



Notification of Department of Agriculture  
Re: Conditions for Import of Watermelon Fruit from Japan  
B.E. 2562 (2019)

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The Department of Agriculture has completed pest risk analysis for commercial importation of fresh watermelon fruit from Japan.

By virtue of the provisions of Section 8 (2) and Section 10 of the Plant Quarantine Act B.E. 2507 (1964) amended by the Plant Quarantine Act (No. 3) B.E. 2551 (2008), with particular provisions that may restrict the right and freedom of any person in which Section 25 together with Section 26, Section 27, Section 28, Section 33, Section 37 and Section 40 of the Constitution of Kingdom of Thailand permits by virtue of the law. The Director-General of Department of Agriculture through the recommendation of the Plant Quarantine Committee hereby announces phytosanitary import requirements of fresh watermelon fruit from Japan as follows:

1. This notification shall be called “Notification of Department of Agriculture, Re: Conditions for Import of Watermelon Fruit from Japan B.E. 2562 (2019).”
2. This notification shall enter into force thirty days after the date of its proclamation in the Government Gazette.
3. **Permitted Plant Species**  
  
Fresh watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) fruit
4. **Quarantine Pests of Concern**  
  
A list of quarantine pests of concern to the Kingdom of Thailand for watermelons from Japan is given in the **Attachment**.
5. **Responsible Organizations**
  - 5.1 Kingdom of Thailand: Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as DOA).
  - 5.2 Japan: Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is designated as an official National Plant Protection Organization of Japan (hereinafter referred to as NPPO).

## 6. Import Permit

Import permit issued by DOA is required.

## 7. Means of Conveyance

Watermelons must be imported from a port in Japan to a designated port in the Kingdom of Thailand by sea cargo or air cargo.

## 8. Production Areas

Watermelons must be produced in Japan and sourced from areas designated by the NPPO as production areas for export to the Kingdom of Thailand and approved by the DOA prior to export.

## 9. Requirements for Production

- 9.1 Watermelons destined for export to the Kingdom of Thailand must be grown only in pest-proof greenhouses registered by the NPPO. Copies of the registration records must be made available to DOA upon request. The NPPO is required to register greenhouses prior to commencement of export.
- 9.2 Growers of registered production sites must implement integrated pest management to ensure that quarantine pests of concern to the Kingdom of Thailand are adequately managed. Growers must have pest control activities in place and maintain records of pest monitoring and pest control activities and these must be available for verification on request.
- 9.3 The NPPO must inspect and regularly monitor greenhouses for quarantine pests. The NPPO must inspect greenhouses and plants, including fruit, at intervals of no more than 2 weeks, from the time of fruit set until the end of harvest.
- 9.4 The NPPO must set and maintain McPhail traps (or a similar type such as gallon trap with a protein bait that has been approved for the pests of concern) to monitor pumpkin fruit fly (PFF) (*Bactrocera depressa*) in greenhouses from the time of fruit set until the end of harvest. The number of traps must be set as follows: Two traps for greenhouses smaller than 0.2 hectare in size; three traps for greenhouses 0.2 to 0.5 hectare; four traps for greenhouses over 0.5 hectare and up to 1.0 hectare; and for greenhouses greater than 1 hectare, traps must be placed at a rate of four traps per hectare.
- 9.5 The NPPO must check all traps once every 2 weeks. If a single PFF is captured, that greenhouse will lose its registration until trapping shows that the infestation has been eradicated.



## **10. Requirements for Packinghouse**

- 10.1 Watermelons destined for export to the Kingdom of Thailand must be packed only in pest-proof packinghouses registered by the NPPO. Copies of the registration records must be made available to DOA upon request. The NPPO is required to register packinghouses prior to commencement of export.
- 10.2 Packinghouses are required to source watermelons only from the NPPO registered greenhouses to facilitate trace back of export fruit. Records of growers supplying watermelons for export to the Kingdom of Thailand must be maintained by packinghouses and made available to the NPPO and DOA upon request.
- 10.3 Packinghouses are required to have well-documented standard operating procedures (SOPs) which describes in detail all processes related to grading, handling and packing.
- 10.4 An audit must be conducted by the NPPO prior to registration of packinghouses and then done at least annually. Packinghouses must be responsible for maintaining all documentation.
- 10.5 Inspection of fruit for freedom from quarantine pests must be done within the registered packinghouses.

