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MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. /
Series of 2009

SUBJECT: 2009 Revised Protocol for the Export of Fresh Asparagus to Japan

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Presidential Decree No. 1433 and the Philippines obligation under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to meet the importing countries' requirements, the Director of Bureau of Plant Industry hereby issue this revised protocol for the information and guidance of all concerned.

**ACCREDITATION OF FRESH ASPARAGUS FARMERS / GROWERS AND EXPORTERS
AND/OR BOTH**

All asparagus farmers/growers, exporters, and grower-exporters shall apply for accreditation at the nearest Bureau of Plant Industry-Plant Quarantine Service (BPI-PQS) office with the following requirements:

I. Asparagus Producer-Exporter

Those who fall under this classification are asparagus exporters who manage or operate their own farms and who are direct exporters.

A. Requirements

1. Duly accomplished Application Form signed by authorized signatory
2. Copies of Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Business Permit, whichever is applicable
3. Copy of latest Mayor's Permit
4. Two copies of 2 x 2 photo of the owner or representative. Representative must have duly signed and notarized authorization letter or board resolution
5. Pesticide Management Manual recommended by Bureau of Plant Industry - National Pesticide Analytical Laboratory (BPI-NPAL) and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).
6. Location maps of farms and number of productive hectares per location/s.
7. Documented farm cultural practices, pest management and waste disposal system.
8. Documented packing house operation and waste disposal practices.
9. Certificate of training on proper pesticide usage issued by relevant Government agency.

B. Procedure

1. All interested exporters must submit their Pesticide Management Manual to the BPI-NPAL and FPA for evaluation and approval.
2. After the approval and recommendation of BPI-NPAL and FPA, the exporter must file an application for accreditation to the nearest Bureau of Plant Industry-Plant Quarantine Service (BPI-PQS) with the abovementioned requirements.
3. Whenever necessary, the BPI-PQS will conduct an interview especially for applicants who still do not have track record of fresh asparagus exports. Interview will cover Plant Quarantine Law, its implementing rules and regulations and this Protocol.
4. BPI-PQS shall validate and evaluate the operational and cultural management practices, packinghouse standards and operations, including disposal and sanitation programs of each packinghouse.
5. Upon completion of the abovementioned requirements, BPI-PQS will issue a Certificate of Accreditation
6. Any accredited exporter who violates the Plant Quarantine Law, rules and regulations of this protocol will be delisted as an accredited exporter and its Certificate of Accreditation shall be revoked. Re-accreditation shall only be possible upon compliance of all corrective measures based on thorough plant quarantine investigation.

II. Asparagus Trader-Exporter

Those who fall under this classification are asparagus exporters who do not manage nor operate their own farms; and the vegetable they export are procured from accredited asparagus farmers / growers.

A. Requirements

1. Duly accomplished Application Form signed by authorized signatory
2. Copies of Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Business Permit, whichever is applicable
3. Copy of latest Mayor's Permit
4. Two copies of 2 x 2 photo of the owner or representative. Representative must have duly signed and notarized authorization letter or board resolution
5. Pesticide Management Manual recommended by BPI-NPAL and FPA.
6. Notarized certification from the asparagus trader-exporter with clear indication that the vegetable is sourced from accredited asparagus farmer / grower and the asparagus to be exported shall meet the quality standards of the importing country
7. List of accredited asparagus farmer/grower/s, farm location/s, area coverage (has), packing house and locations, and brand name/s used (optional).
8. Certificate of training on proper pesticide usage issued by relevant Government agency.

