

## **Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Fresh Melon Fruits from Honduras to Taiwan**

1. The importation of fresh melon fruits (*Cucumis melo* Linn.) from Honduras to Taiwan shall be regulated pursuant to the “Quarantine Requirements for The Importation of Plants or Plant Products into The Republic of China” together with the regulations in these requirements.
2. These quarantine requirements apply to the fresh melon fruits produced from pest free production sites of the Honduras Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata* (Wiedemann)) which are approved and recognized by the plant quarantine authority of Taiwan (hereinafter referred to as “BAPHIQ”).
3. The terms used in these quarantine requirements are defined as follows:
  - 3.1 GAP: Good Agricultural Practices.
  - 3.2 Supplying Orchard: Pest free production site where melon fruits are grown. Different varieties of melon fruits can be grown at the same site.
  - 3.3 Lot: Refers to a set of units of melon packages to be exported to Taiwan or a set of units of melons to be exported to Taiwan.
  - 3.4 Export season: Refers to the export season of Honduras melons, from November 1 each year to June 30 of the following year.
  - 3.5 Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*): All stages of the life cycle of this pest, including eggs, larvae, pupae and adult stages.
4. Monitoring Survey and Measures after Finding the Mediterranean Fruit Fly
  - 4.1 Monitoring by Traps
    - 4.1.1 Monitoring survey sites in pest free production sites shall have installations of McPhail traps which contain protein hydrolysate attractants inside and Jackson traps with Mediterranean fruit fly attractants for monitoring survey of Mediterranean fruit flies. The supplying orchards must install 1 monitoring survey site for every 20 hectares, and 1 McPhail trap and 1 Jackson trap must be hung from each monitoring survey site; each monitoring survey site must be checked once every 7 days. In the buffer zone, 1 monitoring survey site must be installed for every 200 hectares, and 2 McPhail traps and 1 Jackson trap must be hung from each monitoring survey site; each monitoring survey site must be checked once every 14 days. The attractants must be renewed once every 21 days. A monitoring survey site geographical distribution map containing the locations of the attractants must be

produced. The geographical distribution map and the investigation records must be kept for one year for future reference.

4.1.2 Mediterranean fruit fly monitoring survey shall be conducted by the National Service of Agricultural and Livestock Health of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of the Government of Honduras (hereinafter referred to as SENASA). In addition, 1 month before the start of export operations each year, the Mediterranean fruit fly monitoring survey records of pest free production sites from the previous year must be provided to BAPHIQ.

4.2 Measures that Shall Be Implemented upon Finding the Mediterranean Fruit Fly

4.2.1. An emergency prevention zone shall be established by SENASA that is centered at the Mediterranean fruit fly monitoring survey site where the Mediterranean fruit fly was found. BAPHIQ shall be notified within 24 hours and be provided with an emergency prevention zone geographical distribution data.

4.2.2. Melon fruits produced from pest free production sites containing the monitoring survey site where the Mediterranean fruit fly is found shall be suspended from exporting to Taiwan. In addition, the associated packing houses shall not carry out operations related to exportation to Taiwan.

4.2.3. SENASA shall carry out eradication measures against the Mediterranean fruit fly in the emergency prevention zone and shall inform BAPHIQ of the measures taken and follow-up investigation results.

4.2.4. Starting with the last finding the Mediterranean fruit fly in the emergency prevention zone, if no population of the Mediterranean fruit fly has been detected for a time period longer than three generations of Mediterranean fruit fly lifespan, SENASA may inform BAPHIQ to request the restoration of pest free production site status. After BAPHIQ confirms the complete eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly and that pest invasions by the Mediterranean fruit fly can be effectively prevented, the pest free production site status may be reinstated and melon exportation to Taiwan may resume.

5. Requirements for Supplying Orchards

5.1 The supplying orchards must be registered with SENASA, must conform to GAP specifications, and must have a traceability mechanism.

5.2 The supplying orchards must use traps which are hung to conduct Mediterranean fruit fly monitoring surveys, and the records of monitoring

survey shall be kept for 1 year for future reference. Upon finding any Mediterranean fruit fly, SENASA shall do follow-up processing in accordance with Article 4.2 of these requirements.

- 5.3 Under the guidance of SENASA, the supplying orchards shall conduct control measures on pests of concern by Taiwan, such as the *Ceratitidis capitata*, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Helicoverpa zea*, Melon necrotic spot virus, and the Squash mosaic virus. In addition, records of control measures of these pests must be kept for future reference. The records of control measures must contain detailed information including verification of seed-borne virus test and also detailed information such as the name, active ingredients, dates of usage, and concentration for all chemical agents used in the growing season.
- 5.4 Before the melons are harvested, each supply orchard must send samples to a laboratory to undergo pesticide residue testing. The test record shall be kept for 1 year for future reference.
- 5.5 One month before the export operation to Taiwan starts each year, SENASA shall conduct inspections of all registered supplying orchards to ensure compliance with the regulations of these requirements.

## 6. Requirements for Packing Houses

- 6.1 Packing houses shall be located within pest free production sites and must be legal packing houses which are registered with SENASA.
- 6.2 Packing houses shall be equipped with insect-proof equipment. Windows or air holes must be covered with a screen of fine meshes with a diameter of 1.6 mm or smaller. Entrances or doors shall be equipped with air curtains (where air is blown downwards), rubber curtains, or other insect-proof equipment.
- 6.3 Traps shall be hung outside the packing houses. Inside the packing houses, non-attractant traps such as sticky insect boards or light traps shall be installed in order to detect the Mediterranean fruit fly. Upon finding any Mediterranean fruit fly, SENASA shall do follow-up processing in accordance with Article 4.2 of these requirements.
- 6.4 Packing houses shall set up a complete and comprehensive management work manual and shall be equipped with adequate lighting, space, related apparatuses and equipment and illustrations of pest harm situations for use by plant inspection personnel when they conduct quarantine inspections, assessment of pest damage and pest identification, and other required work.
- 6.5 Prior to the start of packing season process of each year, appropriate pest

control measures shall be taken to disinfest remove quarantine pests inside the packing house. If necessary, sterilization measures shall be performed to ensure sanitation in the packing house.

6.6 Packing houses shall have at least one qualified technician, who is able to identify fruits infested by the Mediterranean fruit fly and is involved in assisting with sorting and selection of melons for exporting to Taiwan. Complete training records of the technician or related information must be kept in the packing houses for future reference.

6.7 When conducting packing operations for melons to be exported to Taiwan, all the melons for export to Taiwan must originate from registered and qualified supplying orchards. If there are melons stored or being processed in the packing houses which are not for export to Taiwan, there must be an appropriate separation space segregating the melons for export to Taiwan; in addition, packing of such melons cannot occur at the same time as the packing for the melons for export to Taiwan. Packing records shall be kept for 1 year for future reference.

6.8 Melons for export to Taiwan must be sorted and selected, and fruits which have soil attached, are damaged, are deformed, or are suspected to be damaged from pests must be eliminated. In addition, branches, leaves, seeds of weeds, and other plant residues must be eliminated. Waste fruits must be placed in capped containers and discarded, disposed of or destroyed on a daily basis.

6.9 One month prior to the start of exportation process to Taiwan each year, SENASA shall inspect the packing houses in pest free production sites to ensure and confirm that all packinghouses comply with these quarantine requirements.

## 7. Precautions for Packing Operations

7.1 Brand new and clean packing materials must be used for packing melons for exportation to Taiwan. In addition, the packing operations must be done and completed inside the packing houses.

7.2 Each packing box must be labelled with the name or the registration code number of the packing house.

7.3 The packing of melons for export to Taiwan must be completely sealed or be packed in packing boxes which are tightly sealed. If the boxes used for packing have ventilation holes, these ventilation holes shall be sealed with a screen consisting of fine meshes with pores of 1.6 mm or less in diameter to prevent pest infestation.

## 8. Export Inspection Procedures

- 8.1 One month prior to the start of melon production season each year, SENASA shall check the inspection records of the supplying orchards and packing houses and attach the inspection records to invite BAPHIQ to conduct on-site auditing. The aforementioned must be done prior to conducting the inspection operations of melon exportation to Taiwan for that production season.
- 8.2 Melon exportation inspection operations shall be conducted inside packing houses located in pest free production sites. Melons which have been packed shall be inspected by SENASA staff members. The inspected samples must be at least 2% of the packages in each lot.
- 8.3 If any living Mediterranean fruit fly is found during inspection, that lot of melons shall be prohibited from being exported to Taiwan. In addition, the pest free production site status for exportation to Taiwan shall be suspended for the production site of the aforementioned melons.

## 9. Inspection Certification for Exportation and Precautions

- 9.1 The name or registration code number of the packing house must be marked on all packing boxes.
- 9.2 Melons which have passed inspection for exporting to Taiwan shall be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates issued by SENASA. The phytosanitary certificate shall contain the following additional declaration: “The melons have been inspected and found free from the Mediterranean fruit fly, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Helicoverpa zea*, Melon necrotic spot virus, and the Squash mosaic virus.” In addition, the name or the registration code number of the packing house must be noted. If the consignments are shipped using containers, the container number must also be noted. If relevant quarantine regulations established by BAPHIQ change, this additional declaration shall be amended in accordance with the new regulations.
- 9.3 Melons which have passed the export inspections and for which the phytosanitary certificates have been issued shall be exported within 14 days of the issuance. If not, another inspection shall be conducted and new export phytosanitary certificates must be re-issued before exportation.

