

Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Fresh Apples from Australia

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

Promulgated by COA on March 18, 2013 and take into force since April 1, 2013,

1. The importation of fresh apples from Australia shall be regulated pursuant to the “Quarantine Requirements for The Importation of Plants or Plant Products into The Republic of China” and “Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Host Fruits of Mediterranean Fruit Fly or Queensland Fruit Fly from Australia” along with the regulations in this requirements.

2. Requirements for supplying orchards

2.1 Supplying orchards shall be in control of pests under the supervision of DAFF or persons approved by DAFF.

2.2 Supplying orchards shall take one of the following codling moth control measures:

2.2.1 Codling moth sex pheromone traps used in Australia shall be installed in the supplying orchards before the apple trees reach their full bloom stage. One trap per hectare is required if the orchard is eight hectares or less. An additional trap is required for every two additional hectares if the orchard exceeds eight hectares. Traps must be checked at least once every two weeks for the presence of codling moth. If it is detected that the population density of codling moths reaches three or more moths per trap per week, effective pest management measures shall be implemented immediately. Pheromone lures must be renewed regularly. Complete and accurate records of monitoring and control must be kept for inspection.

2.2.2 If no sex pheromone trap is placed in the orchards, effective pest control measures shall be continuously taken to prevent the infestation by codling moth. Complete and accurate records of pest control must be kept for inspection.

2.3 Supplying orchards in compliance with the aforementioned requirements shall be registered by DAFF or organizations approved by DAFF and given registration codes. Lists of registration code numbers, along with the suppliers’ names and addresses shall be provided to BAPHIQ.

3. Requirements for cold storage facilities

- 3.1 Cold storage facilities shall be registered with DAFF and a list of the cold storage facilities with registration numbers shall be provided to BAPHIQ.
- 3.2 All apples stored in the cold storage facility must come from registered supplying orchards as in aforementioned requirements 2.3. If fresh fruit, including apples, from non registered orchards are to be stored in the same facility, complete separation from apples from registered supplying orchards is required.

4. Requirements for packhouses

- 4.1 Outside each packhouse should have pheromone codling moth trap(s) and inside each packhouse should have non-pheromone insect trap(s). Each packhouse should conduct regular checks of its traps during the packing for Taiwan. If any codling moth was found in the traps, proper action shall be taken immediately.
- 4.2 Packhouses must be equipped with sorting apparatus and sufficient lighting for performing inspections.
- 4.3 Packhouses shall have persons skilled in plant protection to assist in quarantine inspection.
- 4.4 Packhouses shall provide adequate apparatus and equipment to facilitate inspectors to perform inspections, pest identification and other related work.
- 4.5 Each year before the start of packing operations (export season commences from 1 March), appropriate pest control measures shall be taken to eradicate live ~~plant~~ pests inside the packhouse. If necessary, sterilisation shall be undertaken to ensure cleanliness of the packhouse.
- 4.6 Apples processed in the packhouses for export to Taiwan shall come from registered supplying orchards and cold storage facilities registered by DAFF and approved by BAPHIQ.
- 4.7 If fruit cartons have air holes, they shall be either covered with screen of no more than 1.6 mm fine mesh, shrink wrapped in plastic or transported by closed vehicle to maintain security of product.
- 4.8 The packhouses must be registered with DAFF prior to the commencement of the packing season and shall be inspected by DAFF or persons approved by DAFF to ensure that all requirements are met.
- 4.9 Packhouses meeting the aforementioned requirements shall be registered by DAFF. DAFF shall provide the list of packhouses and their registration numbers to BAPHIQ.

