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**Post:** Cairo

### **Egypt's New Guidelines for Wheat Imports - CAPQ Directive No. 48 (2017)**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Grain and Feed, Trade Policy Monitoring, FAIRS Subject Report, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation's Central Administration Plant Quarantine issued on October 31, 2017, Directive No. 48 – Regarding Special and Complementary Regulations for the Importation and Release of Wheat Shipments Imported from Abroad. The directive accelerates the release of inbound foreign wheat shipments; inspection procedures are to be expedited and be subject to the Egyptian standard for wheat. Directive No. 48 does not include new regulations; rather it is a compilation of all relevant rules and specifications. An unofficial translation of Directive No. 48 is attached.

## **General Information:**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation's (MALR) Central Administration for Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) issued on October 31, 2017, Directive No. 48 – Regarding Special and Complementary Regulations for the Importation and Release of Wheat Shipments Imported from Abroad (see attached unofficial translation). The directive accelerates the release of inbound foreign wheat shipments; inspection procedures are to be expedited and be subject to the Egyptian standard for wheat. Directive No. 48 does not include any new regulations; rather it is a compilation of all relevant rules and specifications to date.

The uncertainty with Egypt's wheat import rules and the application of its inspection procedures in recent months has reportedly led wheat suppliers to charge high-risk premiums (as high as \$500,000 in some cases). FAS Cairo trade contacts comment that they pay \$8-\$10 per metric ton (MT) in risk premiums. Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Ali Museihli in press interviews (October 22, 2017) indicated that Egypt would detail all specifications, procedures, and regulations for traders selling to the world's largest wheat buyer.

Recently two wheat shipments (French- and Romanian-origin) were detained at port for containing (non-narcotic) poppy seeds. Dozens of shipments have similarly been delayed for costly inspection and testing procedures. These two detained shipments have now been released.

Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992 (2016), in response to Egypt's controversial ergot fungi policy, restructures wheat, as well as corn and soybean import procedures. The decree designates the Ministry of Trade and Industry's General Organization for Import and Export (GOEIC) as the country's lead authority for all inspection procedures. The Ministry of Trade and Industry Decree No. 24 (2017) implements the operational guidelines establishing the GOEIC as the government body responsible for wheat inspections at ports-of-origin and -destination.

Prior to the end of 2016, the General Authority for Supply Commodities' (GASC) public-sector tenders required that up to six inspectors travel overseas to inspect shipments at the port-of-origin; two inspectors each from the CAPQ, GOEIC, and the Ministry of Health. FAS Cairo estimates that overseas cargo inspections added a cost of \$0.50 to \$1 per metric ton of wheat shipped (based on estimated transportation costs and per diem plus additional funding for lodging and meals and incidental expenses). Although private-sector shipments were not required to conduct cargo inspections at origin, many also opted to have inspectors travel to avoid possible detrimental findings at the port-of-destination.

The Central Administration for Plant Quarantine's Directive No. 48 seeks to eliminate the haphazard application of import rules and inspection procedures at the port-of-destination that have driven up business costs for some traders.

Currently all inspections at the port-of-origin are carried out by GOEIC and GASC approved private pre-shipment inspection companies. For the public-sector tenders, the required port-of-origin inspection costs are borne by the General Authority for Supply Commodities. Upon arrival to Egypt, inspections are carried out by a tripartite inspection committee headed by the GOEIC along with inspectors from the CAPQ and the Ministry of Health.

FAS Cairo forecasts domestic production in marketing year (MY) 2017-18 (July/June) at 8.1 million metric tons (MMT). Imports in MY 2017/18 will come in around 11.7 MMT; with the GASC importing 6.3 MMT of this amount. We see wheat consumption in MY 2017/18 at 19.7 MMT, up 1.5 percent from MY 2016/17 consumption estimate of 19.4 million metric tons. Post attributes the uptick to 2.2 percent increase in food, seed and industrial use (FSI) consumption driven by population growth (see, [GAIN – EGYPT Grain and Feed Update 2017 – Egypt's Wheat Import and Corn Imports Hold Steady, Rice Exports Remain Restricted](#)).

