

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Egypt Reintroduces Government Pre shipment Inspections for Grain Imports

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**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Policy and Program Announcements, Oilseeds and Products, Grain and Feed, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, FAIRS Subject Report, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

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**Report Highlights:**

Egypt's mandatory plant quarantine pre-shipment inspections of grains at port-of-loading are back. Pre-shipment inspections return due to invalidation of Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992/2016. Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992/2016 (January 1, 2017) disallowed government teams to travel for inspections at the port of loading and instead gave the General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC) the responsibility to coordinate and administer inspections for grain imports. Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decree No. 562/2019 reestablishes the Central Plant Quarantine Authority (CAPQ) as the agency responsible for grains and oilseeds inspections. The General Organization for Supply Commodities now requires pre-shipment inspections by Egyptian officials at port-of-loading, in accordance with CAPQ requirements.

## General Information:

In January 2020, the Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ), Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation re-introduced pre-shipment inspections by CAPQ officials for grain imports at the port-of-loading. In September, 2019, Ministry of Agriculture (MALR) Decree No. 562 confirms CAPQ as Egypt's national plant protection organization, assigning its role and responsibilities, as well as stipulating export-import phytosanitary regulations (see [GAIN-EGYPT \(EG2019-0018\) EGYPT – New Plant Quarantine Requirements, Ministerial Decree 562](#)). Since 2017, the General organization for Export and Import control was responsible for the coordination and administration of grain imports. Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2992/2016 (January 1, 2017) disallowed CAPQ inspections at the port- of-loading and instead gave the General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC) the responsibility to coordinate and administer inspections for grain imports. The decision was prompted by significant delays and excessive rejections of grain shipments upon arrival in Egypt by quarantine officials. GOEC subsequently contracted out inspections of grains at the port-of-loading to international pre-shipment inspection (PSI) surveyors instead of sending government inspection teams abroad. Since November 15, 2019 GOIEC is no longer responsible for regulating food imports including grains.

**The Return of Grain Pre-Shipment Inspections:** The MALR Decree No. 562 stipulates that imports are subject to plant quarantine phytosanitary requirements, as specified in the import permit. In accordance with international provisions, all plant and plant products must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. The phytosanitary certificate must reference the import permit related to the shipment. Annex 13 of the decree references pre-shipment inspections in terms of requirements and justifications, as well the conditions for inspection committee selection and inspection procedures (see APPENDIX I). The General Organization for Supply Commodities (GASC), an agency of the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, is referencing as of January 2020 in its tender documents the requirement of pre-shipment inspections at port-of-loading. The promulgation of MALR Decree No. 562, allows CAPQ to conduct pre-shipment inspections at the port-of-loading for GASC purchases. GASC is the world's largest single purchaser of wheat. In calendar year (CY) 2019 (January-November) Egypt imported roughly \$185 million worth of U.S.-origin wheat.

Private sector grain consignments do not require pre-shipment inspections by CAPQ at the port-of-loading. However, most private sector importers prefer to also use CAPQ inspections at the port-of-loading for ease of clearance upon arrival in Egypt.



**APPENDIX I – Unofficial English Translation of Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Decree No. 562/2019 - Annex 13**

BEGIN TEXT...

**Annex 13 Regarding Article 22 – Importation and Treatment Controls of the Application of the Phytosanitary Measures in a Country of Origin**

Pursuant to the international requirements of the Pre-shipment Inspection Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Annex 1 to ISPM 20 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the importing country is entitled to apply some phytosanitary measures to the imported consignments in the country of origin.

At the request of the importer or its representative or in the light of the implementation of the decision of the Plant Quarantine Committee, the Egyptian Plant Quarantine shall establish committees of the quarantine inspectors to verify the conformity of the imported consignments to phytosanitary requirements in the country of origin based on the following procedure:

**First: Conditions for candidacy for external missions:**

- 1- Quarantine engineers who are appointed to travel must prove they have a work experience in the domain of plant quarantine for a period of at least 5 years and six months.
- 2- If an engineer has taken leave (except regular leave – leave on personal grounds – sick leave - maternity leave – Hajj leave), the duration of the leave shall not be counted within the period prescribed above.
- 3- Travel shall only be permitted after a Ministerial Decree is issued indicating the destination, product, quantity to be imported, importer and travel period.

**Second: Rules for establishing a Travel Committee:**

- 1- At least one of the members must have broad experience in the field of inspecting the product to be imported.
- 2- The general health status (certified health certificate or certificate of good health) shall be taken into consideration for the Committee members in accordance with the requirements of the consignment to be imported.
- 3- The engineer likely to travel shall pass an ad hoc interview to ensure that he is technically qualified to perform the phytosanitary measures required for the plant consignment for which he is applying.
- 4- By the time the general directors of Plant Quarantine meet, the candidate must not have received an investigation-based penalty for the year of his candidacy which would prevent him from serving for a period of 3 to 12 months depending on the wrongdoing.
- 5- There must be no evidence that the candidate has previously misused the authority of Plant Quarantine through abuse of power for personal gain.
- 6- The head of the Competent Authority may prevent the candidate finally from travelling abroad to complete any quarantine task in a country of origin after a conviction and punishment based on an

investigation carried out by the administrative and public prosecutor into an offence against honor and integrity.

