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Almonds - VASP certificate

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

Amendment NN 13/2013 to the “*the Regulation on imposing special conditions governing the import of certain foodstuffs from certain third countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins,*” was published in Croatia’s Official Gazette on January 30. It requires US almonds to be accompanied by a “voluntary aflatoxin sampling plan” (VASP) certificate and effectively formalizes an existing practice while accelerating the adoption of the EU requirements.

General Information:

Amendment NN 13/2013 to the “*the Regulation on imposing special conditions governing the import of certain foodstuffs from certain third countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins,*” published in Croatia’s Official Gazette on January 30. It requires US almonds to be accompanied by a “voluntary aflatoxin sampling plan” (VASP) certificate. Amendment NN 13/2013 formalizes an exception negotiated by FAS Croatia for the early use of VASP certificates rather than Croatian Health Certificates. Although Croatia has unofficially accepted these VASP certificates since early 2012, the amendment will formally go into effect on February 8, 2013. The conditions in the VASP certificate conform to EU Regulation EU 274/2012, the requirements effective upon EU Accession.

In 2012, Croatian almond imports from the US were valued at \$5.5 million. Croatia’s almond production only satisfies about half of domestic demand, so there is good market potential for U.S. almond exports.