5. Pre-screening procedure

- 5.1 During the sorting and grading process, before packing, skilled persons shall sort the apples, at least twice, in first sorting, 50 apples of the lot will be sampled and cut prior or during the washing process. In second sorting at the packing line, 600 apples of the lot will be sampled and inspected and 50 damaged or deformed apples will be cut. All deformed or damaged fruit shall be removed and checked if there ~~are~~ is any codling moth infestation. Should there be detection of 2 or more dead codling moths or apples with visible signs or internal damages caused by codling moth, the lot is not allowed for export to Taiwan. Culled apples shall be placed in containers and removed from the packhouse every day.
- 5.2 Packhouses will record any findings of codling moth (live or dead and/or damaged fruit) and actions taken, during export season for Taiwan. Such documentation will be subject to DAFF auditing.
- 5.3 Should any live apple codling moth be detected, the supplying orchard registration shall be suspended for the remainder of the export season. In addition, all apples still in Australia from that registered orchard will not be allowed for export to Taiwan.
- 5.4 Appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent pest re-infestation when packed fruit is transported from packhouses to aircraft, vessels or containers.

6. Export inspection procedure

- 6.1 The packed fruit must be inspected by DAFF or persons approved by DAFF.
- 6.2 A sample of 600 units (where one unit equals one apple fruit) or 2% of the packed cartons of the total consignment in a given lot will be inspected. With the 600-unit inspection, 600 apples will be inspected; with the 2% regime, 50 apples per carton will be inspected.
- 6.3 Any suspect fruit detected during visual inspection shall be cut open to check for internal infestation or damage. If there is no suspect fruit detected, then at least one (1) fruit from each sample carton shall be cut open.
- 6.4 In the event of interception of dead codling moth during export inspection, DAFF should conduct an investigation of the packhouse.
- 6.5 In the event of interception of live codling moth:
 - 6.5.1 The apple consignment will be prohibited for export to Taiwan.
 - 6.5.2 Other apples that are supplied from the same registered orchard where

a live codling moth was intercepted and are still in Australia would not be allowed for export to Taiwan.

6.5.3 DAFF should immediately suspend the registered orchard where a live codling moth was intercepted for export to Taiwan during the remainder of that export season, and suspend the pack house for packing apples export to Taiwan.

6.5.4 Apples that are supplied by orchards other than the suspended orchard and packed by the suspended packhouse could still be exported to Taiwan if the following conditions are met:

6.5.4.1 The consignment has passed its export inspection and the loading date was prior to or on the day of the suspension date.

6.5.4.2 Apples that have passed export inspection and been kept in the cold room should be re-inspected on the next day of the suspension date, and ~~stored~~ transported in a container and sealed immediately after the re-inspection . Re-inspected apples shall be loaded to a ship (or airplane) for export within 3 days of the suspension date.

6.5.5 DAFF should conduct an investigation of the interception of live codling moth. If the investigation shows that the packhouse was not responsible for the contamination, or if there are non-compliances but the packhouse has taken corrective action, DAFF could reinstate the packhouse for export to Taiwan, and inform BAPHIQ at the same time.

7. Certification and relevant requirements

7.1 The packages (cartons or pallets) shall be clearly marked with the registration number or name of the packhouse.

7.2 Apples which pass export inspection shall be accompanied with a phytosanitary certificate issued by DAFF, with an additional declaration stating that the apples have been inspected and found free of codling moth and other pests designated by Taiwan, as well as an official quarantine stamp, the inspection date and the registration number or name of the packhouse.

7.3 Fresh fruit consignments shall not transit through other countries or districts where codling moth or other designated quarantine pests are known to occur. If consignments transit through these areas, they must comply with Taiwan's "Quarantine Requirements for Transshipment of Plants or Plant Products through Countries or Districts Where The Quarantine Pests are

Known to Occur” .

- 7.4 During transport and upon arrival, the lock of the ship’s compartment or seal of the container shall remain intact until BAPHIQ quarantine inspectors are on site.
- 7.5 All apples should be exported within 14 days from the next day of export inspection or the apples should be re-inspected.