**Third: General Procedures:**

- 1- The importer shall officially apply to Egyptian Plant Quarantine to request a committee to import a specific plant consignment from an accredited origin within an enough period prior to the committee's travel.
- 2- The importer shall undertake to pay all the costs, travel allowances and transportations set as per the regulations issued in this regard, as well as to provide the health and life insurance documents required for this task.
- 3- The importer shall undertake to provide the laboratories and appropriate places of examination for the committee's work and to facilitate the work of the Plant Quarantine committee in the country of origin in the places and during phases of processing, examining and shipping of the consignments.
- 4- The ministerial Decree shall include all the necessary data.
- 5- The Plant Quarantine committee shall, before commencing the work in the country of origin, convene a meeting with the shipping officials at the port to organize the committee's work, identify responsibilities with the importer's representative at the shipping port and a direct way of communication with Egyptian Plant Quarantine to follow up the work of the committee abroad.

**Fourth: Requirements for work abroad:**

- 1- Necessary inspection tools for each inspector for the entire duration of the mission abroad.
- 2- Permanent attendance of all the committee's members through all phases of the work.
- 3- Obligation to complete the "findings" form for the samples examined during the shipment, approval and delivery with the mission report indicating the overall status of the shipment.

**(a) Procedures of inspection of bulk consignments in the country of origin:**

- 1- The committee shall, with enough time prior to the commencement of the shipment, conduct a random inspection of the silos or warehouses from which the consignments will be shipped to the vessel and ensure that the consignment is consistent with quarantine legislation.
- 2- The committee shall inspect the vessel's holds and shall verify their conformity for shipment as well as their state of cleanliness, the absence of metal rust, live insects or prohibited seeds.
- 3- After ensuring the conformity of the vessel, the map of the ship (number of holds and capacity and size of each hold).
- 4- The Plant Quarantine committee shall supervise the shipping process and shall remove required samples in appropriate ways throughout the shipping to conduct all the visual inspections to ensure that it is in conformity with the quarantine legislation.
- 5- In case that the consignment does not comply with the quarantine legislation, the consignment shall be suspended immediately and the appropriate decision shall be taken either by re-emptying the infested part of the infected holds if possible, or else the consignment shall be refused and the reasons for the rejection shall be documented (photocopies and documents). A rejection notification shall be issued and shall be immediately sent to the Egyptian Plant Quarantine for necessary action.

6- After completion of the inspection and supervision of the consignment shipping on the vessel and ensuring that the consignment complies with Egyptian phytosanitary requirements, the fumigation of the consignment shall be carried out by one of the fumigation companies in the country of origin in accordance with the rules adopted and under the supervision of the Egyptian Plant Quarantine Committee. Each hold shall be closed after the completion of the fumigation process.

7- A copy of the fumigation report approved by the fumigation company in the country of origin and a certified copy of the map of the vessel showing the number of hold and quantity loaded in each hold and a copy of the bill of lading shall be sent to the committee.

8- The committee shall complete the report of the mission on the relevant form, indicating that the consignment shipped complies with the Egyptian quarantine legislation and including all the necessary data.

9- An original copy of the committee's report shall be sent to the vessel's captain or the company's representative and a receipt shall be signed by the recipient.

10- After receiving the shipment at the port of arrival in Egypt, the importer shall submit to the import section of Plant Quarantine at the port of arrival the original consignment documents jointly with the mission report issued by the Plant Quarantine committee in the country of origin. The other phytosanitary measures shall be completed on the consignment according to Egyptian Plant Quarantine legislation and by the Plant Quarantine Committee.

11- Should the consignment fail to comply with the Egyptian Plant Quarantine legislation at the port of arrival, the necessary quarantine measures shall be taken.

**(b) Procedures for inspecting consignments in packaging stations, storage places or production places in the country of origin:**

1- Inspection shall be carried out for the lots completed and ready for importation.

2- The quarantine inspection of the samples taken by the Plant Quarantine Committee shall be carried out and the results recorded.

3- The non-compliant lots shall be excluded and reported in the committee's report as well as their quantities as rejected quantities.

4- In the case of shipments requiring fumigation, the fumigation process shall be undertaken with the doses approved by Plant Quarantine. Such facts shall be stated in the committee's report.

5- If any of the shipments have been rejected and the importer has carried out the treatment in the country of origin, such shipments may be inspected again to ensure that they comply with Egyptian Plant Quarantine's legislation.

6- In any case, a report is issued by the committee in the country of origin for the attention of the Plant Quarantine committee at the port of arrival. The report shall indicate the results of the consignments' inspection together with the forms showing the inspection results in detail. The committee shall accept full responsibility for the shipment status, considering the shipping conditions.

7- The Plant Quarantine committee of the port of arrival shall verify the identification of the consignment with the report of the committee and shall ensure the safety of the consignment so that it is not subject to any conditions that would require it to be re-inspected again as a new consignment.

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**Attachments:**

No Attachments.