

# Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Fresh Apples from The United States

Promulgated by COA on October 4, 2013 and take into force since October 4, 2013

Amended by COA on October 29, 2019 and by MOA on July 31, 2024

(In case of any discrepancy between the Chinese text and the English translation thereof, the Chinese text shall govern.)

1. The importation of fresh apples (*Malus* spp.) from the United States shall be regulated pursuant to the “Quarantine Requirements for The Importation of Plants or Plant Products into The Republic of China” and shall be in compliance with the following requirements.
2. **Requirements for supplying orchards**
  - 2.1 Apples must come from orchards that follow pest control practices as prescribed by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (hereinafter referred to as APHIS.)
  - 2.2 Management activities for codling moth may include monitoring, phenology (degree-day) models to time treatments, chemical controls, the use of biological controls and mating disruption, or a combination of these or other control methods. The related manual and/or other management guidelines in support of these activities will be provided on request to APHIS and/or plant quarantine authority of Taiwan (hereinafter referred to as APHIA) inspectors during any scheduled inspection visits.
  - 2.3 Growers will maintain records of codling moth management activities and will provide this information on request to APHIA inspectors during any scheduled visits.
  - 2.4 Prior to packing, the effects of supplying orchard’s pest management shall be evaluated by the relevant consultants or the qualified technicians trained by U.S. government. Apples from any supplying orchard with high risk of codling moth infestation will not be permitted to export to Taiwan.

### 3. Requirements for packinghouses

- 3.1 Packinghouses must be registered with the competent authority of the United States.
- 3.2 Apples in the packinghouses and cold storage for export to Taiwan must come from supplying orchards meeting the requirements described in Section 2. The integrity of the packing for export to Taiwan must be maintained.
- 3.3 Packinghouses must be equipped with a sorting apparatus.
- 3.4 Sufficient lighting will be provided in work areas for visual examinations.
- 3.5 Each packinghouse must have one consultant of pest management for consultation.
- 3.6 Packinghouses must provide adequate equipment for the performance of inspections and other related work.
- 3.7 Appropriate control measures should be taken to eliminate any live quarantine pests inside the packinghouse at the beginning of the shipping season (from July 1 to June 30 of next year). If it is deemed necessary, sanitation might be taken in order to keep the packinghouse clean.
- 3.8 Apples must be sorted before packing to remove all deformed and damaged fruits. Packing facilities will review codling moth damage symptoms with sorting and packing crews and provide visual aids for reference. Packinghouse employees will be encouraged to report suspect lots. Culled fruits should be placed in containers and removed from the packing area at the end of the day.
- 3.9 Apples must be appropriately safeguarded against quarantine pests when transporting packaged fruit from the packinghouses to the export carriers or containers.

#### **4. Pre-screening procedure**

- 4.1 Each packinghouse facility will have a minimum of two technicians trained by APHIS or authorized certification officials from the State Department of Agriculture or County Department of Food and Agriculture who will be responsible for carrying out the requirements of the pre-screening procedures.
- 4.2 A packinghouse pre-screening procedure, consisting of a random 600 fruit sample per lot per day by variety, will be taken from the cull bins.

From that sample, all suspect fruits will be cut and inspected. A minimum of 60 fruits from the sample will be cut.

- 4.3 Should any live codling moth be detected during the packinghouse prescreening, the particular lot of apples shall be rejected to ship to Taiwan, the qualification of supplying orchard with particular grower lot shall be terminated immediately by APHIS during the remainder of the season. All apples produced from the supplying orchards with particular grower lot will be ineligible to export to Taiwan. The precautionary fumigation defined in Section 6 is excluded.
- 4.4 Should 1 percent or more of fruit (6 in 600) with wormholes be detected during the packinghouse prescreening, export qualification of the supplying orchard with particular grower lot shall be terminated immediately by APHIS officials during the remainder of the season. The variety of apples produced from the supplying orchard with particular grower lot will be ineligible to export to Taiwan. The precautionary fumigation defined in Section 6 is excluded.
- 4.5 Packinghouse officials will provide prescreening records by grower lot and variety by day to APHIS or designated regulatory officials who will verify that the lot of apples for inspection are eligible to export to Taiwan.
- 4.6 The prescreening records will indicate the degree of codling moth damage found during the packinghouse prescreening process.
- 4.7 It is the responsibility of the packinghouse to ensure that each carton presented can be clearly identified as to grower lot and variety and the date the fruit was packed or presized.

## **5. Export Inspection Procedure**

- 5.1 APHIS officials will inspect an equivalent of 3 percent of the cartons in a shipment. All fruit in each carton or carton equivalent will be inspected. All suspect fruit and 1 percent of the fruit in the carton or carton equivalent will be cut, with a minimum of 2 fruits per carton or carton equivalent to be cut.
- 5.2 If apples with insect holes/tunnels are found (defined as feeding injury that extends below the skin of the fruit and well into the flesh) during export inspection, APHIS officials should not issue the phytosanitary

certificate, unless precautionary fumigation defined in Section 6 is applied.

