

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** December 31,2020

**Report Number:** VM2020-0128

**Report Name:** Vietnam Issues National Technical Regulations for Plant Quarantine Pests

**Country:** Vietnam

**Post:** Hanoi

**Report Category:** Pest/Disease Occurrences, Sanitary/Phytopsanitary/Food Safety, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products

**Prepared By:** Nguyen Linh

**Approved By:** Sarah Gilleski

**Report Highlights:**

This report provides an unofficial translation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Circular 15/2020/TT-BNNPTNT dated December 25, 2020, promulgating the National Technical Regulations (NTR) on the phytosanitary requirements for imported regulated articles. The objective of the NTR is to regulate the quarantine requirements of imported plants. The NTR sets a zero tolerance on all quarantine pests regulated under Circular 35/2014/TT-BNNPTNT issued in 2014.

## Summary

Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued the Circular 15/2020/TT-BNNPTNT dated December 25, 2020, promulgating the National Technical Regulations on phytosanitary requirements for imported regulated articles. The objective of the NTR is to stipulate regulations on quarantine requirements for imported plants. The NTR sets a zero tolerance for all plant quarantine pests listed under Circular 35/2014. The weed seed *Cirsium arvense* (Canada thistle) is included in the list.

Vietnam notified these measures to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as G/SPS/N/VNM/112 on March 18, 2020, allowing trading partners and stakeholders to provide comments to the draft NTR. On May 16, 2020, USDA submitted comments to Vietnam's designated authorities on the above order notified to the WTO.

The NTR enters into force from June 25, 2021.

As stated in Article 3 of the Circular, organizations and individuals should report to MARD any difficulties that occur during the implementation of the Circular, for review, revision, and amendment.

The NTR includes the following sections:

1. General Provisions
2. Technical Requirement Provisions
  - 2.1. Inspection Requirements
  - 2.2. Examination Requirements
  - 2.3. Requirements on contamination of harmful organisms
  - 2.4 Packaging requirements
  - 2.5 Storage, preservation, and transportation of samples
3. Provisions on management.
4. Implementation organization

## Zero Tolerance for Plant Quarantine Pests

The regulations on the zero tolerance for plant quarantine pests are listed in Section 2.3.1 of the NTR. Section 2.3.1 includes a table of 114 plant quarantine pests that all have a zero maximum allowable limit. The plant quarantine pests are listed under Circular 35 issued by MARD in 2014. Section 2.3.2 issues a zero tolerance for pests listed under Article 25 of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Law. Section 2.3.3 sets a zero tolerance for strange pests (strange pests are defined as pests without a scientific name that are not yet found in Vietnam).

Please refer to the GAIN report [VM2020-0020](#) dated March 20, 2020, Vietnam Issues Draft National Technical Regulations for Plant Quarantine Pests, for the first draft of this measure.

Post will continue to monitor and provide updates on the NTR. Should exporters have any questions and concerns with the NTR, please contact: [aghamoi@fas.usda.gov](mailto:aghamoi@fas.usda.gov).

**Attachments:**

[Translation NTR 01-192 on phytosanitary requirements for imported regulated articles..doc](#)