

**PROTOCOL OF PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTING
MEXICAN FRESH BLUEBERRIES FROM MEXICO TO CHINA BETWEEN THE
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY SUPERVISION, INSPECTION
AND QUARANTINE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE
SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FISHERIES AND FOOD OF UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

In order to safely export fresh blueberries from Mexico to China, on the basis of a pest risk analysis and security of China's agriculture and forestry, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China ("AQSIQ") and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of United Mexican States ("SAGARPA"), hereinafter "The parties" have agreed upon the following :

Article 1 – General Rules

Mexican fresh blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) exported to China (hereinafter indistinctly called "blueberry" or "blueberries") shall be origin from Mexico, and must comply with all applicable Chinese phytosanitary laws and regulations, health and safety standards, and with the requirements stated herein, and be free from any quarantine pests concerned to China, as stated in Appendix 1.

This protocol pertains only to phytosanitary requirements. Other standards and requirements such as those regarding human health (e.g. China's national food safety standards), may also apply to Mexican blueberries, but are outside the scope of this protocol.

Article 2 – Registration

All orchards, as well as cold storage facilities that wish to export blueberries, must be registered by SAGARPA, and approved by both parties. Registration shall include name, location (municipality) and code, so that, whenever any product is detected as non-compliant with the requirements herein, it can be traced back to the establishment with certainty.

The orchards, packinghouses and cold storage shall be inspected by the parties, before the first year of export season. The registration record must be forwarded by the SAGARPA to the AQSIQ for approval prior to the start of the export season.

Article 3 - Orchard Management

All registered orchards for export to China must apply Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). All orchards shall be keep sanitary conditions, sort out rotten berries, adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system which includes control measures, such as monitoring, chemical or biological pest controls and agricultural handling, etc. To prevent secondary pest infestation after harvest, the packing sheds which located in the orchards shall be protected with insect proof mesh or the other physical facilities.

For the quarantine pests of concern to China, SAGARPA shall take monitoring guidance and guides the orchards to carry out them. The pest monitoring and control in registered orchards shall be implemented with the support by technicians that must be trained by SAGARPA or authorized by SAGARPA. All registered orchards must keep a record of pest monitoring and control, which must be delivered to AQSIQ when AQSIQ requests these records. The pest control records must indicate specific information, including name of pests, commercial name and active ingredient of chemical or biological pesticide, date of application and agrochemical dosages applied during growth.

Whenever any other types of quarantine pests are detected, the SAGARPA shall immediately advise the AQSIQ.

Article 4 - Control Measures for Quarantine Pests

4.1 Management measures for *Cydia packardii*.

The orchards shall be monitoring the *Cydia packardii* by net, light or food traps. An inspection shall be carried out every two weeks from bloom to harvest, in order to check whether there is any eggs, larvae or symptoms on leaves, buds or stems. All orchards shall remove, collect and destroy the moth egg and affected leaves from blueberries timely. Whenever *Cydia packardii* is found during the monitoring and inspect, to make sure the blueberries exporting to China is free from *Cydia packardii*, a chemical or biological pest control should be taken immediately.

Before harvest, at least 600 blueberries shall be inspected at random per register orchard over 20% of which will be cut and inspected carefully if it necessary. In the event of the pest detection during inspection, the orchard shall not be allowed to export blueberries to China during the following exporting season.

4.2 Management measures for *Diaspidiotus ancyclus*, *Lepidosaphes ulmi* and *Lygus hesperus*.

An inspection shall be carried out every two weeks from bloom to harvest, in order to check whether there is any symptom on leaves, buds or stems. Whenever these pests are found during the monitoring, to make sure that damage be on a low level, a chemical or biological pest control should be taken immediately.

During harvest and packing process, the blueberries shall be inspected carefully to check the inexistence of such pest and sort out any blueberries in small size, with symptoms or in deformity.

4.3 Management measures for *Xylella fastidiosa* and *Phytophthora fragariae*

The orchard shall clean through removing infected branches, leaves and roots timely, and cleaning the leaves and branches on the ground by burning or burying.

An inspection shall be carried out every two weeks for bloom to harvest, in order to check whether there is any symptom on leaves, buds or stems. Whenever these pests are found during the monitoring, the orchard shall make sure the damage on a low level, a chemical or biological pest control should be taken immediately.

Article 5 – Packaging

5.1 The process of packing, storage and transportation of blueberry shall be supervised by SAGARPA or SAGARPA authorized personnel.

5.2 During the packaging process, blueberries must be selected and sorted to prevent the inclusion of any insects, mites, rotten fruit, leaves, branches, roots or soil with the berries.

5.3 Packaging material must be clean, hygienic, unused and compliant with Chinese plant health and sanitary requirements. A mesh or perforated bags (1.6 mm maximum opening diameter) or equivalent methods must be used in ventilated packing boxes to cover the aeration holes in each box or to cover the entire pallet.

5.4 Packaged blueberries shall be immediately stored in a cold room, separated from others to prevent secondary pest infestation.

5.5 Each box must be labeled in Chinese or English with the fruit name, exporting country, production place (Municipality and State), orchard name and code and cold storage facility name and code, etc. The following text must be marked in Chinese on each box: “输往中华人民共和国” (Exported to the People’s Republic of China).

5.6 Containers in which fruit is loaded for export to China must be checked for their cleanliness at the time of loading. This activity must be recorded for SAGARPA or SAGARPA authorized personnel verification.

