

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: May 07,2020

Report Number: CA2020-0044

Report Name: COVID-19 Impact on Ministerial Exemptions for Potatoes

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Potatoes and Potato Products

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Report Highlights:

Potato imports into Canada continue to be permitted providing import requirements are adhered to. The Government of Canada has not stopped the issuance of Ministerial Exemptions and they may be granted again for bulk potatoes in the future as determined by demand.

[GAIN report CA2020-0043](#), published on April 29, referred to the cancellation of [Ministerial Exemptions](#) for importing bulk potatoes into Canada. Ministerial Exemptions, referenced in that report, refer to exemptions granted to bulk restrictions for potato imports into Canada due to alleviate a shortage of processing potatoes in Canada's domestic supply. This supply shortage arose from the loss of 20,000 acres of Canadian potatoes in the field last fall.

Reduced demand for potatoes caused by COVID-19 related issues in the food service sector has now led to an oversupply situation in Canada and processors no longer need to import additional potatoes to alleviate supply shortages. Potato imports into Canada continue to be permitted as long as import requirements are adhered to. The [FAS/Canada Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards](#) report outlines import requirements for potatoes amongst other agricultural commodities.

As the situation evolves Ministerial Exemptions may become active again. The Government of Canada has not cancelled the issuance of Ministerial Exemptions and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provides information on the processes and requirements for obtaining a [Ministerial Exemption](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.