

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 3/19/2014

GAIN Report Number: MX4024

Mexico

Post: Mexico

Mexico Publishes Final Potato Import Rule

Report Categories:

Potatoes and Potato Products

Trade Policy Monitoring

Export Accomplishments - Other

Approved By:

Dan Berman

Prepared By:

Pete Olson and Dulce Flores

Report Highlights:

The Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), on March 19, 2014, an announcement containing the final version of Mexico's new potato import regulations. These new regulations permit, under specified conditions, the importation of table stock and processing potatoes into Mexico beyond the current 26km border zone. The previous regulation on potato imports, NOM-012, was canceled via an announcement in the *Diario Oficial* on March 7, 2014. Current regulations remain in effect until the March 19 regulation is implemented.

[Give Us Your Feedback on this Report](#)

Introduction: This GAIN report summarizes a SAGARPA announcement published in Mexico's [Federal Register on March 19, 2014](#), containing the final version of Mexico's new potato import regulations. These new regulations permit, under specified conditions, the importation of table stock and processing potatoes into Mexico beyond the current 26km border zone. Specified conditions relate to pest concerns, post harvest treatments, packaging and labeling, distribution within Mexico, and adherence to a workplan involving exporter country plant health officials. U.S. exporters should work with USDA/APHIS. The new regulations will be implemented in 60 days.

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.

Title: Agreement establishing the risk mitigation measures for the importation of fresh potatoes into Mexico.

Executive Summary:

The purpose of the new regulation is the establishment of phytosanitary mitigation measures to reduce the risks of importing potato tubers from any part of the world into Mexico. To import any quantity of potato tubers into Mexico from any part of the world, the plant health risk mitigation regulations established in these regulations should be followed.

Article 6 of the regulation notes that individuals interested in bringing potatoes into Mexico can consult Senasica's online phytosanitary module to understand the requirements and to initiate the shipment paperwork. (for more information on this module, see [MX2010](#) or visit Senasica's system here: <http://www.senasica.gob.mx/?id=5145>)

Article 8 of the regulation contains some of the phytosanitary measures that apply to the importation of potato tubers for fresh consumption from any country, including the United States. A brief translation of a portion of Article 8, section 1 is below. The [Federal Register announcement](#) also provides additional specifics on these and other requirements.

Article 8, Section I.

- a) Potato tuber shipments must be produced commercially using certified seeds;**
- b) Packing facilities must be approved by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO);**
- c) Potato shipments must be washed and be free of soil;**
- d) Potato shipments must have received treatment using sprout inhibitors;**
- e) Potato shipments must be inspected and certified by the authorized NPPO officials;**

- f)** *Potato shipments must be in packages of 9.09 kilograms (twenty pounds) or less;*
- g)** *Packets of potatoes must be labeled "this product must not be used for planting"/(Este producto no debe ser utilizado para siembra);*
- h)** *Potato shipments must be able to be traced back to the state of origin in the exporting country and the packing installation(s);*
- i)** *Potatoes shipments must be sealed at the point of inspection and remain sealed until exported;*
- j)** *Potato shipments destined beyond the 26 Kilometer of the U.S. border are limited to municipalities in Mexico of a population more than 100,000 inhabitants;*
- k)** *During the first export season, SAGARPA will perform a technical inspection visit to verify compliance in the exporting country.*

Further, Article 8, II, i, explains the administrative processes and consequences following the detection of a regulated quarantine pest in an imported shipment.

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: March 19, 2014

2. Effective Date: Sixty calendar days after publication (May 19, 2014)

The Diario Oficial announcement on the cancelation of NOM-012 (the previous potato import regulation) can be found here:

http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5335228&fecha=07/03/2014

As noted in the above, current regulations based on NOM-012 will remain in effect until the new regulation is implemented.

Additional Information:

[Give Us Your Feedback on this Report:](#) Please take a moment to answer this brief 6 question survey by clicking on the above link which will take you to a non-U.S. Government website (i.e. SurveyMonkey). Once completed, click on “Done” and we can capture your feedback. We value your opinion and want to provide information that matters to you as it relates to U.S. and Mexico food and agricultural production, trade, demand, and policy. Thank you for your time.

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX2010	Mexico Proposes New System to Consult Phytosanitary Requirements	2/15/2012
MX 2083	Potato Risk Mitigation Measures Announced	11/20/2012
MX 3073	2013 Potato Risk Mitigation Measures Announced	10/22/2013

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com.mx or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, the equivalent of the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx, and the equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the reader's convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.