B. Procedure

1. All interested exporters must submit their Pesticide Management Manual to the BPI-NPAL and FPA for evaluation and approval.
2. After the approval and recommendation of BPI-NPAL and FPA, the exporter must file an application for accreditation to the nearest Bureau of Plant Industry-Plant Quarantine Service (BPI-PQS) with the abovementioned requirements.
3. Whenever necessary, the BPI-PQS will conduct an interview especially for applicants who still do not have track record of fresh asparagus exports. Interview will cover Plant Quarantine Law, its implementing rules and regulations and the Protocol for Fresh Asparagus Export.
4. All interested exporters must endorse to BPI-PQS the list of their farmers / growers and must apply for farmer / grower's accreditation with the following requirements:
 - 3.1 Duly accomplished Application Form signed by authorized signatory
 - 3.2 Two copies of 2 x 2 photo of the farmer / grower
 - 3.3 Certificate of Training / Seminar on the proper usage of pesticide
 - 3.4 The farmer / grower must not have any violation for three (3) consecutive years prior to accreditation
5. Verification of the area, farmer, and farm location will be conducted by the BPI-PQS.
6. BPI-PQS shall validate and evaluate the operational and cultural management practices, packinghouse standards and operations, including disposal and sanitation programs of each packinghouse.
7. Upon completion of the abovementioned requirements, BPI-PQS will issue a Certificate of Accreditation
8. Any accredited exporter who violates the Plant Quarantine Law, rules and regulations of this protocol will be delisted as an accredited exporter and its Certificate of Accreditation shall be revoked. Re-accreditation shall only be possible upon compliance of all corrective measures based on thorough plant quarantine investigation.

PROCEDURE FOR EXPORT

A. Packing and Quarantine Inspection

1. A BPI Plant Quarantine Officer shall be assigned to inspect the packing process at the packing area.
2. All fresh asparagus shall come from the submitted list of areas and list of accredited farmers / growers.
3. The BPI Plant Quarantine Officer shall carry out inspection on five percent (5%) of the total cartons packed
4. BPI Plant Quarantine Officer shall verify that all cartons are bearing the code of exporter and farmer/s.

B. Phytosanitary Certification

Upon presentation of the result of the previous analysis and completion of the inspection and verification of all packed asparagus, a Phytosanitary Certificate will be issued by the BPI-PQS.

C. Monitoring of Pesticide Residue

- I. **Mandatory Sampling**
 - a. Asparagus sample shall be collected by the PQS upon arrival at the packing facility once a week per farm manager and will be subject for pesticide residue analysis.
 - b. The BPI-National Pesticide Analytical Laboratory established by JICA will conduct the residue analysis.
- II. **Farm Monitoring**
 - a. Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) in coordination with BPI shall conduct farm monitoring of the accredited asparagus farms on a regular basis. FPA will have to verify the spraying activities of each exporter's farm every production month.
 - b. BPI-NPAL shall collect asparagus samples on a quarterly basis covering one sample per farm manager and shall conduct the pesticide residue analysis

D. Results of Pesticide Residue Analysis

The following actions shall be done in case of the following results of pesticide residue analysis:

- I. If the result of analysis showed No Detection (ND) of unregistered pesticide for asparagus, a copy of the result will be forwarded to the exporter and BPI-PQS for proper filing.
- II. If the result of analysis showed detection of registered pesticide for asparagus but below MRL, an advisory will be forwarded to the exporter as a precaution.
- III. If result of analysis showed detection of unregistered pesticides for asparagus and detection of registered pesticide for asparagus but above MRL, BPI-NPAL shall immediately notify the BPI Director of the result of analysis. The BPI Director shall also inform the FPA, PQS and the exporter. Asparagus sourced from the samples detected with unregistered pesticide and registered pesticide above MRL shall not be exported to Japan.

FPA with the assistance of BPI will conduct investigation on the detection. FPA and BPI will decide on the corrective measures and proper sanctions to be imposed

REPORTING

All Plant Quarantine Service Stations with asparagus export operations shall submit to the Bureau of Plant Industry the list of Phytosanitary Certificate issued and the result of the pesticide residue analysis of NPAL on a weekly basis for proper verification and consolidation.

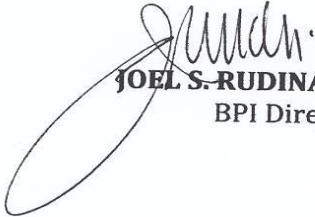
The list shall include the name of the exporter, consignee, volume, destination, signing officer, and others, as may be deemed necessary.

REVALIDATION

Accreditation shall be renewed every first quarter of the year.

EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum shall take effect immediately.



JOEL S. RUDINAS, CESO IV
BPI Director

12 January 2009