

# **EXPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPPING CHIPPING POTATOES TO CHINA**

**(FEBRUARY 2022)**

On February 14, 2020 the Chinese market opened for US chipping potatoes. What follows are requirements for US growers and shippers of chipping potatoes to China. This memo is based on current information and will be updated to account for any subsequent changes. For the complete regulations and detailed requirements, please refer to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) online Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD). Please contact Adam Hollowell at Bryant Christie Inc. ([adam.hollowell@bryantchristie.com](mailto:adam.hollowell@bryantchristie.com)) with any questions.

## **I. General Rules**

- The agreement is only for chipping potatoes that will be processed in China.
- Shipments may enter China year-round.
- Shipments must come from registered shippers and packaging facilities.
- Chipping potatoes must be grown using certified seed potatoes.
- Potatoes must be planted in a field where no potatoes have been grown for the previous two years.
- Shipments can only be shipped to approved chip processing facilities in China.

## **II. Areas That Can Ship**

- Potatoes must be grown in approved states. Presently, China has approved the following states for shipment:
  - Idaho (outside Potato Cyst Nematode regulated area/associated fields)
  - Oregon
  - Washington

## **III. Prior to Shipment**

- Shippers and packing facilities must be approved and registered by APHIS prior to export. APHIS will forward this list to their Chinese counterpart, GACC. GACC will then post the shipper's list on the GACC website indicating that imports can come from these facilities.
- Shippers should approach Adam Hollowell, BCI, for assistance with registration ([adam.hollowell@bryantchristie.com](mailto:adam.hollowell@bryantchristie.com)). Please do this well before plans to ship as several approvals are needed.
- GACC reserves the right to send a GACC official to the U.S. to conduct an inspection of the facilities.
- Shippers and packing facilities should ensure that adequate traceback systems are in place from the packing house back to the lot, grower and field. Records, including pest detection, monitoring, and mitigation measures, must be kept for three years. GACC reserves the right to request these records at any time.

#### IV. Specific Pest Mitigation Measures

GACC requires specific mitigation measures to be followed for pests of particular quarantine concern:

- **Potato cyst nematode:** Chipping potatoes must be grown in areas free from potato cyst nematode.
- **Other nematodes: Columbia Root Knot Nematode, *Ditylenchus Destructor* (Potato Rot Nematode), *Ditylenchus dipsaci* (Stem Nematode):**
  - Growers must undertake **soil sampling** three times to check for nematodes.
    - This should be conducted once in the fall during field selection,
    - once in the spring prior to planting,
    - and once during the growing season.
  - Records of sampling and any detection must be kept for three years.
  - If any of the above nematodes are detected prior to planting, growers should fumigate soil in accordance with Good Agricultural Practices.
  - In addition, growers may apply contact nematicides, as necessary, on the advice of a pest control advisor (PCA).
  - If a field tests positive for any of the above nematodes during the growing season, growers should apply a nematicides in accordance with the label and advice of the PCA.
- **Pink rot, Verticillium Wilt, and Silver Scurf**
  - Growers should follow good agricultural practices during the growing season to minimize the likelihood for these pests.
  - Growers should apply approved fungicides to control these pests as necessary in accordance with the label and advice of PCAs.
  - Growers will follow good agricultural practices to avoid excessive irrigation late in the growing season.
  - Growers will follow Good Agricultural Practices and will endeavor to avoid harvesting wet tubers to minimize late infections.
- **Potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*) and *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (causal agent of zebra chip disease)**
  - Potato growers for export to China must trap for potato psyllids in their field, following Northwest Potato Research Consortium's 'Insect Trapping Guide.' This is the standard trapping guide used by growers.
  - It can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.nwpotatoresearch.com/resources/insect-trapping-guides/>.  
Please contact Andy Jensen for details: [ajensen@potatoes.com](mailto:ajensen@potatoes.com).
  - The trapping records will be kept and available for three years upon request.
  - At least four traps will be placed in each field.
  - The National Potato Council and Potatoes USA strongly recommend that potato growers intending to ship to China follow the trapping procedures outlined in the more detailed Korean export protocol, which are listed below. Following such procedures will minimize the likelihood of damage from zebra

chip and will allow the potatoes grown to be approved for both Korea and China.