8. Import inspection

- 8.1 The phytosanitary certificate issued by DAFF shall be in compliance with the aforementioned quarantine requirements.
- 8.2 Procedures, methods and sampling for import inspection shall follow Taiwan’s “Enforcement Rules on The Plant Protection and Quarantine Act” and other quarantine regulations.
- 8.3 If the consignment is not accompanied with an original phytosanitary certificate issued by DAFF, or it fails to comply with quarantine requirements, the consignment shall be denied entry.
- 8.4 The following measures should be taken if a live apple codling moth is detected during import inspection:
 - 8.4.1 All apples of the intercepted lot and those in the same container with the intercepted lot will be returned or destroyed.
 - 8.4.2 BAPHIQ should immediately notify DAFF, and provide details of the phytosanitary certificate number and relevant photos.
 - 8.4.3 After notification from BAPHIQ, DAFF should immediately suspend the registered orchard of the intercepted lot for export to Taiwan during the remainder of that export season, and the packhouse of the intercepted lot should be suspended temporarily. The packhouse will be eligible to export to Taiwan again after the results of investigation for the interception were approved by BAPHIQ. DAFF should provide registration numbers of the suspended orchard and packhouse to BAPHIQ within two days of the date of receiving the notice.
 - 8.4.4 Apples packed by the suspended packhouse that have received a phytosanitary certificate prior to the date of the suspension, and those were loaded to a ship (or airplane) within 3 days of the suspension date, could still be exported to Taiwan. The consignment will be subject to more stringent import inspection procedures.

9. Program Suspension/Re-instatement

- 9.1 Should live codling moth be detected a third time by BAPHIQ within an

export season, BAPHIQ will notify DAFF to suspend the program and any further apple exports for Taiwan immediately.

- 9.2 Apples from non-suspended packhouses will remain eligible for export to Taiwan if the shipment has received a phytosanitary certificate prior to the date of program suspension and has a loaded-on-board date within 14 days of the suspension date. These shipments will be subject to a more stringent import inspection. Should live codling moth be detected, clause 8.4 shall apply.
- 9.3 Upon receipt of the BAPHIQ notification to suspend the program, DAFF shall conduct an investigation and provide its investigation report to BAPHIQ.
- 9.4 If the results of the investigation indicate a system failure and system improvement is required, DAFF shall provide BAPHIQ with a report identifying improvements to be made. BAPHIQ may send inspector(s) to conduct on-site verification of the system improvement measures after DAFF submits the report to BAPHIQ. The costs associated with such on-site verification will be met by Australia.
- 9.5 The suspension will be lifted after BAPHIQ reviews and approves the DAFF report and the on-site verification of any necessary actions taken to correct non-compliance.
- 9.6 If any other pest of quarantine significance is detected in apples from Australia, and poses a risk to the safety of Taiwan's agricultural production, importation of apples may be suspended by BAPHIQ at any time in consultation with DAFF.

10. Special requirements

- 10.1 Six weeks prior to each apple export season (beginning on March 1 of each year), DAFF will formally invite BAPHIQ to send quarantine inspector(s) to perform inspections jointly with inspectors of Australia. Along with the formal letter of invitation, DAFF shall provide the details of registered packhouses and cold storage facilities. The list of registered orchards will be made available to BAPHIQ during the inspection.
- 10.2 BAPHIQ may dispatch quarantine inspector(s) to participate in the inspection, or DAFF may undertake the inspection on behalf of BAPHIQ if all of the following criteria were met:
 - 10.2.1 All registered packhouses have been previously inspected by BAPHIQ.
 - 10.2.2 No codling moth or other quarantine pests associated with apple

designated by BAPHIQ has been detected by DAFF at the export inspection in the previous season.

10.2.3 No codling moth or other quarantine pests associated with apple designated by BAPHIQ has been detected by BAPHIQ during import inspection in the previous season.

10.2.4 On-site inspections were conducted by BAPHIQ inspector(s) in the previous season.

10.3 All the necessary expenses for BAPHIQ inspector(s) shall be borne by Australia.

10.4 The requirements may be reviewed by DAFF and BAPHIQ based on pest status of Australia, detection of pests from apples exported to Taiwan or outcomes of the on-site inspection.