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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 6/2/2010

GAIN Report Number: MX0036

Mexico

Post: Mexico

Potatoes Imported into Sinaloa Face New Restrictions

Report Categories:

Potatoes and Potato Products

Policy and Program Announcements

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Approved By:

Allan Mustard

Prepared By:

Dulce Flores and Mark Ford

Report Highlights:

On May 28, 2010, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Foodstuffs (SAGARPA) declared in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) that the following counties in the state of Sinaloa are free from the golden nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) and the Columbia root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*): Ahome, El Fuerte, Choix, Guasave and Sinaloa de Leyva. With this declaration, potatoes imported into the above-mentioned counties must now follow more-restrictive procedures, including passing through internal verification points in Las Brisas (in the state of Sinaloa) and Don Station (in the state of Sonora). Meanwhile, potatoes produced in the counties will be labeled "pest-free". The announcement is effective May 29, 2010.

Executive Summary:

SAGARPA published an announcement in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), on May 28, 2010, that declares the counties of Ahome, El Fuerte, Choix, Guasave and Sinaloa de Leyva (in the state of Sinaloa) to be free of the golden nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) and Columbia root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*). This announcement in effect protects the domestic potato industry (for human consumption) in these counties from imported potatoes. In order for potatoes to enter the above-mentioned counties, they must enter through internal verification points in Las Brisas (in the state of Sinaloa) and Don Station (in the state of Sonora). This announcement also indicates the procedures a potato shipper must comply with in order to export to the named counties, which includes phytosanitary requirements for tuber seeds. Official regulations for the establishment of pest free zones for potatoes are NOM-025-FITO-2000 and NOM-069-FITO-1995.

General Information:

This report summarizes an announcement by SAGARPA that was published in Mexico's *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) on May 28, 2010, declaring the counties of Ahome, El Fuerte, Choix, Guasave and Sinaloa de Leyva (in the state of Sinaloa) as free zones from the golden nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) and Columbia root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*).

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: *Agreement Declaring the Counties of Ahome, El Fuerte, Choix, Guasave and Sinaloa de Leyva, from the State of Sinaloa as Free Zones from the Golden Nematode (Globodera rostochiensis) and Columbia Root-Knot Nematode (Meloidogyne chitwoodi)*

Important Dates:

1. **Publication Date:** May 28, 2010
2. **Effective Date:** May 29, 2010

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FAS/Mexico Email:

AgMexico@usda.gov, ATOMexico@usda.gov, or ATOMonterrey@usda.gov