FAS Cairo forecasts that in MY 2018/19, the GASC will import 6.5 MMT to 6.7 MMT; these forecasted purchases are in line with average volume increases of about 500,000 to 600,000 MT per year observed over the past three years.

Egypt's population of 97 million (Central Intelligence Agency, est., July 2017), growing at 2.5 percent per annum is adding roughly 2 million people yearly. The country is also host to an estimated 5 million refugees from the conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Sudan. Egypt's wheat production is insufficient to meet growing demand.

**(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)**

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***Directive No. 48, October 31, 2017***

***Regarding Special and Complimentary Regulations for the Importation and Release of Wheat Shipments Imported from Abroad***

- 1- The importer can demand from the Customs Authority the issuance of an early custom certificate prior to the shipment's arrival to facilitate the inspection process at destination.
- 2- Permit the possibility of shipment inspection in the inner anchorage, provided that the shipment weighs a minimum of 25,000 metric tons.
- 3- In consultation with the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (AEA), conduct an initial visual inspection of the vessel (and its cargo); a tripartite committee integrated by representatives from the General Organization for Import and Export (GOEIC), the Central Administration for Plant Quarantine (CAPQ), and the Ministry of Health (MOH) jointly inspect the shipment. Samples taken are sent to testing laboratories.
- 4- The importer or (his agent) and the private inspection company's representative are allowed to attend the inspection with the tripartite committee in the inner anchorage.
- 5- Upon the arrival of the wheat shipment the following parameters are to be adhered to:
  - a. Radioactivity inspection of suspect origins (applies to Black Sea origins – Russia, Ukraine, and Romania) approved to export to Egypt as per Prime Ministerial Resolution No.1186 (2003).
  - b. Visual inspection is carried out by the tripartite committee; the CAPQ technical personnel visually inspect the shipment. Should dead insects be present, the shipment will be released but the importer (or his agent) will need to attest in writing that the shipment will be sieved during milling. He must commit to using proper sieves to separate dead insects and other waste; samples of the dead insects will be sent to specialized laboratories for identification. The mill will dispose of all waste material.
  - c. Should ergot fungi be present, and the rate is higher than the international standard of 0.05 percent, the shipment will be rejected. Should ergot fungi be present within the international standard of 0.05 percent, treatment during milling under the supervision of the CAPQ will be carried out. The Central Administration for Plant Quarantine must be notified within 24-hours of the location of where the ergot fungi containing wheat will be transported to and stored in order to inspect the site. If inspections are not carried out within that timeframe, the head (i.e., Director) of the CAPQ is to be notified in order to take the necessary procedures.
  - d. For wheat shipments containing wild, non-narcotic poppy seeds "*papaver rhoeas*," as determined by the Ministry of Agriculture's Flora Research Department, ministry procedures will be followed. If narcotic poppy seeds are detected, the GOEIC will follow procedures as per the regulating legislation.
  - e. Agricultural quarantine inspectors are directed to follow the above instructions.

Issued on: October 31, 2017

Head of the Central Department of Agricultural Quarantine  
(Signed) Dr. Naglaa Mousa Balabel

...END TEXT



**مستور رقم (٤٨) بتاريخ ٢٠١٧/١٠/٢١ بشأن القواعد الخاصة والمكتملة بتنظيم استيراد وإفراج عن شحنات القمح المستوردة من الخارج**

