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POLICY

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Date: 12/13/2016

GAIN Report Number: ID1637

Indonesia

Post: Jakarta

Indonesia Revises FFPO Import Procedures

Report Categories:

Avocado

Citrus

Dried Fruit

Fresh Fruit

Potatoes and Potato Products

Stone Fruit

Strawberries

Tree Nuts

Vegetables

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture published regulation 55/2016 on Food Safety Controls for the Importation of Fresh Foods of Plant Origin (FFPO) on November 18, 2016. The new regulation revises import procedures for FFPO products, but does not appear to have significant implications for U.S. FFPO exports to Indonesia.

General Information:

Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture published regulation 55/2016 on Food Safety Controls for the Importation of Fresh Foods of Plant Origin (FFPO) on November 18, 2016. The new regulation revises import procedures for FFPO products, but does not appear to have significant implications for U.S. FFPO exports to Indonesia.

Regulation 55/2016 creates three sets of procedures for FFPO imports. They are

1. Recognition of the exporting country's food safety control system,
2. Registration of food safety testing laboratories in the exporting country,
3. FFPO products from countries that do not have food safety recognition or registered labs would be subject to various food safety and plant quarantine tests upon arrival in designated ports.

The United States food safety control system has been recognized by the government of Indonesia since 2009. As a result, the basic procedure for FFPO exports to Indonesia is unchanged. However, it is important to note that the regulation now permits prior notice of exports to be sent in advance of the shipment's arrival in Indonesia. Previously, prior notice was required in advance of the ship's departure from the loading port. This change provides additional flexibility for exporters. Also, the FFPO regulation removes cocoa beans, olives and dates from the list of commodities covered by the FFPO regulation. This facilitates exports of U.S. dates to Indonesia, which will now only require an accompanying phytosanitary certificate.

Finally, Indonesian quarantine officials report that under regulation 55/2016, port surveillance and monitoring will be held to strict standards. As a result, Indonesian quarantine stations will have less discretion as to what and when FFPO is delayed for additional testing. Post notes that Indonesian quarantine has not shared specific port surveillance and monitoring guidelines.

Comment: Post does not see any significant changes to US FFPO exports as a result of this regulation. Post further notes that renewal of our FFPO recognition will take place in 2017. Ministry officials have assured Post that in the event that the Ministry of Agriculture does not renew U.S. FFPO recognition by its expiration date that recognition will be extended until the Ministry can complete its evaluation of the renewal application. Post believes that the biggest changes introduced by this regulation are intended to address market access concerns for countries which have neither a recognized food safety system nor a food safety testing laboratory. End Comment.