- 5.3 If over 0.5 percent of the apples are found with codling moth stings during export inspection, APHIS official isn't allowed to issue the phytosanitary certificate, unless precautionary fumigation defined in Section 6 is applied.
- 5.4 Should any live codling moth be detected during the export inspection, the particular lot of apples will be rejected to export to Taiwan, APHIS shall immediately terminate the export qualification of the supplying orchard with particular grower lot for the remainder of the season. All apples produced from the supplying orchard with particular grower lot will be ineligible to export to Taiwan. APHIS will conduct an investigation to identify and address any deficiency in the system.
- 5.5 A rejected lot shall not be reconditioned or resubmitted for inspection.
- 5.6 The phytosanitary certificate will contain an additional declaration stating "The fruit has been thoroughly inspected and found free from *Cydia pomonella*, *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, *Erwinia amylovora*, *Frankliniella occidentalis*, *Rhagoletis pomonella*, and *Anarsia lineatella*." Should the pest list be changed and the quarantine requirements for U.S. apples be revised by APHIA, the additional declarations shall be amended accordingly.
- 5.7 The name of the packinghouse and location (city and state) must be stated on the phytosanitary certificate. Packing facilities must maintain a system that allows the fruit to be traced back to the grower lot.
- 5.8 The name of the packinghouse must either be on each carton of fruit or on a pallet tag affixed to the pallet of fruit. Additionally, the grower lot and the date the fruit was packed and/or pre-sized will be identified on the carton.
- 5.9 Fruit consignments not exported within 30 days of the inspection date must be re-inspected by APHIS official before shipment and a new phytosanitary certificate will be issued.

## **6. Requirements for Fumigation Treatment**

- 6.1 When grower lots or shipments fail to meet the requirements of Sections 4.3, 4.4, 5.2, and 5.3 of this requirement, precautionary fumigation with

methyl bromide would allow these lots or shipments to qualify for export to Taiwan. Fumigation is not an option if there is non-compliance with this requirement.

- 6.2 Fumigation shall be performed in fumigation facilities approved by APHIS. Precise requirements as specified in the USDA-APHIS-PPQ treatment manual must be met for fumigation facilities. Fumigation facilities must be re-certified yearly before the fumigation treatment by APHIS.
- 6.3 APHIS will annually provide APHIA with the list of fumigation facilities that are approved and authorized by APHIS before the apples export season begins, including the name and location of each approved facility.
- 6.4 During any scheduled on-site inspections by APHIA at orchards and packinghouses, APHIA will examine the gas-tightness of chambers at chosen fumigation facilities. The testing methods and the standard of gas-tightness will be applied in compliance with U.S. regulations on fumigation.
- 6.5 For shipments of apples inspected and qualified for export with fumigation treatment, the phytosanitary certificate shall include information on the treatment date, treatment temperature, fumigant concentration, name of fumigation facility, and the treatment duration. In lieu of the additional declaration noted in Section 5.6, the phytosanitary certificate will contain an additional declaration stating “The fruit has been thoroughly inspected and found free from *Erwinia amylovora*.”
- 6.6 Export inspection procedures: Regulated officials will inspect the equivalent of 2 percent of the cartons in a fumigation shipment. All fruit in each carton or carton equivalent will be inspected.
- 6.7 Should any live codling moth be found during the export inspection, Section 5.4 shall apply to the fumigated apples. In addition, all fumigation treatments from the involved fumigation facility will be immediately suspended. The fumigation facility will be reinstated after APHIS completes an investigation and any identified deficiencies have been corrected.
- 6.8 Should any live codling moth be found upon import inspection in Taiwan, Sections 8.4 to 8.7 and Section 9 shall apply. In addition, all

fumigation treatments from the involved fumigation facility will be immediately suspended. APHIS will complete an investigation and submit the report of the investigation to APHIA for review and approval for reinstatement. APHIA will provide a written response to the investigation report within two weeks (14 consecutive days) indicating reinstatement or identifying specific information or corrective action needed.

- 6.9 Standards for fumigation treatment : Apples for fumigation treatment shall be stored in wooden carton or ventilated carton for exportation, all of the shipments will be treated in accordance with the schedule indicated in Annex.

## **7. Safeguarding Requirements for Transportation**

- 7.1 Apples consignments transiting through third countries or districts must follow the “Quarantine Requirements for Transshipment of Plants or Plant Products through Countries or Districts Where The Quarantine Pests are Known to Occur.”
- 7.2 During shipping and upon arrival, the lock of the ship’s compartment or seal of the container shall not be unlocked or broken by anyone other than APHIA inspectors or the personnel of other governmental agencies.

