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Korea Import Protocol for Fresh Blueberry from Oregon

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MFAFF) recently announced the import protocol for fresh blueberries from Oregon. Blueberry orchards and packing houses that are registered and inspected by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are eligible to export to Korea.

General Information:

On September 21, 2011, the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MFAFF) announced the import protocol for fresh blueberries from Oregon. MFAFF Notice 2011-158 provides an exemption for “Oregon fresh blueberries” from the import prohibited list. The exemption allows for the import of fresh blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* and *V. virgatum*) commercially produced in the State of Oregon.

Under the protocol, the exported product must come from orchards and packing houses that are registered and inspected by APHIS. The latter must provide the list of registered orchards and packing houses to the Korean government upon request. APHIS must also inspect the packing houses prior to export and supervise them to maintain sanitary conditions.

APHIS must inspect for the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum* and 2 types of viruses (*Tobacco ringspot virus*, *Tomato ringspot virus*) and certify that there were no outbreaks. Also, APHIS must maintain a low occurrence or nonoccurrence of *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*, *Argyrotaenia citrana*, *Choristoneura rosaceana* and *Grapholita packardi* and must take measures to certify that five pests (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*, *Rhagoletis mendax*, *Rhagoletis tabellaria*, *Acrobasis vaccinii*, *Epiphyas postvittana*) do not exist in Oregon.

Furthermore, if, *Phytophthora ramorum*, *Tobacco ringspot virus*, *Tomato ringspot virus*, *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*, *Argyrotaenia citrana*, *Choristoneura rosaceana* or *Grapholita packardi* are found during the inspection, the products will be rejected and fresh blueberries from the respective orchard will be banned from exporting for that season. If these pests and diseases are continuously detected during inspection, this protocol can be subject to reappraisal. If new pests or diseases that were not previously assessed are detected or if there are frequent findings of pests or diseases listed in Appendix Table 1, necessary measures can be taken after conducting a risk assessment.

Boxes containing blueberries should display labels stating “For Korea.” The products must be accompanied by an APHIS phytosanitary certificate and will be subject to inspection upon arrival in Korea.

The Korean Quarantine and Inspection Agency (QIA) and United States’ APHIS will conduct a joint onsite audit in Oregon every year. After two years of onsite audits, the need to continue this program will be reassessed. The cost incurred for conducting the onsite audit will be paid by the United States.

Effective date: September 21, 2011.

Appendix Table 1:

Pathogens: *Phytophthora ramoru*, *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*, *Tobacco ringspot virus*, *Tomato*

ringspot virus

Pests: *Argyrotaenia citrana*, *Choristoneura rosaceana*, *Grapholita packardi*, *Hemiberlesia rapax*,
Leptocoris trivittatus