

Quarantine requirements for the importation of pear scions from Japan

Promulgated by COA on March 18, 2016 and entered into force on June 1, 2016.

Amended 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 pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*) scions from Japan shall be regulated pursuant to the “Plant Protection and Quarantine Act” and its enforcement rules, and shall be in compliance with these quarantine requirements.
2. Requirements for supplying orchards
 - 2.1. General requirements
 - 2.1.1. The supplying orchards shall have clear delimitations with recognisable boundaries and are segregated from other agricultural production areas.
 - 2.1.2. The supplying orchards shall conduct disease and pest control measures for western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), pear canker disease (pathogen: *Nectria galligena*), pear rot disease (pathogen: *Valsa ambiens*), apple stem pitting virus (including other synonyms of pear necrotic spot virus and pear vein yellow virus), apple chlorotic leaf spot virus and pear blossom blast disease (pathogen: *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*) as instructed by the plant quarantine authority of Japan (hereinafter referred to as “MAFF”) or agricultural research institutions. The growers shall keep records of pest and disease control measures and made available upon request. The records shall include details of the varieties of the trees that are approved to harvest the scions (hereinafter referred to as “scion mother trees”), acreage of plantation, number of scion mother trees and the pest and disease control measures that have been taken (including information on the chemicals used, application

dates, application method and so forth).

2.1.3. Growers shall draw a location map of the supplying orchard according to the actual geographic and the surrounding roadways. The map shall note the details of the orchard registration number, address and a chart of plantation distribution of scion mother trees according to their actual positions in the orchards. The plantation chart shall indicate the positions, reference numbers, varieties and quantity of the scion mother trees and acreage of the supplying orchard.

2.1.4. The supplying orchards shall put up a sign at its entrance showing details of its orchard registration number, varieties and total number of the planted scion mother trees.

2.1.5. The scion mother trees shall not be grafted with other varieties.

2.2. Operations for the detection of quarantine concerned viruses

2.2.1. The scion mother trees shall be representatively sampled at a sampling rate greater than one per cent and grafted onto the designated plant (*Pyrus serotina* var. *culta* HN-39) during the growing period by Japan to confirm they are free of apple stem pitting virus. If an annual sampling rate of two per cent or above have been conducted and the testing results are compliant for two consecutive years, the testing may be waived for the following two years. Separate testing for apple chlorotic leaf spot virus shall be conducted according the testing methodologies approved by the MAFF to confirm they are free of the virus. The test results of the prescribed diseases shall be verified by the MAFF.

2.2.2. Orchards that have been detected with apple stem pitting virus or apple chlorotic leaf spot virus will be disqualified to export pear scions to Taiwan.

2.2.3. The virus testings shall not be repeatedly conducted to the same scion

mother trees within three years. The trees that have been tested in the current year and in the previous two years shall be indicated in the plantation chart to show the year of when the testings were conducted.

2.2.4. The MAFF shall keep a record of the testing results and provide it to the plant quarantine authority of Taiwan (hereinafter referred to as APHIA) in July each year prior to the annual on-site audit.

2.3. Inspection operations for pear blossom blast disease (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*)

2.3.1. The MAFF shall be responsible for providing training to the instructors of farmers' groups (farmers' association or exporters) and of the production areas (prefectures). The designated instructors shall then provide trainings for pear blossom blast diseases to the growers of registered supplying orchard.

2.3.2. The growers shall observe if there are typical symptoms of pear blossom blast disease during the blossom period from April each year and submit disease survey records to the MAFF as required. Should rain have occurred during the blossom period, the growers shall survey the disease again during the period from the fall of blossom to the young fruit stage from late April to mid-June. The survey records shall be submitted to the MAFF.

2.3.3. The MAFF shall conduct documentation reviews after receiving the survey records. Supplying orchards that are suspected of pear blossom blast disease shall not be registered as qualified supplying orchards for export to Taiwan.

2.3.4. For orchards that have been surveyed by the growers and are found free of the said disease, on-site inspections shall be conducted at least once every three years by the instructors of the MAFF, farmers' associations or production sites (prefectures) during the young fruit stage. Pear trees

that have shown the disease symptoms and are suspected of infection shall be sampled for laboratory testing. The supplying orchards will not be registered as qualified orchard for export to Taiwan if the testing result has confirmed the infection.

2.4. Orchards that are disqualified in the previously year may apply for export to Taiwan in the coming year after all the infected pear trees along with the surrounding plants and the host plants that are suspected of infection are cut off and burnt.

2.5. Only the orchards that have met the quarantine requirements are qualified to register as the supplying orchard and the MAFF shall assign a registration number to each orchard.

3. On-site inspection of orchards in summer

3.1. The MAFF shall provide a list of the registered supplying orchards to APHIA before July each year. The MAFF shall inform APHIA immediately whenever there are changes to the registration list.

3.2. APHIA inspectors may request the pear growers to provide disease and pest control records for audit purposes during the on-site audit.

3.3. Should the scion mother trees are found to be infected with apple stem pitting virus, apple chlorotic leaf spot virus, pear blossom blast disease or other concerned pests during the on-site audit, the infected orchard shall be removed from the registration list in that year. When apple stem pitting virus or apple chlorotic leaf spot virus is detected in trees that are not for harvesting scions, all the infected trees that are not for producing scion purposes along with other surrounding host plants that are likely to be infected shall be cut off and burnt to be eligible to remain in the approved supplying orchard list.