## 10. Requirements for Transportation

- 10.1 Melons transiting through third countries or regions must comply with the “Quarantine Requirements for Transshipment of Plants or Plant Products through Regions Where Specific Quarantine Pests Are Known to Occur.”

10.2 During shipping and upon arrival in Taiwan, the seal of the container shall not be broken by anyone other than BAPHIQ inspectors or other authorized personnel.

## 11. Import Inspection Procedures

11.1 The phytosanitary certificate issued by SENASA and what is stated on it shall comply with these quarantine requirements. If the consignment is not accompanied by the phytosanitary certificate issued by SENASA or if the contents listed on the phytosanitary certificate do not comply with these quarantine requirements or other relevant regulations, the correct phytosanitary certificate must be re-submitted. Otherwise, the consignment shall be returned or destroyed.

11.2 The procedures, methods, and the sampling for import inspection shall be conducted in accordance with the “Plant Protection and Quarantine Act” of the Republic of China and related quarantine regulations.

11.3 Melons which have soil, leaves, and/or branches attached; which are not accompanied by phytosanitary certificates; or which do not come from supplying orchards and packing houses from pest free production sites are prohibited from importation into Taiwan.

## 12. Handling upon Finding the Mediterranean Fruit Fly

12.1 If the Mediterranean fruit fly is detected in the packing house or during export inspection:

12.1.1 If any living Mediterranean fruit fly is found in the packing house, during packing operations, or during export inspections, the handling shall be in accordance with Article 4.2 of these quarantine requirements.

12.1.2 For supplying orchards and packing houses where the aforementioned Mediterranean fruit fly is found, all melons that have completed packing, completed export inspections, and have obtained phytosanitary certificates but are not yet exported shall be suspended from exportation to Taiwan.

12.2 If the Mediterranean fruit fly is intercepted during import inspections:

12.2.1 If any living Mediterranean fruit fly is intercepted during import inspections, this lot of melons shall be returned or destroyed. Also, the pest free production site status of the supplying orchard and packing house which produce that lot of melons shall be suspended. BAPHIQ shall notify SENASA to suspend all Honduran melon exportation to Taiwan. SENASA shall investigate the cause and send the investigation report to BAPHIQ.

12.2.2 After receiving the aforementioned investigation report, BAPHIQ will conduct an assessment to determine whether to resume melon exportation to Taiwan. If necessary, BAPHIQ will send inspectors to Honduras to conduct verifications. All necessary expenses related to this verification shall be borne by Honduras.

### 13. On-Site Audit

13.1 One month prior to the start of melon production season each year, SENASA shall check the inspection records of the supplying orchards and packing houses in pest free production sites and attach the inspection records to invite BAPHIQ to jointly conduct on-site auditing of the Mediterranean fruit fly monitoring survey and the supplying orchards, packing houses, and the melons exportation inspection operations. The auditing expenses shall be borne by Honduras.

13.2 When executing on-site auditing, BAPHIQ shall immediately notify SENASA if there are serious deficiencies or if problems are found in the supplying orchards or packing houses of melons being exported to Taiwan resulting in non-compliance with these quarantine requirements. The eligibility of exportation to Taiwan of the aforementioned supplying orchards or packing houses will be suspended. If there are serious deficiencies which involve the entire system, the exportation of Honduran melons to Taiwan will be suspended. SENASA shall conduct an investigation on the causes and implement improvement measures. The report on the investigation and improvement measures shall be sent to BAPHIQ. Only after receiving the approval from BAPHIQ will the eligibility of the supplying orchards and packinghouses to export melon to Taiwan and the export inspection of melons for export to Taiwan be restored.

13.3 If no Mediterranean fruit fly and quarantine pests of concern by our country is found during import inspections in the preceding export season and the on-site auditing work was conducted by BAPHIQ in the preceding year, SENASA may conduct the on-site auditing upon receiving authorization from BAPHIQ. In this case, an on-site auditing report in English or Mandarin must be sent to BAPHIQ within 1 month of the completion of the auditing.

#### 14. Other Requirements

14.1 If there is any occurrence of pest infestation in Honduras that may affect Taiwan's agricultural production safety, Taiwan may suspend the operations these quarantine requirements at any time.

14.2 In accordance with the dynamics of Honduran melon pest outbreak and the pest interception status, BAPHIQ may proceed with further risk assessment and discuss with SENASA to adjust the list of quarantine pests and related quarantine and inspection measures.