Plant Export Operations

Work-Plan

Australian Ware Potato Exports to the Republic of Korea

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INTRODUCTION

The work plan incorporates the formal requirements as agreed with the Republic of Korea Quarantine and Inspection Agency (QIA) and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water resources (the department). The purpose of this work plan is to ensure each consignment meets the requirements for the export of ware potatoes to the Republic of Korea that have been transported via Victoria for washing, packing and shipping.

The department will verify that all requirements specified in the work plan are being complied with and will stipulate corrective actions to be carried out if non-conformities are identified.

The work plan is designed to be used by departmental inspection staff and industry participants in the export of ware potatoes to Korea that have been transported via Victoria for washing, packing and shipping. Amendments to the content of this document may require agreement from the department prior to implementation. Some of the operational requirements may be subject to change. In the event of any changes, departmental staff, State Departments of Agriculture and Water Resources and industry will be advised accordingly and this work plan updated as required.

This work plan is not a standalone document and should be read in conjunction with the current protocol available on the Manual of Importing Country Requirements (MICoR) database and the Plant Exports Operations Manual (PEOM). These resources are available through the department's website (http://www.agriculture.gov.au/).

All costs associated with the delivery of this workplan (i.e. QIA verification visits, departmental audits, inspections and verifications etc.) are the responsibility of industry.
1 SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS
This workplan only applies to potato exports to Korea that are transported via Victoria for washing, packing and shipping. This workplan does not apply to potatoes that are grown, washed, packed and exported from the states of New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania; or grown, washed and packed in these states and transported securely for export from Melbourne.

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) are major quarantine pest/diseases of concern to Korean authorities.

Korean regulations prohibit the import of potatoes grown in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. Potatoes from all states and territories except Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland may be washed at the accredited washing facility in Victoria. Potatoes washed in the accredited washing facility in Victoria should be accompanied by a Certificate as to Condition (EX46A) issued by the department for export to Korea.

*Solanum tuberosum* is the only ware potato species permitted for export to Korea.

An import permit is not required to export ware potatoes to Korea.

This workplan and the Victorian washing facility requirements does not apply to potatoes that are not transported via Victoria for washing, packing and shipping.
2 EXPORTER RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Grower responsibilities
Growers are responsible for ensuring that soil where potatoes will be grown has been tested for PCN and must be aware that potatoes grown and harvested in Victoria and Western Australia are not permitted for export to Korea. Growers must also be aware that potatoes grown in Queensland are not permitted for exports to Korea as a result of PSTVd.

2.2 Washing facility requirements
Potatoes for export to Korea that are washed, packed and exported from Victoria should be washed in a facility that has been approved by the department and accredited by QIA and should fulfil the following requirements:

- Washing establishments will undertake measures to prevent PCN cross-contamination of potatoes.
- The establishment floor shall be concrete and able to be washed and kept clean at all times.
- Equipment to thoroughly clean the wheels of any vehicles entering the facility must be placed at the entrance of the facility to remove potentially contaminated soil and prevent entry of PCN into the processing site.
- The facility will not handle potatoes from either Victoria, Western Australia and/or Queensland, and should demonstrate clear segregation from any other facility that handles potatoes sourced from these prohibited areas.
- During washing the potatoes for export to Korea, no other produce should be handled at the same time in the facility.
- Soil on the potatoes must be removed by washing with chlorinated water.
- The unloading and storage area must be more than 50 metres away from any area holding potatoes produced from prohibited areas.
- Agricultural equipment or machinery used in the state of Victoria must not be stored or used inside the facility.
- Washed potatoes are to be loaded into wooden bins clearly labelled "Potatoes for export to Republic of Korea" and dried at the opposite end of the facility and/or at least 30 metres from potatoes still to be washed.

2.2.1 Approval and accreditation of washing facilities
QIA and the department will accredit washing facilities following on-site inspection and verification of compliance with the importing conditions. Application for approval must be made in writing to the department.

The department will approve appropriate washing facilities following receipt of official confirmation of their accreditation from QIA.
As part of the approval process, the company responsible for the washing and export of potatoes to Korea must provide the department with the following:

- name and address of all sites at which potatoes are to be harvested
- name and address of all sites at which potatoes are to be loaded onto trucks for transportation to Victoria
- names of the nominated persons responsible for filling out the transfer certificate at each potato harvesting or truck loading location
- work instruction for use by staff at the potato harvesting/loading sites and the registered washing facilities (this instruction must outline what nominated persons must do and the reasons for this procedure).