3.4. If the scion mother trees that are selected for virus testing in the supplying

orchards are not labelled with the year of when the virus testing was conducted for the recent three years, or if the tested scion mother trees have been grafted with other varieties, the said supplying orchards shall be removed from the list of registered orchards in that year.

4. On-site inspection during scion harvesting

4.1 The MAFF shall provide a list of the approved supplying orchards that have passed annual summer on-site audit to APHIA before the end of October each year.

4.2 During the annual scion-harvesting period, the APHIA may dispatch its officer to conduct on-site inspections at the sites of pear scions' harvesting assembling packing and cold storage or other related areas as deemed necessary.

4.3 The operation for harvesting scions shall meet the following conditions:

4.3.1. Pear scions shall be harvested from the scion mother trees of the approved supplying orchards. The scions shall not be harvested from the trees that are not labelled as scion mother trees.

4.3.2. The scions shall not have any contact with the ground surface after the harvest and shall be stored in containers that are labelled with orchard registration number.

4.4. The sorting and packing operations of pear scions shall meet the following requirements:

4.4.1. Scions shall be sorted and packaged inside of a facility and not to have any contact with ground surface.

4.4.2. The containers used for transporting pear scions to the packing facilities shall be labelled with the orchard registration number. If the sources of pear scions are not identified, the packing operations in the facility shall be suspended. Packing operation can re-commence after

the sources have been identified.

- 4.4.3. Pear scions found with soil or other pests of quarantine concern shall be removed.
- 4.4.4. Pear scions that are sourced from different supplying orchards or different varieties from the same supplying orchard shall be sorted separately and respectively.
- 4.4.5. Each packing carton shall be labelled with a reference number and the pear variety.
- 4.4.6. Exporters shall compile a packing list to include details on the carton reference numbers, quantity and the orchard registration number of where the scions originated for every consignment exported for tracking purposes.

5. Procedures for Export Inspection

- 5.1. Prior to the export of pear scions, inspectors of the MAFF shall check with the APHIA inspector to confirm the relevant inspection procedures and conduct the pre-export inspections jointly.
- 5.2. The inspectors of the MAFF and APHIA shall check the reference numbers of the packing carton and the packing list.
- 5.3. Scions exported shall be sampled at a rate according to the MAFF's regulation. The number of cartons sampled may be increased when necessary.
- 5.4. If scions are found with soil or infected with western flower thrips, pear canker disease or pear rot diseases during pre-export inspection, the said scions shall be removed and are not to be exported.
- 5.5. If scions are found to be infected with apple stem pitting virus, apple chlorotic leaf spot virus or *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*, the supplying orchard where the infected scions are sourced will be suspended

and removed from the list of approved supplying orchards for export in that year.

5.6. When pre-export inspections have been completed, inspectors from both sides shall sign and state the inspection date on every page of the packing list.

5.7. The place of production origin, pear varieties, quantity and supplying orchard registration number should be stated on the phytosanitary certificate with additional declarations as following:

5.7.1. The scion mother trees of the consignment have been inspected during growing stage in accordance with the quarantine requirements, and are found to be free of apple stem pitting virus, apple chlorotic leaf spot virus and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*.

5.7.2. The consignment has been inspected and found free from western flower thrip (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), pear canker disease and pear rot disease or have been treated appropriately against these pests and diseases.

6. Import Inspection Measures

6.1. Importers shall submit a phytosanitary certificate issued by Japan's MAFF and a packing list to APHIA when applying for import inspection. Pear scions will not be allowed for importation without these documentations.

6.2. Should packagings of imported pear scions are found to be opened or detached, they will not to be imported.

6.3. For scions that are imported by sea shipments, at least ten cartons from each container shall be inspected and one scion from each carton to be sampled for laboratory testing. For scions that are imported by air-freight, at least 10 cartons from each batch shall be sampled with one scion from each carton to be sampled for laboratory testing. The number of cartons and scions sampled

for inspection may be doubled when necessary.

- 6.4. Should imported scions are found with soil, every cartons will be opened for inspection. The cartons which contain soil-contaminated scions shall be rejected for importation otherwise the whole consignment shall be returned or destroyed.
- 6.5. Should the imported scions are found to be infected with apple stem pitting virus, apple chlorotic leaf spot virus or *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* during import inspection, the consignment will not be allowed for importation. The supplying orchards where the said scions are sourced shall be suspended and removed from the list of approved supplying orchards in that year.

7. Other Requirements

- 7.1. All travel expenses associated with the summer on-site inspection and pre-export quarantine inspection shall be borne by the importers. The importers shall assign personnel and an interpreter to accompany throughout the audit.
- 7.2. The MAFF shall notify APHIA immediately if pear decline disease (pathogen: pear decline phytoplasma), fire blight diseases (pathogen: *Erwinia amylovora*), pear disease (pathogen: *Erwinia pyrifoliae*) or other significant diseases or pest of quarantine concerns have occurred in Japan. APHIA may suspend the quarantine requirements immediately.
- 7.3. If APHIA inspectors found pear scions are infected with fire blight disease, disease caused by *Erwinia pyrofoliae*, pear decline or other significant diseases or pest of quarantine concerns during the on-site audit, export or import inspections, APHIA shall notify the MAFF to suspend the export operations for pear scions to Taiwan immediately.
- 7.4. Once these quarantine requirements have been implemented, APHIA and the

MAFF may discuss and amend the contents of the quarantine requirements after it entered into force.