant inspection certificates.
- The regulation is not applied to transit goods that are not unloaded in Vietnam.
- The inspection system consists of two steps: (1) requesting an inspection, and (2) commodity inspection. That means, the owner of the goods must first complete the 'inspection request form' and submit it to one of the inspection agencies. The inspection agency will certify the inspection request form before the good are inspected. The goods inspection (by one of the agencies listed below) can be done concurrently with the Customs check or after the Customs check. The Customs check is done to determine the import tariff, the VAT taxes, and to review the shipment's documentation, while the

goods inspection is to verify the quality and safety of the import/export goods.

Responsibilities of the Trading Company or Owner of the Goods

S Exporting

Before loading goods for export, the owners (or trading company) will have to request an inspection and declare their goods to an inspection agency in order to get an inspection certificate in accordance with the current Vietnamese inspection regulations or the requirements of the buyers.

S Importing

Before obtaining customs clearance, importers (and/or the owners of the goods) will have to submit 3 copies of the inspection request form (Appendix 4, below) to an inspection agency.

After the inspection request form is certified,

- a. one copy is submitted to Customs office for goods/commodity clearance
- b. one copy is for the owner/trader, and
- c. one copy is retained at the inspection agency.

Goods that do not meet the inspection agency or Customs requirements must be re-exported or destroyed.

Responsibilities of the Inspection Agencies

- S** To certify the inspection request forms.
- S** To implement good inspections and issue inspection certificates.
- S** To coordinate with Customs offices the inspection of the goods
- S** To decide whether imported goods can enter Vietnam or must be destroyed or re-exported.

Responsibilities of the Customs Offices

- S** For export goods, they will only request the inspection certificate
- S** For import goods, Customs officers must have one copy of the inspection request form.
- S** For import goods rejected for Customs reasons, the Customs officers will coordinate the re-export or destruction of the goods with the appropriate inspection agency.

Note: In addition to the procedures described in Circular 17, animal product (e.g., beef or pork meat) importers need to obtain an import inspection permit issued by the Department of Animal Health (DAH) of Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (MARD). The permit is extended (renewed) quarterly.

APPENDIX - 1

ANIMAL HEALTH REGIONAL CENTERS AUTHORIZED TO CERTIFY ANIMAL HEALTH INSPECTION REQUEST FORMS AND ISSUE INSPECTION CERTIFICATES

I. Hanoi Regional Animal Health Center

Address: 63B, Phuong Mai Str., Dong Da Distr., Hanoi

Tel : (84-4)8692627/ Fax: (84-4) 8685390/ Email: ttyv@fpt.vn

Areas to cover: Ha Noi city and Ha Tay, Hoa Binh, Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Phu Tho, Vinh Phuc, Lao Cai, Son La, Lai Chau and Yen Bai provinces.

II. Hai Phong Regional Animal Health Center

Address: No 23 Da Nang Str., Ngo Quyen Distr., Hai Phong City

Tel : (84) 031-836511/ Fax: (84)031-551698/ Email: ttyvhp@hn.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Hai Phon, Thai Binh, Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Cao Bang, Bac Can, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Bac Can, Thai Nguyen, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Hai Duong, Hung Yen, Cat Bi airport and Haiphong port.

III. Vinh Regional Animal Health Center

Address: No.51 Nguyen Sinh Sac Str., Vinh city- Nghe An province

Tel: (84) 038.842786/Fax: (84) 038.841571/Email: tyvvinh@hn.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Hue provinces and Lao Bao and Cau Treo border gates.

IV. Da Nang Regional Animal Health Center

Address: No.12 Tran Qui Cap Str., Hai Chau Distr., Da Nang city

Tel: 0511.822515/ Fax: 0511.826926/ Email:ttyvvn@dn.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Dac Lak, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa provinces and Da Nang airport and Tien Sa port.