### 2.2.2 Security and transportation of potatoes

Security must be maintained at all times to ensure potatoes are not exposed to possible infestation or contamination by PCN or PSTVd.

Potatoes for export to Korea must be transported to a registered washing facility in a completely enclosed truck. This truck must be cleaned before use and kept clean at all times.

Potatoes intended for export to Korea must not be mixed with potatoes that have been grown in Victoria, Western Australia or Queensland during transportation.

All movements of potatoes to washing facilities must be done in a secure manner. Each consignment of potatoes transported to a registered washing facility must be accompanied by a transfer certificate signed by an authorised officer approved by the department and a delivery docket.

The registered washing facility shall not receive potatoes without a transfer certificate and the delivery docket must include place and date of production.

The transfer certificate must be presented during export inspection and must include the following details:

- date of dispatch and delivery
- means of transportation
- quantity dispatched and received.

Upon arrival at the registered washing facility, potatoes must be unloaded in an area designated for export to Korea as stipulated in s.2.2.

### 2.2.3 Packaging and labelling requirements

Packaging and labelling for the export of potatoes to Korea must meet the following conditions:

- Packaging must be clean and can be from either new or recycled materials.
- Wooden packaging must be compliant with ISPM 15 requirements.
- Pallets must be marked using pallet cards with “For Export to Korea”. The labels will include the state of origin in full e.g. New South Wales, South Australia.
• All labelling is to be prominently placed and be clear and easy to read.

2.2.4 Loading and sealing requirements

Potatoes that have passed the export inspection must be loaded into containers directly from the registered facility.

Loading and sealing the container doors must be done in the presence of an authorised officer approved by the departmental and must not be opened until import inspection in Korea.

The authorised officer must place a uniquely numbered seal on the sea container door and endorse the container and seal number on the accompanying phytosanitary certificate.

2.2.5 Documentation

Washing facilities are responsible for maintaining a documented system to allow traceability of potatoes back to the farm.

Washing facilities must record, keep on file and make available to the department the following documentation upon request:

• copy of the department registered establishment certificate
• list of farms (including location details) intending to supply potatoes
• washing facility accreditation for the QIA
• receipt and loading records
• records relating to implementation of hygiene programs, for example baiting logs and cleaning records
• copy of transfer certificates (EX186).
3 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and WATER RESOURCES RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Communication to QIA
All contact with QIA regarding this work plan will be through the Horticulture Exports Program Canberra. Any outbreak or change of status of PCN and PSTVd must be immediately reported to QIA.

The department will request QIA accreditation of an approved washing facility if the washing facility is intending to process ware potatoes for export to Korea for the first time and will provide QIA with appropriate details regarding the facility.

The department must coordinate with QIA the on-site inspection visit for the accreditation of any washing facility. An itinerary must be provided before the officer departs from Korea.

The department will provide QIA with a list of the export-accredited potato washing facilities prior to export.

3.2 Export approval
The department will approve all accredited washing facilities prior to the intended date of export and will keep all the relevant information provided by the exporters.

The department will maintain a list of accredited washing facilities.

3.3 Audit
The department will carry out audits to ensure compliance with the work plan is implemented during transportation, washing and shipping including the grower delivery docket and transfer certificate of the potatoes for export to Korea. The department will also verify that potatoes that are transported to the accredited washing facility for washing have been harvested from an area except the states of Victoria, West Australia and Queensland.

If any inconsistencies are discovered during audit, the department will cease export immediately until the situation is resolved.

If the program is suspended by QIA because of detection of a pest or disease of quarantine concern (e.g. PCN or PSTVd), or any irregularity, the program will remain suspended until the department and QIA are satisfied the cause of the non-conformance has been identified and suitable corrective measures have been implemented.

As part of traceability, the department will provide relevant documents and records to QIA upon request. The full cost of any departmental audit will be borne by Australian industry.

