

Decree Nr 384/1
concerning the seed potato import
conditions for the 2007-2008 season

The Minister of Agriculture,

Based on Decree Nr **14953** dated **19.7.2005** (forming of the Government)

Based on Decree Nr 5246 dated 20.6.1994 (organization of the Ministry of Agriculture)

Based on Law Nr 31 dated 18.01.1955 (specifying the role of the Ministry of Agriculture)

Based on Law Nr 31 dated 28.11.2006 (Plant Quarantine & Phytosanitary Measures)

After having met some concerned parties in the seed potato import file in respect of the technical conditions adopted for the import operation, *and more specifically the meetings held with the farmers and importers*

After having checked the rules adopted by the concerned international institutes and organizations

Based on the study established by the Agricultural Resources Directorate on 28.9.2007 under Nr 1951/4

Based on the recommendation of the Director General of the Ministry by interim
Decrees the following :

Article 1 : Import of seed potatoes for the **2007-2008** season is allowed within the conditions and specifications stated in the following articles

Article 2 : Seed potatoes for the **2007-2008** season are allowed to be imported from the following countries : NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, CANADA, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, DENMARK, U.S.A. **or any other country that confirms its specialization in seed potato production by handing over its P.R.A. / Pest Risk Analysis**

Article 3 : Import period of the seed is fixed as from **10th** December **2007** until **29th** February **2008** inclusive

Article 4 : Whilst in conformity with all the articles of this decree, it is allowed to import all varieties which suit the environmental and climatic conditions of Lebanon, on the importer's responsibility

Article 5 : Agricultural institutions and companies are allowed to import varieties for trials and from any source of supply, provided the imported quantity does not exceed 3 MT per variety, packed in ventilated bags, wooden crates or carton boxes, and provided the following conditions are met :

- 1- Secure a written commitment from the importers to plant the imported quantities in their own lands and under their responsibility, under the direct supervision of the Lebanese Agronomical Research Institute, in addition to a clear advance release in respect of their rights to sue the state or any other party, claiming for damage compensation of any kind
- 2- **Supply one third of the imported quantity** to the Lebanese Agronomical Research Institute over 3 consecutive years, to carry demo trials with in her trial stations and advise the Agricultural Resources Directorate about the results of such demo trials

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Article 6 : The size of the imported seed is fixed to be within the following sizes :
28 - 35 mm and 35-60 mm

Article 7 : The seed potato varieties are imported in jute bags of fixed dimensions, the weight of a bag not less than 50 kg and according to the following specifications :

- 1- Soil in each bag should not exceed one per cent of the nett weight and the seed potato tubers should be fully grown with all the characteristics of the variety
- 2- The tubers should be complete and not damaged by insects or machines, with mechanical damage not to exceed 2% of the tubers by number
- 3- Sprouts on the tubers should not exceed 15 mm
- 4- The tubers should be treated with an agricultural pesticide rendering them not suitable for human or animal consumption
- 5- The seed should be of the **2007** year's production
- 6- The bags should be clean, new and not used, leaded by the official authorities in the country of origin
- 7- Each bag should contain, on the outside, a label ("étiquette") from the official authorities in the country of origin containing the following informations : *species*, variety, class, size, net weight, *origin*, year of produce, grower's number, bagging date and a statement that the tubers are treated with an agricultural pesticide
- 8- The importing company will supply the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon with a list linking the growing regions and the growers names with their numbers on the labels

Article 8 : Seed potatoes are allowed to be imported only in selected Class Super Elite and/or Class Elite . *As for the seed specifically destined for processing purposes, it is allowed to be imported in Class "A" on basis of a special application to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture by the Lebanese factories specialized in potato processing, specifying the quantity required and in which the party involved commits itself to use the production only for the purposes specified above ,upon the suggestion from plant resources directorate.*

Article 9 : Each seed potato shipment should be accompanied by the following certificates :

1- Initial phytosanitary certificate – a copy of same is not accepted – to state that the shipment is free from insects and diseases not allowed to enter Lebanon according to the agricultural quarantine law in general and, in particular, from insects and diseases as per the following detailed conditions :

a) For virus diseases :

Not to contain more than 2% of all virus diseases

b) Is rejected any lot which is not absolutely free or "complètement indemne" from the following diseases :

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| 1- GOLDEN NEMATODE | Globodera rostochiensis |
| 2- ROOT KNOT NEMATODE | Meloidogyne Sp. |
| 3- POTATO ROOT NEMATODE | Ditylenchus destructor |
| 4- POTATO WART DISEASE | Synchytrium endobioticum |
| 5- RING ROT | Clavibacter michigansis subsp. sepedonicus |
| 6- BROWN ROT | Pseudomonas solanacearum |
| 7- COLORADO BEETLE | Leptinotarsa decemlineata |
| 8- POTATO TUBER MOTH | Phthorimaea operculella |
| 9- JAPANESE BEETLE | Popillia japonica |
| 10- BLACK LEG | Erwinia carotovora subsp. atroseptica |
| 11- SOFT ROT | Erwinia carotovora subsp. Carotovora |

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In this case, the phytosanitary certificate should include the following statement :

“The seed potatoes originate from an area free from *Synchytrium endobioticum* (sholb)