Article 6 Pre-Export Inspection and Quarantine

6.1 Blueberries exported to China shall be inspected, the size of the sample taken from each consignment of blueberries for phytosanitary inspection by SAGARPA officials or SAGARPA authorized personnel shall be 2%. If any live organisms of quarantine pests of concern to China were found, the entire consignment shall not be exported to China, and the involved orchard shall be suspended, until SAGARPA officials find the cause and take preventive measures for betterment. At the same time, the detection record shall be kept, and delivered at the request of the AQSIQ.

6.2 The pallets shall meet the requirements of Regulation of Wood Packing Material in International Trade (ISPM15).

6.3 Upon completing an inspection, SAGARPA or SAGARPA authorized personnel shall issue a Phytosanitary Certificate for the approved consignment, clearly stating the container number of the consignment transited by sea. The following additional declaration must be stated:

“THIS CONSIGNMENT OF BLUEBERRIES COMPLIES WITH THE PROTOCOL OF PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTING MEXICAN FRESH BLUEBERRIES TO CHINA. AND IT IS FREE FROM ANY QUARANTINE PESTS OF CONCERN TO CHINA.”

The SAGARPA shall deliver copies of the Phytosanitary Certificate to the AQSIQ for registration and reference prior to commencing any trade.

Article 7 - Entry Inspection and Quarantine

Entry ports for Mexican blueberries are all Chinese ports and airports authorized for fruit entry by the AQSIQ.

Inspection must be requested to the CIQ upon blueberry arrival at the Chinese port of entry. Inspection and quarantine officials shall examine the Phytosanitary Certificate, Animal-and-Plant Entry Permit and other documents, and shall complete the inspection and quarantine process. Consignments of blueberries from unauthorized orchards or cold storage facilities shall not be allowed entry.

If any live organism of quarantine pests of concern to China were detected, the consignment shall be treated, returned, destroyed or quarantined. At the same time, the AQSIQ shall immediately inform the SAGARPA and suspend blueberry import from involved orchards. The SAGARPA shall investigate the cause and take measures to prevent recurrence of these situations. Based on the outcome of evaluating the improvement measures adopted by the SAGARPA, the AQSIQ shall decide whether or not to cancel the suspension.

If other pests requiring quarantine or any others not reported by Mexico are detected, the consignment shall be returned, destroyed or quarantined. The SAGARPA shall conduct an investigation to find the cause and take the necessary measures to prevent recurrence of these events.

Article 8 - Compliance Inspection

Before the protocol is implemented for the first year, the AQSIQ will send Chinese quarantine inspectors for a compliance inspection, with the assistance of SAGARPA to blueberry growing areas in Mexico, during the blueberry harvest season. The purpose of the visit is to ensure that the Mexican blueberry for export to China complies with the requirements of this protocol. In collaboration with the SAGARPA, they shall check the pest monitoring and prevention process, as well as management of orchards and cold storage facilities wishing to export to China. Whenever any live organisms of quarantine pests of concern to China are found, the relevant consignment of blueberries may not be exported to China, or the corresponding improvement measures shall apply.

Depending on the results of import inspections and quarantine, the AQSIQ may decide to send quarantine inspectors to Mexico to supervise SAGARPA inspections during the subsequent export season.

Any costs relating to the aforesaid supervision, including transportation and accommodation, shall be borne by the Mexican party.

Article 9 - Retrospective Review

If necessary, the AQSIQ shall complete an additional risk analysis based on the actual presence of pests in Mexico and pest interception, with preview notification to SAGARPA. The list of quarantine pests and relevant quarantine measures may be adjusted as agreed with the SAGARPA.

In order to guarantee full compliance with the requirements stated by the control and management measures, the AQSIQ shall conduct a retrospective review of the inspection and quarantine requirements for blueberries upon five years of exports hereunder, including inspector visits to Mexico. The protocol shall then be amended as required based on the outcome of this inspection and with the agreement of both parties.

Article 10 – Final Provisions

This protocol shall be effective for two (2) years full force and effect from the date of its signing, unless any of the parties notifies the other of its intention to amend or terminate it at least two (2) months ahead of the intended expiry date. It shall be automatically and consecutively renewed for additional one-year terms. This Protocol may be amended, as deemed necessary, on the basis of the result of the inspection referred to in Article 9, by mutual consent of both Parties,

formalized in writing, specifying the date from which such modifications will take effect.

This Protocol is signed in Mexico City on the twenty fifth of November, 2016, in two counterparts in Chinese, Spanish and English language versions, and shall come into effect on the date of execution hereof. Each party shall retain a copy of the three equally valid texts. Should any interpretation differences arise, the English translation shall prevail.



**ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL
ADMINISTRATION OF
QUALITY SUPERVISION,
INSPECTION AND
QUARANTINE OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**SUN DAWEI
DEPUTY MINISTER**



**ON BEHALF OF
THE SECRETARIAT OF
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FISHERIES AND FOOD OF UNITED
MEXICAN STATES**

**JOSE EDUARDO CALZADA
ROVIROSA
SECRETARY**

APPENDIX 1

QUARANTINE PESTS OF CONCERN TO CHINA

1. *Cydia packardii*
2. *Diaspidiotus ancyclus*
3. *Lepidosaphes ulmi*
4. *Lygus hesperus*
5. *Xylella fastidiosa*
6. *Phytophthora fragariae*