## **11. Requirements for Packing and Labeling**

- 11.1 Watermelons must be packed in new and clean packaging and free from live insects, soil, sand and contaminating plant materials e.g. leaves, twigs, seeds, plant debris or other potential carriers of quarantine pests.
- 11.2 Each consignment must be protected from pest infestation from harvest until export. Newly harvested fruit must be covered with insect-proof mesh or a plastic tarpaulin while moving to the packinghouse and awaiting packing. Fruit must be packed within 24 hours of harvesting and met one of the following requirements.
  - (1) Watermelons must be consigned in a carton without hole. or
  - (2) Watermelons within a carton must be either enclosed in a net bag or enclosed fully (wrapped) in netting. The diameter of the hole must not to be more than 1.6 millimeters. or
  - (3) Watermelons must be consigned in a carton in which, when closed, all air vent holes are sealed with netting. The diameter of the hole must not to be more than 1.6 millimeters. or
  - (4) When the cartons are palletized or otherwise assembled as a bundle, the bundle must be fully enclosed by a net or sealed in plastic. If a net is used, the diameter of the hole must not to be more than 1.6 millimeters.

These safeguards must be intact when the consignment arrives at the port in the Kingdom of Thailand

- 11.3 The package must have necessary information to facilitate traceability. However, it is required that, at least, the following information in English must appear on each package.

- Product or produce of Japan
- Name of exporting company
- Name of fruit
- Packinghouse code (PHC)
- Production unit code (PUC)

- 11.4 If watermelons are exported to the Kingdom of Thailand in loose cartons, the following information "EXPORT TO THAILAND" must be appeared on each carton. However, if they are exported to the Kingdom of Thailand on pallets in shipping container, it is allowable to have the following information "EXPORT TO THAILAND" appearing on each side.

- 11.5 All consignments destined to the Kingdom of Thailand using solid wood packing material must comply with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

## **12. Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection**

- 12.1 All consignments will be inspected by the DOA under an offshore pre-shipment inspection arrangement. The NPPO shall send an official letter and a list of registered greenhouses to DOA requesting DOA to dispatch inspector(s) at least one month prior to offshore pre-shipment inspection commencing.

- 12.2 All costs associated with the offshore pre-shipment inspection by DOA must be borne by Japan.

## **13. Export Inspection**

- 13.1 Prior to the start of every export year, DOA inspector shall check greenhouses, packinghouses, monitoring of PFF, trapping data, NPPO inspector's visit reports.

- 13.2 The NPPO inspector and the DOA inspector must jointly inspect an export consignment. For consignment of fruit of less than 1000 units, the sample size is either 450 units or 100% of consignment. For consignment of fruit of greater than or equal to 1000 units, then 600 units are to be sampled.

- 13.3 Watermelons for export to Kingdom of Thailand must free from any quarantine pests specified in the **Attachment**.



- 13.4 If quarantine pests as specified in the **Attachment** are found, the following measures shall be undertaken:

13.4.1 If any live stage of PFF is detected during export inspection, the infested consignment shall be rejected for export to the Kingdom of Thailand. Nevertheless, the consignment which has passed export inspection and obtained a phytosanitary certificate is allowed to export to the Kingdom of Thailand. Watermelons from infested greenhouses must not be further certified to export to the Kingdom of Thailand for the rest of export season.

13.4.2 If live quarantine pests other than PFF are found, the consignment shall be treated with an appropriated treatment (if available) or withdrawn from export.

- 13.5 If quarantine pests specified in the Attachment are not found, the NPPO inspector shall issue a phytosanitary certificate and the DOA inspector shall make a signature on the blank space of the phytosanitary certificate.