Percival and *Pseudomonas solanacearum*

c) Is rejected any lot which is not substantially free or “**pratiquement indemne**” (not more than **0,5% - five per thousand**) from the following diseases :

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1- LATE BLIGHT | <i>Phytophthora infestans</i> |
| 2- EARLY BLIGHT | <i>Alternaria solani</i> |
| 3- GANGREN | <i>Phoma foveata</i> |
| 4- FUSARIUM DRY ROT | <i>Fusarium spp.</i> |
| 5- VERTICILLIUM WILT | <i>Verticillium sp.</i> |

d) Is rejected any lot in which the following two diseases exceed 10% of the tubers by number, provided not to exceed 20% of the tuber's surface area (as per attached specimen) :

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| 1- SKIN SPOT | <i>Oospora pustulans</i> |
| 2- SKIN SPOT (BLACK SCURF) | <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> |

Not more than 10% of the tubers (by number) shall be infected with Skin spot or Black scurf, and the infected area of the tuber should not exceed **20%**

e) Is rejected any lot in which the following two diseases exceed 40% of the tubers by number, provided not to exceed 10% of the tuber's surface, **and 5% of the tubers by number exceeding 50% of the surface area** :

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| 1- COMMON SCAB | <i>Streptomyces scabies</i> |
| 2- POWDERY SCAB | <i>Spongospora subterranea</i> |

Not more than 40% of the tubers (by number) shall be infected with Common or Powdery Scab, and the infected area of the tuber shall not exceed 10%, **and not more than 5% of tubers showing lesions covering more than 50% of the total surface**

2- Certificate of origin from the country of origin of the goods or EUR.1 certificate or certificate from an approved exporter authorized by customs.

3- Certificate of specialization in potato seeds .

4- Certificate attesting that the tubers have been treated with an agricultural pesticide rendering them not suitable for human or animal consumption

5- Inspection certificate from an international inspection company internationally recognized based on Item 14

All these documents must be shown to the inspection committee as stated in Article 14 of this decree

Article 10 : Seed potatoes can be imported into Lebanon through all border points

Article 11 : The seed potato bags are stowed inside electrically ventilated or reefer vessels' holds, or in reefer trucks, after same have been cleaned and rendered suitable for storing all shipping voyage's long **and unloading period**, and complete reports about temperature and humidity during all voyage long **and unloading period** to be submitted by the importer to the inspection committee

Article 12 : The bags are stowed inside the vessel according to what the height of the vessel's holds allow, in a way to secure sufficient ventilation and refrigeration

Article 13 : Each importer should inform the seed potato inspection committee stated in Article 14 about each seed consignment's arrival, at least 3 days before its arrival to the border point, as well as about any change which might occur in the arrival date

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Article 14 : The seed potato consignments are inspected in two stages :

- 1- **In the country of origin** : By internationally recognized inspection companies, during loading operations of the seed on board the vessels. The exporting company should pay all the fees of the inspection companies, and no consignment is allowed to enter Lebanon if not accompanied by such companies' certificates
- 2- **In Lebanese ports** : By a committee to be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, as per a decree to be issued later, and called "seed potato inspection committee". This committee has the right to control, inspect and reject any consignment not in conformity with the technical conditions stated in this decree. In case of any quantity or shipment's rejection, it is re-exported at the importing company's expenses
- 3- The committee has to take seed potato samples and submit them to laboratory analysis (for Quarantine Diseases – Brown Rot & Ring Rot) at the laboratory of the Lebanese Agronomical Research Institute or the laboratory of the American University of Beirut, or any other laboratory the committee sees more appropriate, all this at the importer's expenses. No clearing of the imported seed potatoes from the Customs premises is allowed before the laboratory analysis results are obtained within a period not exceeding **four** days, and thus getting the committee's approval
- 4- Any company or party proved to have imported seed not in conformity with the specifications required or not according to the class specified or showing that the accompanying documents are not fit to reality, such an infringing company or party is bound for appropriate penalties including being forbidden from any future importing

Article 15 : Storage of the seed potato consignments in Lebanon :

Every importer has to secure sufficient warehouses to store the imported seed potatoes in and complying to the following conditions and inform the Ministry of Agriculture about their location :

- 1- Having enough windows to secure proper ventilation
- 2- To be wide enough in a manner to secure ventilation between the bags
- 3- Their doors and windows to be tight enough, allowing the committee and the ad hoc services to fumigate the imported seed in case of need

Article 16 : To facilitate the inspection operations and supervision of planting operations and in case it is performed by an importing company or agent, a list should be supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture covering the names of the farmers among whom the seed potato quantity has been distributed, together with a statement clarifying how the sales and deliveries have been performed, together with the growers numbers of the potato seeds in the country of origin as stated on the labels ("étiquettes")

Article 17 : This decree comes into force upon its issuance and it cancels any text coming in contradiction with its content

Article 18 : This decree is notified wherever needed

Beirut, *17th October 2007*
 Minister of Agriculture
 Stamp and signature
Dr. Talal Al Sahili

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Copies to be notified to :

Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Central Inspection Council

Agricultural Inspection

Ministry of Economy and Trade

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Customs High Council

Customs General Directorate

Lebanese Institute of Agronomical Research

Agricultural Resources Directorate

Central and regional agricultural units

Agricultural quarantine points

Records