V. Ho Chi Minh City Regional Animal Health Center

Address: 124 Pham The Hien Str., Distr., 8 - Hcmc

Tel: (84-8)8568886/ Fax: (84-8) 88569050/Email: rahhcm@hcm.fpt.vn

Areas to cover: Hcmc, Lam Dong, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Dong Nai, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, Tien Giang, Ben Tre provinces. Tan Son Nhat International airport, Saigon port and Moc Bai border gate.

VI. Can Tho Regional Animal Health Center

Address: Cach Mang Thang Tam Str.,- Can Tho city- Can Tho province

Tel: (84-71) 820 203/ Fax: (84-71)

VII. Animal Health Inspection Stations under Animal Health Department

vii.1: Noi Bai Airport Animal Health Inspection Station

Address: Noi Bai airport

Tel: (84-4)8840120

vii.2: Dong Dang Animal Health Inspection Station

Address: No 39 Dong Dang Railway station, Dong Dang Town- Lang Son province

Tel: (84-25) 821275/ Fax: (84-25) 821536

vii.3: Lao Cai Animal Health Inspection Station

Address: Lao Cai town, Lao Cai province

Tel: (84-20) 830 260

vii.4: Mong Cai Animal Health Inspection Station

Address: Mong Cai Town-Quang Ninh province

Tel: (84-33)881502/ Fax: (84-33) 881502

Areas to cover: Mong Cai and Bac Phong Sinh border gates

Note:

Animal products subjected to inspection are listed in Decree 607/NN-TY/QD dated June 9, 1994 by MARD.

That Decree (highlights only) requires inspection for:

Part I

- a. All live animals
- b. Animal products, including meat, pate, milk, honey, hides and skins, etc.
- c. Equipment used in livestock production, slaughter and packaging
- d. Means of transport for animals and animal products (plane, ship, truck, etc.)

Part II

The Decree includes a long list of diseases to be checked. This list is based on OIE standards, and also notes MARD will adjust the list based on the prevailing OIE standard, and world animal disease concerns.

Part III - Toxic Substances

A list, based on OIE standards, of various chemicals and contaminants ranging from antibiotics to bacteria and aflatoxin. NOTE: The list was recently updated to include chloramphenicol.

APPENDIX - 2**PLANT QUARANTINE REGIONAL CENTERS AUTHORIZED TO CERTIFY PLANT QUARANTINE INSPECTION REQUEST FORMS AND ISSUE INSPECTION CERTIFICATES****1. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 1**

Address: No 2 Tran Quang Khai Str., Hai Phong City

Tel: (84-31) 842104/823366/ **Fax:** (84-31) 821839/ **Email:** kdtv1hp@hn.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Thai Binh, Hai Duong, Hung Yen, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh provinces. Hai Phong port, and Mong Cai & Binh Lieu border gates.

2. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 2

Address: No 28 Mac Dinh Chi Str., Distr., 1- Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: (84-8) 8251410/**Fax:** (84-8) 8293266/ **Email:** kdtv2@hcmc.netnam.vn

Areas to cover: Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, Ho Chi Minh City, Long An, Tien Giang, Dong Thap, Ba Ria-Vung Tau provinces.

Saigon port, Tan San Nhat Airport, Dong Thap post office, Ba Ria Vung Tau post office, Dong Nai post office.

3. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 3

Address: No 146 Hoang Dieu Str., Da Nang City

Tel: (84-511) 821 622/ **Fax:** (84-511) 826863/ **Email:** lethinganh@dng.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Da Nang, Quang Ngai provinces. Da Nang port, Hue city and Lao Bao border gate.

4. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 4

Address: No 66 Le Hong Phong Str., Qui Nhon town- Binh Dinh province

Tel: (84-56) 822964/823538/ **Fax:** (84-56) 822964/ **Email:** cckdvtv4@dng.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Kon Tum, Gia Lai and Dac Lak provinces. Nha Trang, Bo Y, Duc Co, Buprang and Dac Bo border gates.

5. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 5

Address: No 149 Ho Dac Di Str., Dong Da Distr., Hanoi

Tel: (84-4) 8513500/ **Fax:** (84-4) 5330043/ **Email:** kdtv5-hn@fpt.vn

Areas to cover: Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Phu Tho, Vinh Phuc, Ha Tay, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Ha Nam, Ha Noi, Hoa Binh provinces. Hanoi city, and Noi Bai airport.

6. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 6

Address: No. 28 Tran Phu Str., Vinh City-Nghe An province

Tel: (84-38)842992/ **Email:** cckdvtv6@hn.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh provinces. Cau Treo and Chalo border gates.

7. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 7

Address: No.98B Ngo Quyen Str., Lang Son town- Lang Son province

Tel: (84-25)875797/ Fax: (84-25) 872941

Areas to cover: Lang Son, Cao Bang, Bac Can, Thai Nguyen provinces. Huu Nghi, Dong Dang, Tan Thanh, Chi Ma, Cong Trang, Ta Lung, Tra Linh, Ha Quang and Soc Giang border gates.

8. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 8

Address: Lao Cai Town, Lao Cai province

Tel: (84-20)830097/ Fax: (84-20)830503/ Email: tuankd8lc@hn.vnn.vn

Areas to cover: Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Son La provinces and all border gates located in these provinces

9. Plant Quarantine Center of Region 9

Address: No. 386B Cach Mang Thang Tam Str., Can Tho city- Can Tho province

Tel: (84-71) 826709/883551/ Fax: (84-71) 82408/ [Email:kdtvv9@hcm.vnn.vn](mailto:kdtvv9@hcm.vnn.vn)

Areas to cover: Can Tho, An Giang, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Vinh Long and Ben Tre provinces.

My Thoi port, and Tinh Bien, Vinh Hoi Dong, Vinh Xuong, Khanh Binh border gates.

Note: Plant products subjected to quarantine are listed in Decree No.56/2001/QD/BNN-BVTV dated May 3, 2001 issued by MARD.

This Decree covers (summary only):

1. Plants

Live plants imported /exported for breeding purposes, bulbs, tubers, etc.

2. Plant Products

Includes rice, flour, oilseed meal, seeds, fiber, tobacco, yeast, wood, straw, and other bulk plant products, such as wheat, cotton, etc.

3. Agents Impacting Plants

Fungus, Virus, Insects, etc.

4. Soil

5. The means of Transportation for plants, plant products, etc.

APPENDIX - 3

MINISTRY OF FISHERY

The Ministry of Fishery authorizes the **Fishery Resource Reservation Department** as a sole agency in certifying company inspection registration forms and granting inspection certificates to fishery exporters and importers.

Address: No.10 Nguyen Cong Hoan Str., Hanoi
Tel: (84-4) 8345 593/ 7718298/ Fax: (84-4) 8353363

Note: The Fishery Resource Reservation Department may assign the Provincial Fishery Resource Reservation Departments to certify and grant the company registration form and inspection certificates to fishery importers and exporters.

Fishery products requested to be inspected are listed in the Ministry's circular No.02/TS-TT dated June 25, 1994.

APPENDIX - 4

Inspection Request Form

[Note: This is not the actual form, but a translation of the information required for the form.]

To:.....(Inspection agency)

Name (organization or individual).....

Tel.....fax...../Email....

Would like to have the shipment inspected for (export/import)

1. Name of product
2. Production Location
3. Amount
4. Size (may be for fishery products)
5. Net weight
6. Gross weight
7. Contract number; L/C number
8. Exporting country
9. Exporting port
10. Importer (organization or individual)
11. Importing country
12. Transportation means
13. Importing port
14. Purposes of imports
15. Import inspection permit (if required and/or if applicable)
16. Inspection place
17. Place of culture or raising (if available)
18. Inspection date
19. Quarantine place (if available)
20. Quarantine period (if applicable)
21. Numbers of copy needed