- رئيس الإدارة المركزية للحجر الزراعي.
- وبناءً على ما أشر به معالي وزير الزراعة واستصلاح الاراضي
- وعلى الاجتماع المنعقد بتاريخ ٢٠١٧/١٠/٢٦ برئاسة السيد الأستاذ الدكتور/ نائب وزير الزراعة لشئون الخدمات الزراعية والمتعلقة مع السادة ممثلي الهيئة العامة للرقابة على الصادرات والواردات - والهيئة العامة للسلع التموينية - والشركة القابضة المصرية للصوامع
- وعلى الاجتماع المنعقد بتاريخ ٢٠١٧/٩/٢٤ برئاسة السيد الأستاذ الدكتور/ رئيس قطاع الخدمات الزراعية والمتعلقة مع السادة ممثلي الهيئة العامة للرقابة على الصادرات والواردات - والهيئة العامة للسلع التموينية - والشركة القابضة المصرية للصوامع - وزارة التموين - معهد بحوث البستنة (قسم الفلورا)
- على جميع السادة ممثلي الحجر الزراعي الالتزام بالاتي :-
  ١. يمكن للجهة المستوردة للقمح فتح إفراج مبدئي قبل الوصول لتبسيط عملية الفحص عند الوصول.
  ٢. إتاحة امكانية القيام بالفحص بالمخلفات الداخلي بشرط أن لا تقل حمولة الباكسة عن ٢٥ ألف طن.
  ٣. استطلاع رأي هيئة الطاقة الذرية في إمكانية الفحص الاولي للشحنة اشعاعيا على سطح المركب أثناء المعالجة الظاهرية مع تمديد رسوم الاتياع وسحب العينات لإرسالها للمعمل على أن يتم الموافقة على قيام اللجنة الثلاثية بالبدء في اجراءات فحص الشحنة في خطوة واحدة.
  ٤. يجوز حضور المستورد أو ( من يفوضه ) ومندوب شركة المراجعة مع اللجنة الثلاثية أثناء الفحص في المخلفات الداخلي.
  ٥. عند وصول شحنة القمح يتم اتباع التالي :-
    - أولاً :- الفحص الاشعاعي من المنشأ المرفقة طبقا لقرار رئيس مجلس الوزراء رقم ١١٨٦ لسنة ٢٠٠٣
    - ثانياً :- يتم الفحص الظاهري للجنة الثلاثية ويوم الحجر الزراعي بالفحص الظاهري للشحنة وفي حالة وجود حشرات مينة يتم الإفراج النهائي عن الباكسة مع أخذ إقرار على المستورد أو من يفوضه بالالتزام بإجراء عملية الغرلة ضمن عمليات ( الطحن ) بالمطاحن بإقطار غرابيل مبادئية تضمن فصل الحشرات المينة مع المخلفات الأخرى مع سحب عينات من الحشرات المينة من المركب للتعريف وإرسالها للمعامل المختصة طبقاً للمعول به ويتم إعدام نواتج المخلفات بمعرفة وتحت مسئولية المطحن





**ثالثاً :- في حالة وجود فطر الارحوت :-**

- في حالة وجود نسبة أعلى من ٠.١٥ % يتم رفض الشحنة
- في حالة وجوده ضمن النسبة المسموح بها :- يتم إتخاذ الإجراءات المتفق عليها (المعالجة أثناء الطحن) تحت إشراف الحجر الزراعي على أن يتم إخطار الحجر الزراعي بالامكان التي سيتم نقل الاقماع إليها وسعتها التخزينية الفارغة ويتم معاينة الامكان عن طريق الحجر الزراعي في خلال ٢٤ ساعة من تاريخ الاخطار وفي حالة عدم إجراء المعاينات بعد هذا التوقيت يتم إخطار رئيس الإدارة المركزية للحجر الزراعي لاتخاذ اللازم.
- على أن يوفر الممتدرد أو من يفوضه وسيلة انتقال مهندسي الحجر الزراعي من مقر العمل إلى أماكن المعاينة .

**رابعاً :- في حالة شحنات القمح الواردة ومختلطة بحشيش خشخاش يتبع الآتي :**

- في حالة ثبوت أن العينة عبارة عن خشخاش الزهور البري الغير محذر *Papaver rhoeas* يتم إتخاذ الإجراءات في ضوء الرأي الفني السابق تقديمه لمعالي وزير الزراعة من قبل قسم بحوث القلور.
- في حالة ثبوت أن العينة عبارة عن خشخاش الاثيون المحذر يتم إتخاذ الإجراءات من قبل الهيئة العامة للرقابة على الصادرات والواردات طبقاً للقوانين المنظمة لذلك .
- على جميع المباداة مفتشى الحجر الزراعي تنفيذ التعليمات بكل دقة .

تحريراً في ٢٠١٧/١٠/٣١  
ع/ع

رئيس الإدارة المركزية للحجر الزراعي  
ومدير مشروع حصر ومكافحة مرض البطن البقي في البطاطس  
د / نجلاء موسى يسايل