- Growers must **trap** for potato psyllid – at least four traps per 50-hectare production field (at least 10 traps per field if zebra chip was detected in the year prior). For field sizes greater than 50 hectares, growers must place one additional trap for every 10 hectares.
- The **traps must be replaced on a weekly basis**. Records of trap monitoring should be kept and provided to APHIS in accordance with the Northwest Potato Research Consortium's 'Insect Trapping Guide.'
- In the case that vectors are confirmed, growers should apply insecticide in accordance with the IPM guidelines for Insects and Mites in Pacific Northwest Potatoes.
- All vectors should be sent to a laboratory to test for the presence of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (causal agent of zebra chip disease).
- If the tests confirm the presence of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (zebra chip), the field will be excluded from exporting to China during that export season.
- **If growers have a positive zebra chip find for a field destined for China, they are encouraged to contact their potato commission and/or the National Potato Council for guidance.**
- Shipments cannot occur until two weeks after vine kill to allow for detection of zebra chip during inspection.

## VI. Inspection and Certification of Chipping Potatoes Prior to Shipment

- Potatoes must be washed or brushed to remove **all soil** prior to export.
- APHIS-authorized inspectors will inspect 2% of the potatoes per consignment to check for the presence of quarantine pests.
- 300 tubers need to be peeled per shipment for APHIS-authorized inspection for signs of nematode infestation.
- If *Ditylenchus destructor*, *Ditylenchus dipsaci*, or *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*, is found, the field and all future consignments from that field will not be certified for export to China for the remainder of the season.
- APHIS authorized inspections will also look for any signs of pink rot, Verticillium Wilt, or Silver Scurf on the surface of the potatoes and will cut five potatoes per shipment looking for these pests. If infection is found, the consignment will not be certified for export.
- Any find of a quarantine pest(s) will mean the consignment cannot be shipped to China.
- A **Phytosanitary Certificate** is required for the shipment. This PC must describe that the potatoes were inspected by the US plant protection authority and consequently confirm that no quarantine pests or soil are contained within.
- The following Additional Declaration must appear on the PC:

*“This consignment of fresh potatoes complies with Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Fresh Potato for processing export from the United States of America U.S.A. to the*

*People's Republic of China between USDA and GACC, and does not carry quarantine pests of concern to China"*

- In the "Distinguishing Marks" section of the phytosanitary certificate, the name of the registered shipper and the grower lot number must appear.
- If any of the pests outlined in Section IV are found during inspection (with the exception of silver scurf), the corresponding field will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- If silver scurf is found during inspection, that consignment cannot be shipped to China.
- Packing material should be new and clean. Shipments must be packed in one-ton bulk tote bags. Each tote bag should include a document (label) that includes **the lot number in English**.
- The tote bag label must also state **"To the People's Republic of China"** in Chinese. EVERY TOTE MUST HAVE THIS INFORMATION. Please see **Appendix A** for a copy of this required language in Chinese.

## **VII. Additional Comments**

- Chinese Potato importers should obtain Import Permit issued by GACC before signing trade contracts.
- US chipping potato imports may enter China through the ports of Dalian, Tianjin, Qingdao, Nanjing, Shanghai, Ningbo, Shenzhen and Guangzhou.
- Potatoes must then proceed to designated processing plants and cannot be sold in markets or planted.
- It is likely that Chinese Government officials will want to visit at some point. APHIS will work with Potatoes USA, NPC, and state potato organizations to coordinate any requested visits.
- **Pale Cyst Nematode: potatoes cannot come from a PCN regulated area or associated fields.** Its presence in a shipment will result in rejection of the shipment **and the program to be shut down for the associated state.**
- The presence of any other quarantine pests will result in the return or destruction of the shipment.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CHIPPING POTATOES TO CHINA**

### **Why can we only ship chipping potatoes to China?**

- Negotiations to open the Chinese market were very challenging and required more than 20 years of work. The decision was made to focus all initial efforts on securing chipping potato access to China, which was deemed to stand the best chance of opening the market. Once the chipping potato export program has been consolidated with a good history of exports, the US potato industry will seek to expand the market to table stock market access.

