On June 6, 2017 the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) published “Official Resolution # 6705 of 2017” which removes ICA’s “Official Resolution # 3196 of 2012” that established the phytosanitary measures for the transportation of imported paddy rice coming from the United States and limited its access to only the port of Barranquilla. Reducing Colombia’s restrictions will make U.S. rough rice more competitive in the Colombian market.
General Information:
On June 6, 2017 the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) published “Official Resolution # 6705 of 2017” which removed ICA’s “Official Resolution # 3196 of 2012.” This previous resolution had limited U.S. paddy rice exports to only the port of Barranquilla. The previous resolution also implemented phytosanitary measures for the transportation of U.S. paddy rice and for the management of residues (such as husks) resulting from its processing in Colombia.

Additionally, on June 1, 2017 ICA removed the phytosanitary pest *Tilletia horrida* from Colombia’s official pest list. This was done through the publication of “Official Resolution #6630 of 2017.” The removal of *Tilletia horrida* from Colombia’s official quarantine pest list along with the removal of geographic restrictions on U.S. paddy rice exports will mean greater flexibility for U.S. paddy rice exporters when choosing a Colombian port of destination.

Below you will find an UNOFFICIAL translation of Colombian Official Resolution #6705 of 2017.

RESOLUTION No. 00006705
(06/05/2017)

"By means of which Resolution 3196 of September 17, 2012 is derogated"

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA)

In use of the legal powers conferred by paragraph 1 of article 2.13.1.3.1 of Decree 1071 of 2015 and article 4 of Decree 4761 of 2009, and

CONSIDERING:
That the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) is responsible for ensuring the agricultural health of the country in order to prevent the introduction and spread of pests or diseases of plants and their products.

That it is for ICA to establish the actions necessary for the prevention, control, and technical and economic management of pests and diseases of plants and their products.

That ICA, in order to mitigate the risk, dispersion, and establishment of pests of quarantine interest for the country associated with the importation of paddy rice (*Oryza sativa*) for industrial use from the United States, through Resolution 3196 of 2012, established the city of Barranquilla as the only port of entry and implemented phytosanitary measures for the transportation and management of residues (such as husks) resulting from paddy rice processing in Colombia.

That field work from ICA’s Sub-Management of Plant Protection through the Technical Direction of Epidemiology and Phytosanitary Surveillance reported for the first time in Colombia the presence of *Tilletia horrida* in rice production systems. The exploratory sampling included the collection of 54 samples, 14 of which were taken in rice plantations at the phenological stage of grain maturation and 40 of which were collected in mills. The results indicated that the disease was present in 44% of the samples from farms and in 93% of the samples from mills that were evaluated. On the other hand, 92% of the collected samples had *Tilletia horrida*. 
That, also, the Technical Direction of Epidemiology and Phytosanitary Surveillance of ICA presented a report on the results of the evaluation of the distribution and prevalence of *Tilletia horrida* in Colombia, which was carried out in the period from 2013 to 2016. This evaluation concluded that the aforementioned pest is present and distributed in several localities of Colombia.

That taking the above into account, and based on the international phytosanitary standards, it was determined that *Tilletia horrida* Takah is not considered a regulated pest, which is why this Institute proceeds to derogate Resolution 3196 of September 17, 2012.

Under the above,

**RESOLVES:**
ARTICLE 1. Derogate Resolution 3196 of September 17, 2012 "By means of which phytosanitary measures are established for the transportation of paddy rice (*Oryza sativa*) imported for industrial use from the United States and for the management of residues resulting from their processing in Colombia” as set out in the preamble to this Resolution.

ARTICLE 2. EFFECTIVENESS. This Resolution shall apply from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and derogate Resolution 3196 of September 17, 2012.

**PUBLISH AND COMPLY**

LUIS HUMBERTO MARTINEZ LACOUTURE
ICA General Manager

Given in Bogotá on 06/06/2017

Projected: Maria Angelica Reyes
VoBo: Claudia Monica Cabezas – Technical Directorate for National Affairs
Jose Rafael Sanmiguel – Sub-Management of Border Protection
Marta Luz Olivares – Sub-Management of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulation