

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 10/22/2013

GAIN Report Number: MX 3073

Mexico

Post: Mexico

2013 Potato Risk Mitigation Measures Announced

Report Categories:

Potatoes and Potato Products

Agriculture in the News

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Agriculture in the Economy

Trade Policy Monitoring

Approved By:

Daniel K. Berman

Prepared By:

Dulce Flores

Report Highlights:

The Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), on October 14, 2013, an announcement containing the second Project of Agreement that establishes the mitigation measures for reducing the risk of importing potato tubers into Mexico from any exporting country; including the United States. This Project is open for public comments for 60 calendar days and will close on/about December 13, 2013.

General Information:

Introduction: This GAIN report summarizes a SAGARPA announcement published in Mexico's Federal Register on October 14, 2013, containing the second Project of Agreement that establishes the mitigation measures for reducing the risk of importing potato tubers into Mexico. This Project is open for public comments for 60 calendar days after publication and will close on/about December 13, 2013. Comments must be submitted in Spanish to Mexico's authorities and be science or technical based. This project includes lists of pests and diseases of sanitary or phytosanitary concern and draft mitigation measures.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Title: Announcement that contains the Project of Agreement that establishes the mitigation measures for reducing the risk of importing potato tubers into Mexico.

Executive Summary:

Eleven months since the [first Project](#) on potatoes was published by the Mexican government in its Federal Register on November 20, 2012, SAGARPA published a new announcement on October 14, 2013 containing the [second Project](#) of Agreement that establishes the mitigation measures for reducing the risk of importing potato tubers into Mexico. The Federal Register notification specifically mentions that modifications to this new project include phytosanitary measure proposals sent by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that were generated by the first Project. This Project is open for public comments for 60 calendar days after publication and closes on or about December 13, 2013.

The purpose of the Project remains the establishment of phytosanitary mitigation measures to reduce the risks of importing potato tubers from any part of the world into Mexico. To import any quantity of potato tubers into Mexico from any part of the world, the plant health risk mitigation regulations established in this Project should be followed once this Project is official.

Article 8 of the Project contains some of the phytosanitary measures that apply to the importation of potato tubers for fresh consumption from any country, including the United States. A brief translation of a portion of Article 8, section 1 is below. The Federal Register announcement also provides additional specifics on these requirements.

Article 8, Section I.

a) Potato tuber shipments must be produced commercially using certified seeds;

b) Packing facilities must be approved by the National Organization of Phytosanitary Protection (NOPP);

- c) Potato shipments must be washed and be free of soil;*
- d) Potato shipments must have received treatment using sprout inhibitors;*
- e) Potato shipments must be inspected and certified by the authorized NOPP officials;*
- f) Potato shipments must be in packages of 9.09 kilograms (twenty pounds) or less;*
- g) Packets of potatoes must be labeled "this product must not be used for planting";*
- h) Potato shipments must be able to be traced back to the state of origin in the exporting country and the packing installation(s);*
- i) Potatoes shipments must be sealed at the point of inspection and remain sealed until exported;*
- j) Potato shipments destined beyond the 26 Kilometer of the U.S. border are limited to municipalities in Mexico of a population more than 100,000 inhabitants;*
- k) During the first export season, SAGARPA will perform a technical inspection visit to verify compliance in the exporting country.*

This Project is open for public comment, in Spanish, and must be science based and technical based. Comments can be submitted to the following address:

Dirección General de Sanidad Vegetal
 Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria,
 Guillermo Pérez Valenzuela número 127,
 Colonia Del Carmen Coyoacán, código postal 04100,
 México, D.F.

Or to the following E-mail: trujillo@senasica.gob.mx

Important Dates

- 1. Publication Date:** October 14, 2013
- 2. Effective Date:** Sixty calendar days after publication (December 13, 2013)

Additional Information.

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX 2083	Potato Risk Mitigation Measures Announced	11/20/2012

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, the equivalent of the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx, and the equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the reader's convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.