

## Instructions No. (G/28) for the year 2016

### Instructions for Import, Export, Production and Trade of Potato Seeds issued under Article (18) of the Agriculture Law No. 13 of 2015 and its Amendments

#### **Article (1)**

These instructions shall be called (Import, Export, Production and Trade of Potato Seeds for the year 2016) and shall come into effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

#### **Article (2)**

Subject to the provisions of Article 2 of the Agriculture Law No. (13) For the year 2015 and its amendments, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context indicates otherwise:

**Director:** Director of the Directorate of Plant Production

**Directorate:** Directorate of Plant Production

**Seeds:** Potato Seeds

**Seed Company:** Any facility licensed to import, export and trade seeds.

#### **Article (3)**

The importation of potato seeds shall only be allowed with the prior approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and the countries approved by it, which shall produce the seeds within a field and laboratory control program by the official authorities accredited therein.

#### **Article (4)**

Applications for import shall be submitted to the Ministry indicating the type, source, country of origin and quantity to be imported.

### **Article (5)**

A .It shall be allowed to Import the varieties specified by the Ministry which have been proved to be successful, under the conditions of the different regions in Jordan, and have been tested over two agricultural seasons by the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension.

B. Companies shall be allowed to import varieties for the purposes of experiments and observations in specified quantities not exceeding 5 tons per variety, after obtaining prior approval from the Ministry.

### **Article (6)**

The following grades shall be adopted when importing potato seeds:

A. Basic seeds Grades (E, SE) or their equivalent;

B. Certified Seeds Grade (A)

### **Article (7)**

The following categories shall be allowed to import potatoes:

A. **Seed companies:** shall be allowed to import all grades of the registered varieties contained in Article (6) of these instructions.

B. **Farmers:** shall be allowed to import all grades of the registered varieties in quantities sufficient to grow their agricultural holdings by virtue of a letter from the concerned Agriculture Director stating that the applicant is a farmer who has enough space to grow the quantity of seed to be imported.

### **Article (8)**

The following certificates shall be attached to each imported seed consignment:

A. a certificate at testing that the consignment is a seed produced under a field and laboratory control program.

B. a certificate showing conducting test to detect viral diseases on the seeds produced after the harvest (Post harvest test).

C. a phytosanitary certificate from the competent official authority in the country of origin proving that the consignment is free of pests. If imported from outside the country of origin, a phytosanitary certificate shall be attached to the consignment, in addition to the previous certificate. In both cases, non-original copies of these certificates shall not be accepted.

D. Duly-certified certificate of origin.

E. Invoice containing the names, grades and quantities of the varieties.

F. A list containing the imported quantities of each variety classified by grower number or lot number.

G. A certificate proving that the seeds are not genetically modified.

#### **Article (9)**

it is not allowed to enter any consignment of potato seeds unless the conditions of plant quarantine are met, including the samples that their quantity is more than 500 kg.

#### **Article (10)**

Imported seed shall be packed in jute bags according to the following conditions:

A. The bags should be new, unused and have standard weights.

B. The exporting company's brand name, product name, seed grade and net weight should be clearly printed on the bags.

C. Each bag should contain the label of the inspector sewn from the outside, containing the species, variety, seed grade, net weight, origin, year of production, grower number or lot number, packing date, chemical treatment and seed size.

#### **Article (11)**

The following general conditions shall be met for the seed:

A. Seeds must be produced in the same season of import.

B. Diameter of tubers should be (28 - 60) mm with a tolerance not exceeding (3%) of the minimum size and (3%) of the maximum size for all grades.

C. The tubers shall be complete, fully developed and comply with the specifications of the variety.

D. Tubers should be free of deformities and physiological diseases such as black heart, hollow heart, brown spot, internal buds, with a tolerance of no more than 3% for grades E, SE and 5% for other grades.

E. The length of the growth of the sprouts upon the arrival of the consignment to the border centers shall not exceed 20 mm, except for the terminal bud. If tubers are solid, it is possible to exceed the maximum limit by 10% of the number of tubers for all grades, and by 5% in case of the shrinkage of tubers.

F) The consignment shall be free of mechanical damage. It is possible to exceed the limit by no more than 3% for the seeds of grades E, SE and 6% for the other grades.