## **8. Import inspection procedure**

- 8.1 Phytosanitary certificates will contain the additional declarations on the certificates in conformity with the Sections 5.6, 5.7 and Section 6.5.
- 8.2 Procedures, methods and frequency of import inspection are based on the "Plant Protection and Quarantine Act" and other related regulations.
- 8.3 Consignments, which lack phytosanitary certificates issued by APHIS or fail to meet the inspection requirements, will be denied entry.
- 8.4 Should any live codling moth be found upon inspection at port of entry, the consignment will be re-exported or destroyed.
- 8.5 APHIA will immediately notify APHIS of the detection of codling moth. APHIA will provide all information on the end panel of the box from which the live codling moth was found and a copy of the phytosanitary certificate(s) issued for that shipment.
- 8.6 Once APHIS receives the notification, inspection and phytosanitary certification of fruit from the identified grower lot and packinghouse

shall be suspended immediately. Meanwhile, export qualification of the particular grower lot shall be terminated immediately during the remainder of the season. Any shipment from that packinghouse that is certified for Taiwan prior to the date of suspension and that has a “loaded-on-board date” within 3 days of the suspension date will remain eligible for export to Taiwan. Shipments from this packinghouse will be subject to a more stringent inspection. Should any live codling moth be detected in Taiwan, Sections 8.4 and 8.5 shall be applied.

- 8.7 A confirmation of the identity of the packinghouse, location and suspension date will be provided to APHIA by APHIS.

**9. If any live codling moth detected from the apples imported from the United States, the following rules shall be applied other than Sections 8.4 to 8.7.**

- 9.1 Within fourteen consecutive days APHIS will conduct an investigation and implement any necessary corrections. APHIS will provide to APHIA a written investigation report within 2 fourteen consecutive days identifying specific corrective action taken.
- 9.2 If the results of the investigation do not indicate any failure of the packinghouse, APHIS should provide APHIA a written investigation report and lift the suspension of the packinghouse simultaneously.  
If the results of the investigation show a failure due to the packinghouse, APHIS should provide APHIA a written report of improvements to be made. The suspension of the packinghouse will be lifted after APHIA reviews and approves the APHIS report and receives verification from APHIS that any necessary actions taken to correct non-compliance have been implemented.
- 9.3 Apples from other grower lots and packinghouses will remain eligible to export to Taiwan but will be subject to stringent inspection.
- 9.4 Any interception of codling moth in the shipments of apples the date of inspection prior to the completion of the investigation and correction period, i.e. fourteen days from the date when APHIS receives notification from APHIA will not count toward the record of codling moth detection of apples of the packinghouse.
- 9.5 If the suspended grower lot, packinghouse and fumigation facility are registered to export apples to Taiwan next year, they shall be inspected

by APHIA during the next audit to ensure the corrections have been implemented.

- 9.6 Detection of codling moth once again in any shipment of apples from the same packinghouse during the same shipping season will result in the suspension of the packinghouse from the export program for the remainder of the season, Sections 8.4 to 8.7 shall be applied.
- 9.7 Regarding subsequent detections of codling moth from different packinghouses. Section 9 and Sections 8.4 to 8.7 shall be applied.
- 9.8 The entire export program of apples shall be suspended accordingly, if three packinghouses have been disqualified from the exportation of apples to Taiwan in the same shipping season.
- 9.9 Prior to the date of the entire export program suspension as stated by Section 9.8, apples certified by APHIS from non-suspended packinghouses upon a loaded-on-board date within 14 days from the inspection date will remain eligible to export to Taiwan. The shipments will be subject to a more stringent import inspection. Should any alive codling moths be detected, Section 9 and Sections 8.4 to 8.7 shall be applied.
- 9.10 Upon receipt of the notification of the suspension, APHIS shall conduct an investigation and make any necessary corrections. APHIS shall invite APHIA to send inspector(s) to join the investigation procedure, including any identified corrective measures, should accompany the invitation. All expenses will be paid by the relevant export association. APHIS will report the results of the investigation to APHIA for review. APHIA will provide a written response to the investigation report indicating reinstatement or identifying specific information or corrective action needed.
- 9.11 If the results of the investigation indicate a system failure and system improvement is required, APHIS shall provide APHIA with a report identifying improvements to be made.
- 9.12 The suspension will be lifted immediately after APHIA reviews and approves the APHIS report, and receives the verification from APHIS that the necessary actions taken to correct the non-compliance have been implemented.
- 9.13 Reinstatement of any suspended grower lots and packinghouses will occur no later than the beginning of the next shipping season.

## 10. Special Requirements

- 10.1 Two months prior to the export shipping season, APHIS shall invite APHIA quarantine inspector(s) to perform annual export on-site inspection in the production areas jointly with APHIS inspectors. APHIS shall provide the list of registered packinghouses upon the inspector's request during the onsite inspection.
- 10.2 APHIS may undertake the on-site inspection on behalf of APHIA base on the following criteria :
- 10.2.1 There are no detection records of living codling moth at import inspection in the previous season.
- 10.2.2 On-site inspection was conducted by APHIA in the last year.
- 10.3. If APHIS undertakes the on-site inspection on behalf of APHIA, they shall provide the report to APHIA within one month after the inspection.
- 10.4 The expenses associated with the on-site inspection will be paid by the U. S. side.

### Annex : Schedule for Fumigation Treatment

Temperature °C	Methyl Bromide dosage (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	Duration (Hours)
6 degrees C to less than 12 degrees	64	2
12 degrees C to less than 17 degrees	48	2
17 degrees C to less than 22 degrees	40	2
22 degrees C and above	32	2