



# STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor  
CELIA R. GOULD  
Director

## Memorandum

**From:** Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
**To:** Idaho Exporter of Potatoes to Mexico  
**Subject:** Mexico Potato Export Program  
**Date:** September 11, 2013

Background – The Government of Mexico requires, among other things, a negative survey, analysis, and certification of production acres and crop for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) as outlined according to the attached instructions and protocols. Exporters should follow the attached instructions so that field survey of the necessary acres can be scheduled and completed **PRIOR TO PLANTING**.

The Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) and Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) have secured USDA grant funding to assist in funding surveys of acres of potatoes bound for Mexico. It should be noted that grant funding is limited.

The Mexico potato export protocol requires field to be sampled a minimum of one week prior to planting and the sampling rate is 5 lbs of soil per acre. Post-Harvest sampling is not currently allowed, but is under negotiation between USDA and the Mexican Government.

For more information, please contact:

- Linda Johns, sampling coordination and paperwork
  - Email: [linda.k.johns@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:linda.k.johns@aphis.usda.gov)
  - Office: 208/535-7312 – Idaho Falls
- Mike Cooper, ISDA Bureau Chief
  - Email: [mike.cooper@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:mike.cooper@agri.idaho.gov)
  - Office: 208/332-8620 - Boise

## Instructions for submitting fields for soil sampling:

- 1) An instruction package and consent form is needed for each field to be sampled. The form may be downloaded from the ISDA web site at: [www.agri.idaho.gov](http://www.agri.idaho.gov) or you can get one from the:

USDA Pale Cyst Nematode office  
2281 West Heyrend Way  
Idaho Falls, ID  
Phone: (208) 535-7312  
FAX: 522-2434

- 2) Each export company will need to designate a company representative to work with the ISDA office to coordinate the field documentation and sampling with each field operator. In addition, it may be necessary for the company to have a representative(s) present at each field when it is sampled.
- 3) Sampling may be done by hand or mechanical samplers. For mechanical sampler to be effective the field must have been disced.
- 4) Sample results will be forwarded to the company representative as soon as they are available from the PCN office.
- 5) A complete print out of the Mexican Export requirements follow these instructions.

## Copied from the USDA Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) 9/11/13

### Tubers (For consumption) From Idaho

Last Updated: July 25, 2012

From Idaho

Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) and Import Permit (IP) are required. Do not certify unless an IP is presented.

#### Supporting Documents

- [POTATO EXPORT PROTOCOL](#)

#### Additional Information

All potatoes must be certified according to the "Potato Export Protocol". Government officials see the attached document under Supporting Documents.

PC is required with the AD: " This shipment is not coming from a *Globodera pallida* regulated area in the state of Idaho, it has been produced from certified seed, treated with a sprout inhibitor, inspected and found free of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*, *M. javanica*, *Globodera rostochiensis*, *Globodera pallida*, PVYn, PVYntn, and Mop Top Virus."

and

"This shipment has been inspected and found free from *Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. Sepedonicus*"

Export of potatoes to Mexico is limited to the 26-kilometer border zone.

Packing shed number (including origin State's 2-letter code; for example, CO-Shed No. XX, indicating Shed No. XX in Colorado) must be shown on ALL of the external-most units in the shipment, and the "shed number" must be indicated in the Distinguishing Marks (DM)section of the PC. This information should be listed **Before** any other information in the DM on the PC.

If the shipment is presented without the 2-letter State code, do not refuse to certify; inform the exporter of the requirement for future shipments. The marks on the packaging must match the Shed No. placed in DM on the PC; therefore, do not include the State code if it is absent from the packaging.

Shipments must be sampled, inspected, and sealed at the packing shed. The seal number must be indicated in the DM on the PC. Drivers should travel with an affidavit for broken seals, which must be signed in the event that the seal is broken by a State, County, or Federal official.

- For ***Globodera pallida***
  - Production fields must be:
    - Outside the PCN quarantine area
    - PCN sampled and found free from, one week before seeding at a minimum
    - Sent to an official laboratory for testing.
    - Periodic samples of residual soil from harvested potatoes (tare soil), are to be sent from the packing shed for official laboratory testing. Positive samples need to be traced back to the field of origin, and the field eliminated from the exportation program.
    - All fields, the packing shed, and all shipments entering the packing shed **MUST** be outside the regulated area.
    - Tuber inspections at the packing shed will follow and must meet the Potato Export Protocol.

**NOTE: Box 9 of the PC (Name of Produce and Quantity Declared) must also include the total weight of the shipment. ex (tons/ kg ....)**

**Note to Exporter:**

Shippers must provide a written declaration stating that the potatoes in the shipment were produced from certified seed potatoes.

Shipper must have on file growers' declarations and supporting documentation, which ACO's may examine for confirmation.

# POTATO EXPORT PROTOCOL

Export Protocol for U. S. Table Stock Potatoes to Mexico

The United States will export table stock potatoes under the general provisions set out in the May 14, 2002 proposal, in particular:

Table stock potatoes from all states are eligible for export under this program provided:

- Shipments are produced from certified seed;
- Shipments are appropriately treated with sprout inhibitors consistent with Section II below;
- Shipments will be inspected and certified by APHIS-authorized officials to be free of pest of quarantine significance as defined in Section III;
- Shipments are sealed at the point of inspection; and
- Shipments can be traced back to the packing facility and the State of origin

In addition, the following conditioning will be applied:

- For the first year, market access is limited to the 26-kilometer border zone.
- In the second year, the program will be expanded to the Northern States of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas.
- Assuming a successful shipping program in year one and two, Mexico and the United States will consult in year 3 and make a risk-based decision regarding expansion of the program to the rest of Mexico.

