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Mexico

Agricultural Situation

Mexican Proposed Phytosanitary Standard to Prevent Ergot in Sorghum Seed

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Report Highlights:

On May 7, 1999, the Mexican Agriculture Secretariat (SAGAR) published the Proposal Standard NOM-078-FITO-1999 to “prevent and avoid the spread of sorghum ergot”. This proposed rule includes important restrictions on imported sorghum seed. Exporters should be aware that they have 60 calendar days from publication date to submit comments in Spanish.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
, MX

Introduction: This report summarizes a Proposed Standard published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on May 7, 1999.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary:

Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (SAGAR) announced in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) the proposal standard NOM-078-FITO-1999 to control the spread of ergot (*Claviceps sp.*) in sorghum. The proposed rule is limited to certification that **sorghum seed** is free from ergot. It includes several requirements that have been already included in the previous emergency rule NOM-030-FITO-1998, published on July 20, 1998, which FAS/Mexico reported in MX8079 and MX9021 (see below). The public comment period is 60 calendar days.

Title: Proposed Mexican Official Standard, PROY-NOM-078-FITO-1998, Phytosanitary Regulation to Prevent and Avoid the Spread of Sorghum Ergot.

Type of Regulation: Proposed

Important Dates

1. **Publication Date:** May 7, 1999
2. **Start of Public Comment Period:** May 8, 1999
3. **End of Public Comment Period:** July 7, 1999

Products Affected: Sorghum seed to be used for sowing.

Agency in Charge: SAGAR

Important Features of the Proposed Regulation:

4.1.1 - Persons and companies that produce sorghum seed domestically must register with SAGAR or with an authorized verification unit. Format SV-01 must be completed and presented for every parcel of land intended for seed production before flowering begins. Sorghum seed used for production, experiments and progenitors must be free from *Claviceps sp.*, as well as comply with the Law of Production, Certification and Marketing of Seed.

4.2.1 - All sorghum seed will be inspected and certified. Inspection will be performed by official personnel or authorized verification unit personnel. Sample size will be 2 kg per lot, where 1 kg will be kept by the producer or importer, while the second kilo will be labeled. A lot cannot be larger than 100 tons. Labeling of the sample will contain the following information: date, grower's name, location of production land, SAGAR's register number, land acreage, harvested volume, lot number and name of person doing the sampling. The samples must be analyzed by an authorized phytosanitary laboratory. Sample analysis and shipment costs will be paid by the seed producer or importer.

4.3.1 - Commercialization of seed is allowed only when there is a phytosanitary certificate that states that it is free of *Claviceps sp.* (**no more than one ergoty seed per kg.**) Also, the seed must be treated with products authorized by the Intersectoral Commission for the Control of Processing and Use of Pesticides, Fertilizers and Toxic Substances (CICOPLAFEST). In the absence of such certification, the seed may only be moved from field to warehouse. Any other movement requires a "transportation phytosanitary certificate". **Imported seed may be shipped with the phytosanitary import certificate.**

4.3.2 - Persons who sell or store sorghum seed must have phytosanitary documentation certifying that each lot of sorghum seed contains no more than one ergoty seed per kilogram. In absence of same, samples will be taken and sent for phytosanitary diagnosis. The seed may not be sold, and further measures may be taken, if the diagnosis shows that this tolerance is exceeded.

4.3.3, 4.3.4 - SAGAR may verify and inspect certified imported seed. If the imported seed is not free of *Claviceps sp.*, SAGAR may cancel the International Phytosanitary Certificates and apply those measures that it deems necessary. SAGAR can order the destruction, treatment or return of the product based on the specific characteristics of the seed.

Public Comments should be sent **in Spanish** to:

Comite Consultativo Nacional de Normalizacion de Proteccion Fitosanitaria
Guillermo Perez Valenzuela No. 127
Colonia Del Carmen, Coyoacan
CP 04100, Mexico, D.F.

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Internet Connections

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.atomexico.gob.mx> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGAR) can be found at www.sagar.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SECOFI) can be found at www.secofi.gob.mx These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.