



Foreign Agricultural Service

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Turkey

Cotton and Products

New GOT Requirement for U.S. Cotton Imports 2002

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Report Highlights:

On Feb. 28, FAS and APHIS officials successfully negotiated revised requirements for phytosanitary certificates for cotton with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) officials. In a letter dated March 1, the Director-General of the MARA's Protection and Control Division, agreed to a USDA compromise proposal to include net weight in kilograms on future APHIS phytosanitary certificates for cotton. The Director General also agreed to allow U.S. cotton with phytosanitary certificates dated before March 20 to enter Turkey with quantity indicated in bales.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Ankara [TU1], TU

Executive Summary

On February 15, U.S. cotton traders informed FAS Ankara that a Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) Protection and Control official in Istanbul was suddenly requiring that net and gross weight in kilograms and the invoice date and number be entered on U.S. phytosanitary certificates for cotton. USDA phytosanitary certificates for cotton have traditionally expressed the quantity as number of bales, with no reference to the invoice date and number.

This new requirement delayed the clearance of some cotton shipments and threatened future shipments. Through several conversations with Ministry officials, FAS Ankara succeeded in clearing several shipments of cotton and obtained a written notification of a request to change phytosanitary certificates for cotton shipped from the United States. Once this official request was received, APHIS was able to develop a compromise proposal which was negotiated and accepted by Turkish officials. All phytosanitary certificates issued beginning March 20 for U.S. cotton are required to indicate the net weight in kilograms. Shipments that are accompanied by certificates dated before March 20 will be accepted in the original format. No reference to gross weight, or the invoice date and number is required on future phytosanitary certificates.

MARA port officials appear to have already been informed of the revisions and are allowing shipments to enter Turkey. In future discussions with MARA officials FAS Ankara will continue to stress the importance of basing import requirements on sound science and emphasize the need to provide both suppliers and the WTO/SPS committee with advance notification of any changes in PCs or other import requirements.