#### **14. Phytosanitary Certification**

- 14.1 A phytosanitary certificate (PC) issued by the NPPO is required. The original copy must accompany every consignment to the Kingdom of Thailand and bear the following additional declaration:

*"The consignment of watermelon fruit was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the conditions for import of watermelon fruit from Japan to Thailand."*

- 14.2 Shipping container number and seal numbers (sea freight only) must be recorded on the phytosanitary certificate.

#### **15. Import Inspection**

- 15.1 When the consignments arrive at the point of entry in the Kingdom of Thailand, the import inspection must be conducted after confirming the respective documents accompanying the consignments concerned.
- 15.2 All consignments must be free of live insects, disease symptoms, contaminant seeds, soil, trash and other debris on arrival in the Kingdom of Thailand.
- 15.3 A representative sample of the consignments will be randomly selected, at the inspector's discretion, and examined to determine if pests are present. If live pests are found, samples will normally be sent for laboratory identification, and the consignments held pending the results.
- 15.4 For consignments of fruit of less than 1000 units, the sample size is either 450 units or 100% of consignment. For consignments of fruit of greater than or equal to 1000 units, then 600 units are to be sampled.

- 15.5 In the case of quarantine pests of concern to the Kingdom of Thailand as stipulated in the **Attachment** being found during import inspection, the following measures must be taken:
- 15.5.1 If any live stage of PFF is found, the infested consignment must be either re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expenses. DOA will immediately notify the NPPO of the non-compliance. Subsequently, the NPPO must not certify watermelons from infested greenhouses to export to the Kingdom of Thailand for the rest of export season
  - 15.5.2 If live quarantine pests other than PFF are found, the consignment shall be re-exported, destroyed or treated with an appropriated treatment (if available) at the importer's expenses.
- 15.6 If any live organism of potential quarantine concern to the Kingdom of Thailand not listed in the **Attachment** is found, the consignment must be treated with an appropriated treatment (if available), re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expense. The DOA reserves the right to impose a temporary suspension of import from the identified pathway until a risk assessment of intercepted organisms is determined.
- 15.7 DOA reserves the right to have fruit re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expense, if one of the following cases is found.
- 15.7.1 Container doors are not completely closed.
  - 15.7.2 Container seal is broken or replaced or does not match the number on the phytosanitary certificate.
  - 15.7.3 Packaging labeling is missing or incorrect or incomplete.
  - 15.7.4 The packaging is broken and is not met insect-proof requirements.

## 16. Audit of Export Procedures

- 16.1 The export of watermelons from Japan to the Kingdom of Thailand shall only begin after the DOA has completed the audit of export certification procedures of Japan. The costs of such audits must be borne by Japan.
- 16.2 In the event of a suspension of import or any irregularity, DOA shall audit export certification procedures in Japan prior to a decision being taken on resumption of import. The costs of such audits must be borne by Japan.

Issued on 14 February B.E. 2562 (2019)

Ms. Surmsuk Salaketch

Director-General  
Department of Agriculture



## Attachment

List of Quarantine Pests of Watermelon Fruit from Japan  
Attached to the Notification of Department of Agriculture  
Re: Conditions for Import of Watermelon Fruit from Japan B.E. 2562 (2019)

Scientific name	Common name
Insects	
Order Diptera	
Family Tephritidae	
<i>Bactrocera depressa</i>	pumpkin fruit fly
Order Lepidoptera	
Family Noctuidae	
<i>Anadevidia peponis</i>	cucurbit looper
<i>Athetis stellata</i>	-
Mites	
Order Trombidiformes	
Family Tetranychidae	
<i>Bryobia practiosa</i>	clover mite
Plant Pathogen	
Fungi	
<i>Phytophthora cryptogea</i>	fruit rot

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- The Government Gazette: Volume 136, Special Part 53 Ngor, Page 38-44, Date 1 March B.E. 2562 (2019)
  - UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
  - This is an English translation. In case of any difference in meaning between the Thai text and the English translation, the Thai text shall be applied.