Mexico will initiate rule making to expand access beyond this zone to the rest of the territory of Mexico.

## ***Specific Program Requirements:***

### **I. Use of certified seed in potato production**

Shippers must provide written declaration to certifying officials stating that the potatoes in the shipment were produced from certified seed potatoes. Shippers will base their declaration on grower's declarations and supporting documents, which must be kept on file by the shipper.

### **II. Washing and Application of Sprout Inhibitor**

Potatoes must be washed and treated with sprout inhibitor:

- Potatoes will be treated with sprout inhibitor on the packing line two weeks after being harvested in accordance with label restrictions and correct usage of the product.
- Potatoes in storage less than three months will be treated with sprout inhibitor in storage or on the packing line.
- Potatoes in storage for three to five months will be treated in storage and again on the packing line.
- Potatoes in storage for more than five months will be treated twice in storage and again on the packing line.
- Final application of sprout inhibitor will be done after the potatoes have been washed. The packer/shipper must provide the certifying official with credible documentation (e.g., grower declaration/records and packing shed records) that demonstrates that the potatoes have been correctly treated with sprout inhibitor for each required application.

### III. Phytosanitary Inspection

The phytosanitary inspections will be conducted and phytosanitary certificates issued by APHIS-authorized officials.

- One percent of the containers (i.e., boxes or bags in the shipment) will be randomly sampled at the packing shed and inspected for external symptoms of the nematodes of quarantine concern to Mexico (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*, *Meloidogyne javanica*, *Globodera rostochiensis*, *Globodera pallida*). For PVYn, PVYntn, and Mop Top Virus, an inspection for the viruses of concern will be conducted.
- Five potatoes from each container sampled will be cut and examined for internal symptoms of the pests of quarantine concern to Mexico.
- "Zero" tolerance to pests of quarantine significance to Mexico will be allowed.
- Sampled potatoes must show no signs of sprouting.
- Each phytosanitary certificate will bear the additional declaration that:

"This shipment is not coming from a *Globodera pallida* regulated area in the State of Idaho, it has been produced from certified seed, treated with a sprout inhibitor, inspected and found free of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*, *M. javanica*, *Globodera rostochiensis*, *Globodera pallida*, PVYn, PVYntn, and Mop Top Virus".

### IV. Traceback of Potatoes

Shippers will assign unique numbers to each packing shed that will allow shipments to be traced back to the packing shed and therefore to the grower, as necessary. This number must be shown on all shipping units (bag or box) and will be shown on the phytosanitary certificate. ***Do not put the lot number in block 12 Of the phytosanitary certificate.***

## **V. Sealing of Vehicles at the Point of Inspection**

All conveyances with potato shipments will be sealed at the point of inspection and the seal number will be noted on the phytosanitary certificate. Seals may not be broken in the United States except as noted in Section VI.

## **VI. Broken Seals**

Actions taken when shipment arrive at the border with broken seals are:

- If seals are broken en route and the integrity of the load/shipment has not been violated, the normal sampling and inspection regime will be applied.
- If the integrity of the load is questioned because of broken pallet straps or missing or opened boxes or if the shipment arrives at the border with broken seal but no affidavit (Acta) accompanies the shipment, Mexico will determine the phytosanitary measure according to the Procedures specified in the corresponding Harmonization Group Minutes.

## **VII. Detection of Quarantine Pests:**

If the pests of quarantine concern to Mexico cited in section III are intercepted at the border the shipment will be rejected, APHIS will trace back all such interceptions to origin via the packing house number assigned by the exporter. Should a second confirmed interception be attributed to a single packing facility, APHIS will investigate and take appropriate action based on procedures and criteria developed by the Action Taken Proportional to Risk Harmonization Group. DGSV and APHIS will make every effort to consult on any interceptions using mutually agreed pest identification protocols.

In these cases:

- Should the APHIS investigation require the packing facility to identify the suspect grower or growers, the packing facility will be required to do so. If the packing facility cannot identify the suspect grower, the

packing facility will be suspended from the export program for the remainder of the season.

- In such cases where grower identification is required by APHIS and is provided by the packing facility, the grower will be required to identify the field where the intercepted potatoes were produced. If the grower is unable to do so, the grower will be suspended from the export program for the remainder of the season.
- Where the grower can identify the field where the intercepted potatoes were produced, the field will be suspended from the export program for the remainder of the season.

For USDA/APHIS/PPQ

/s/ Mr. Bill Hawks  
Under Secretary  
USDA, Marketing and Regulatory Programs

/s/ Dr. Richard Dunkle  
APHIS Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Date: March 11, 2003

For SAGARPA/SENASICA/DGSV

/s/ Dr. Javier Trujillo Arriaga  
Director en Jefe del SENASICA

/s/ Dr. Jorge Hernandez Baeza  
Director General de Sanidad Vegetal  
Fecha: Marzo 3/03