### **Why is market access only for the Pacific Northwest?**

- As noted, work to open the Chinese market began over twenty years ago. At that time, based on consultations with USDA, it was decided to focus industry efforts on the Pacific Northwest states as the quickest means to open the Chinese market and then turn to expanded market access for additional states once this had been achieved. Now that initial market access has been secured, securing access for additional states will be a high priority.

### **What kind of records do I need to keep?**

- You will need to keep records describing the location of the field, what crops were planted in the field previously, when planting occurred, any inspections/field treatments applied, and any pest finds or abnormal growing patterns, and what pest mitigation measures/crop protection products were applied. You should also have records of the seed used. This information should be consolidated in one place for ease of access and must be kept for up to three years.

### **Does the Chinese government need to approve my packing shed?**

- Yes, all packing facilities that will supply chipping potatoes to China must be formally approved by USDA-APHIS and registered with the Chinese authorities. This must be done annually. To seek APHIS approval, shippers and packinghouses should contact Adam Hollowell, BCI, and provide legal name and contact information for the facility. APHIS will share a list of approved facilities with China, and China formally registers the shippers by publishing the names on a website. China reserves the right to conduct on-site inspections of facilities that supply to China. It is therefore important that registration and record-keeping are maintained.

### **Where can I get the required totes, stickers, and seals?**

- The totes are the standard one-ton woven poly totes and the seals are the standard shipping seals. Each tote **MUST** have a tag with the lot number and language described above and shown in **Appendix A**.

### **Which Pesticides Can I Use?**

- China has its own pesticide regulations but historically has not tested imported product. China is in the process of establishing additional pesticide maximum residue

levels (MRLs). Growers are advised to check Chinese maximum residue levels (MRLs) and compare with US MRLs at [www.globalmrl.com](http://www.globalmrl.com) or at the US Potato Board's Global Database linked to [www.PotatoesUSA.com](http://www.PotatoesUSA.com).

**What sprout inhibitor can I use?**

- The Chinese government does not prohibit the use of sprout inhibitors. It has tolerances established for both CIPC and maleic hydrazide at levels harmonized with the US.

**If an inspector finds any of the pest listed in Section IV in my shipment, what happens?**

- If any of the pests listed in Section IV are found, the shipment will be rejected and the corresponding field will be suspended for the remainder of the season. These measures apply to the pests: *Ditylenchus destructor*, *Ditylenchus dipsaci*, CRKN, pink rot, Verticillium Wilt, and *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (zebra chip). Silver scurf is treated differently (see below).

**If an inspector finds silver scurf in my shipment, what happens?**

- The shipment will be rejected and a phyto will not be issued. Other shipments with potatoes from the same field can be shipped, however. The Chinese government insists that potatoes exported to China be free of quarantine pests, including silver scurf. The US potato industry is exploring measures to address the listing of silver scurf as a quarantine pest given its likely presence in China. The US potato industry is also seeking to get Chinese MRLs established for the crop protection product Stadium™ that is reported to assist with silver scurf. This work will take time. For now, growers should check that potatoes intended for China do not show signs of silver scurf.

**If an inspector finds pale cyst nematode in my shipment, what happens?**

- The shipment will be rejected and the China chipping potato export program for that state may be suspended for the remainder of the season. It is important that PCN is not present in any shipments.

**Are there requirements regarding how soil must be removed?**

- The Chinese regulations say that potatoes must be free from soil. It can be removed from washing or brushing or both. A phytosanitary certificate will not be issued for the potatoes if soil is present. Shipping potatoes with soil will jeopardize the entire program.

**Can other countries export chipping potatoes to China?**

- At the moment, only the US is approved to export chipping potatoes to China.

## Appendix A

Shippers should use these characters below on the tote bag labels as described in the protocol for **U.S. potato exports for processing (chipping) to China**.

输往中华人民共和国

(Exported to the People's Republic of China)