3.4 Export Inspection
Before export inspection the authorised officer will check the grower delivery docket and transfer certificate and keep records of incoming potatoes at the washing facilities including place and date of production, means of transportation, date and quantity received.
At the time of export inspection the authorised officer will verify delivery and processing records to confirm that consignments of potatoes have been harvested from an area outside of the states of Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. All consignments are subject to a 600 unit or 2% phytosanitary inspection prior to export. A phytosanitary certificate will only be issued by the department after ensuring that all import requirements for potato consignments have been complied with. This inspection must be conducted in the washing facility (registered establishment).

3.5 Rejection criteria

3.5.1 Detection of pests or contaminants of quarantine concern
If live pests of quarantine concern, soil or any breach of the conditions stipulated in this workplan are detected, consignments/lots will be rejected. Reconditioning and re-inspection may be an option.

3.5.2 Reconditioning
Reconditioning of rejected consignments may be considered if live quarantine pests or diseases or soil are detected. The reconditioning method chosen must address the quarantine risk and biology of the pest or disease and must be approved by the department.

Reconditioned consignments intended for export to Korea must be re-presented for an inspection and a new phytosanitary inspection carried out in accordance with the Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011.

Details of goods being resubmitted must be detailed in writing and include corrective measures taken to ensure they meet export requirements.

3.6 Phytosanitary certification and additional declaration

3.6.1 General requirements
Phytosanitary certificates are required to be completed in accordance with procedures set out in the Phytosanitary Certificate Completion Work Procedure. This document is available on the department website (http://www.agriculture.gov.au).

The department or a person authorised by the department will only authorise a phytosanitary certificate following successful completion of a phytosanitary inspection and all export conditions are met.

The original phytosanitary certificate must be presented to QIA on arrival of the consignment in Korea.

A phytosanitary certificate for each consignment must indicate:

- state of origin where the potatoes were harvested
- both the container and seal numbers
- the number of the registered washing facility must be entered in the 'Lot number' field (a free text field) of the EXDOC Request for Permit (RFP) and be in the example format of: WASHING FACILITY AT REGISTERED ESTABLISHMENT No: XXXX.
3.6.2 Additional declarations

The following additional declarations must be included in the phytosanitary certificate:

“The potatoes were grown in a state of Australia other than Victoria, Western Australia or Queensland”.

“Potatoes in this consignment have been washed in the state of Victoria, Australia, according to the requirements agreed by QIA and the Department of Agriculture”.

A “Certificate as to condition (EX46A)” issued by the department should accompany consignments of ware potatoes to Korea and will contain an additional statement:

“The potatoes in this consignment were harvested in [identified state(s) of production or where the potatoes were harvested]”. 
4 QIA REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Audit

QIA reserves the right to audit export potato procedures in Australia. If necessary, QIA can monitor the entire procedure including transportation, washing and export inspection etc., to verify whether the potatoes exported via the state of Victoria are in compliance with the requirements in this workplan.

If the program is suspended by QIA because of non-compliance or due to the interception of a pest of quarantine concern, or any irregularity, the program will remain suspended until the department and QIA are satisfied the cause of the non-conformance has been identified and suitable corrective measures have been implemented.

When QIA and the department’s inspectors conduct an on-site survey for washing facility accreditation or monitoring, the expenses must be covered by industry according to the NPPO guidelines.

4.2 Import Inspection

QIA will conduct an import inspection at the port of arrival in accordance with the Plant Quarantine Regulations of South Korea.

If the container seal is not present or is broken, or if the container seal’s number, place of origin and additional declaration is not included on the phytosanitary certificate or in the certificate as to condition, the consignment will be destroyed or returned to the point of origin.

If PCN is detected during import inspection, the consignment will be destroyed or returned to the point of origin. Trade under the conditions detailed in this work plan will be suspended until the cause for this detection is determined and corrected.

If any regulated pest (except PCN) or a pest that is not distributed in Korea is detected at the import inspection, the consignment will be dealt with according to the Plant Quarantine Regulations of South Korea. QIA will notify the department of the non-compliance and depending on the circumstances, may suspend importation of that lot, grower, state or the whole country.

The department shall immediately investigate the cause of non-compliance and propose corrective actions. When the causes of non-compliance and corrective actions have been implemented to the satisfaction of QIA, the import suspension will be lifted.