

# Quarantine Requirements for Importation of Fresh Areca (Betel) Nuts from Thailand

Promulgated by COA on May 25, 2006.

Amended by COA on March 14, 2007, February 1, 2008 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. Fresh areca nuts from Thailand shall be produced in orchards that are registered by Department of Agriculture of Thailand (DOA hereinafter) and take pest control measures under instruction of DOA. DOA shall keep records of pest control measures or pest control calendar, along with the code, address and producer's name of the registered orchards.
2. Fresh areca nuts shall undergone fumigation treatments at the facilities approved by DOA and the plant quarantine authority of Taiwan (hereinafter referred to as APHIA) following the standard below:

Chemical	Dosage	Fumigation time	Temperature
Methyl bromide	32 grams/m <sup>3</sup>	4 hours	21°C or above
The volume of goods to be fumigated shall not exceed 80 percent of total capacity of the fumigation chamber			

3. Fumigation facilities shall fulfill the following requirements for approval:
  - 3.1 Facilities shall be registered and qualified by DOA.
  - 3.2 Facilities shall be fixed (non-movable) and equipped with the following apparatus:
    - 3.2.1 A safe chemical application system that is capable to deliver chemical into the chamber and control dosage from outside.
    - 3.2.2 Air circulation, intake and exhaust equipment.
    - 3.2.3 Leak-proof detecting holes located at upper, middle and bottom of opposite angle of the chamber for measuring chemical concentration from outside.
    - 3.2.4 Chamber temperature measuring device.
    - 3.2.5 Lock or seal to prevent door opening before the treatment is completed.
  - 3.3 Fumigation chambers shall be tested before treatment every year by DOA and APHIA inspectors to meet the air-tight requirements. DOA shall provide calibrated methyl bromide concentration measuring instrument that has calibration record within one year for the test. The chamber shall be applied with Methyl Bromide at dosage of 32 g/m<sup>3</sup>, the average gas concentration in the upper, middle and lower parts of the chamber shall be maintained at no less than 70% of the applied dosage at 48 hours after application.
4. DOA shall provide a list of qualified fumigation facilities, including names, codes, treatment capacity, address and managers' names to APHIA two months before operation every year, and invite APHIA to dispatch inspectors to conduct air-tightness test.
5. Requirements for fumigation
  - 5.1 Fumigation shall be done in facilities approved by DOA and APHIA.
  - 5.2 During fumigation, fresh areca nuts shall be packed in material allowing fumigant to fully penetrate to ensure effectiveness.

- 5.3 During fumigation, facilities shall be sealed and locked under supervision of DOA and APHIA.
- 5.4 Fresh areca nuts shall be kept in the chamber for an hour after treatment is finished, with air circulation and exhaust turning on before the seal opened, followed by three hours of exposure in air using a fan or an air circulation device at place equipped with insect-proof apparatus or covered in insect-proof net, to clear fumigant residue.
6. Requirements for packing
  - 6.1 Fresh areca nuts shall transported in one of the following packing methods:
    - 6.1.1 Packed by closed packing
    - 6.1.2 Packed with sealed packing-carton. If the packing-carton has ventilation holes, the holes shall be covered with screen of no more than 1.6 mm fine meshes
    - 6.1.3 Packed on pallet or tray. The pallet or tray shall be entirely wrapped with screen of no more than 1.6 mm fine meshes or with other insect and mite proof packing materials.
    - 6.1.4 Transported by sealed container, doors of the container shall be sealed, the container and seal number shall be stated on the phytosanitary certificate issued by DOA.
  - 6.2 Packages as described in 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 shall be sealed with a plastic non-reusable seal bearing serial number, DOA shall provide APHIA the sample of the seal in advance.
  - 6.3 The package of fresh areca nuts exporting to Taiwan shall bear the “To Taiwan” marking.
7. Requirements for export inspection
  - 7.1 DOA shall provide operation plan including treatment date and quantity of each fumigation facility one month before conducting fumigation treatment for fresh areca nuts exporting to Taiwan and invite APHIA to dispatch inspector to conduct joint export inspection.
  - 7.2 Export inspection shall be conducted at location that equipped with insect-proof apparatus, sufficient lighting, instruments for examination and inspection bench.
  - 7.3 Among treated fresh areca nuts to be exported, two percent of total packages shall be randomly picked and all areca nuts in those packages shall be inspected.
  - 7.4 If any live guava fruit fly or papaya fruit fly was found during export inspection, the lot of fresh areca nuts is prohibited exporting to Taiwan, and re-inspection is not allowed. The facility where the lot was treated shall be suspended from treatment operation, DOA shall investigate the cause of detection. The facility shall only resume its operation after the investigation finished and improvement measures were taken. DOA shall notify APHIA the aforementioned cause, investigation findings and improvement measures.
  - 7.5 The phytosanitary certificate issued by DOA shall co-signed by APHIA inspector and contain following statements:
    - 7.5.1 Name or code of fumigation facility, the chemical used and its concentration, time of beginning and end of fumigation, temperature, date and seal number.
    - 7.5.2 The fresh areca nuts are inspected and found free from Guava Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera*

*correcta*), Papaya Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera papayae*) and other quarantine pests designated by APHIA.

- 7.6 Fresh areca nuts passed inspection and given phytosanitary certificate shall be exported within 14 days, if the duration expired, the lot shall be re-inspected and phytosanitary certificate shall be reissued.
- 7.7 DOA shall request the APHIA inspector the day before overtime work, the time of overtime work is as followed:
  - 7.7.1 Overtime work time for weekdays from 5:30 PM and shall not pass 10:30 PM
  - 7.7.2 Overtime work time for weekends and holidays from 8:30 AM and shall not pass 10:30PM.
- 7.8 Overtime work exceeding the aforementioned time shall be conducted only under permission of the APHIA inspector.
8. Requirements for export inspection
  - 8.1 Fresh areca nuts fail to comply with the packing requirements of Article 6 are not allowed entry and shall be reshipped or destroyed.
  - 8.2 If any live Guava Fruit Fly or Papaya Fruit Fly was found during import inspection, the lot was not allowed entry and shall be reshipped or destroyed, APHIA shall notify DOA immediately to suspend the operation of the fumigation facility where the lot was treated. The facility should only restart operation after recognition of APHIA that DOA has found the cause of contamination and effective improvement measures were taken.
  - 8.3 If any quarantine pest other than Guava Fruit Fly or Papaya Fruit Fly was found during import inspection, the lot was not allowed to undergone quarantine treatment again, and shall be reshipped or destroyed.
9. All necessary expenses for dispatching inspectors to conduct fumigation facility accreditation and joint inspection, such as transportation, per diem expenses, overtime charge, miscellaneous expenses, insurance and visa, shall be borne by Thailand.