G. For deformities caused by pest damage, a maximum tolerance of 3% shall be allowed for grades E, SE and 5% for other grades, provided that the causes of these distortions do not exist in a live manner.

H. For natural soil pollution, a maximum tolerance of 2% of the weight shall be allowed for the weight of all grades.

#### **Article (12)**

Imported Seed potatoes of all grades shall completely be free of the following pests:

Wart Disease of Potato caused by the fungus <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i>
Ring rot caused by <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> subsp. <i>Sepedonicus</i>
Bacterial Brown rot caused by <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>
Black Leg caused by <i>Dickeya spp.</i>
Potato Golden Cyst Nematode <i>Globodera pallida</i> and <i>G. rostochiensis</i>
Root-knot Nematodes caused by <i>Meloidogyne spp.</i>
Potato Tuber Rot Nematode <i>Ditylenchus Destructor</i>
Aster Yellow Phytoplasma Group
Potato Mop Top Plasma virus (PMTP)
Tobacco Rattle Virus
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid
Pepino Mosaic Virus
Colorado Beetle <i>Leptinotarsa decemlinear</i>

Potato Flea Beetle <i>Epitrix spp.</i>
Japanese Beetle <i>Papillia japonica</i>
Snail, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Archachatina spp.</i></li> <li>• <i>Achatina spp.</i></li> <li>• <i>Helix spp.</i></li> <li>• <i>Theban spp.</i></li> <li>• <i>Megalobulimus oblongus</i></li> </ul> or any other type of plant-damaging snails
Slugs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Slug (<i>Arion hortensis</i>)</li> <li>• Field Slug (<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>)</li> <li>• Keel Slug (<i>Tandoniabadapestensis</i>)</li> <li>• Black Slug (<i>Arion ater</i>)</li> <li>• Red Slug (<i>Arion rufus</i>)</li> </ul> or any other type of plant-damaging slugs

**Article (13)**

The incidence of the following diseases shall not exceed the limit prescribed for each of them, which include:

Disease	Maximum allowable limit for grades (%)				
	SE	E	A	B*	C*
A-Dry mold caused by the following fungi: <i>Phytophthora spp.</i> <i>Alternaria spp.</i> <i>Fusarium spp.</i>	0	1	2	3	4
B - Soft rot which includes: Black leg disease caused by ( <i>Pectobacterium atroseptica</i> )	0	0	1	1	2
.Soft rot disease caused by ( <i>Pectobacterium carotovorum subsp. Carotovorum</i> )	0	1	5	10	15

C) Fungal disease caused by verticillium: <i>Verticillium albo-atrum</i> <i>Verticillium dahliae</i>	0	0	1	1	2
D) late blight caused by the fungus <i>Phytophthora infestans</i> and early blight caused by the fungus <i>Alternaria solani</i>	0	1	2	3	4

\* Domestic production only

#### Article (14)

The percentage of infected tubers with black scurf disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* should not exceed the ratios shown below for each grade:

Seed Grade	Maximum Limit Of Severe Infection ***	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Medium Infection**	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Light Infection*
E,SE	1 %	5 %	10 %
A	3 %	10 %	15 %
B	5 %	13 %	25 %
C	7 %	15 %	30 %

#### Article (15)

The percentage of infected tubers with *Streptomyces scabies* should not exceed the ratios shown below for all grades

Seed Grade	Maximum Limit Of Severe Infection ***	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Medium Infection**	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Light Infection*
E,SE	2 %	5 %	15 %

A	5 %	15 %	30 %
B	10 %	25 %	40 %
C	15 %	35 %	50 %

**Article (16)**

The percentage of infected tubers with *Spongospora subterranean* should not exceed the ratios shown below for each grade:

Seed Grade	Maximum Limit Of Severe Infection ***	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Medium Infection**	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Light Infection*
E,SE	0 %	0 %	1 %
A	1 %	5 %	10 %
B	5 %	10 %	20 %
C	7 %	15 %	25 %

**Article (17)**

The percentage of infected tubers with *Helminthosporium solani* should not exceed the ratios shown below for each grade:

Seed Grade	Maximum Limit Of Severe Infection ***	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Medium Infection**	Maximum Allowable Limit Of Light Infection*

E,SE	0 %	0 %	1 %
A	1 %	5 %	10 %
B	5 %	10 %	20 %
C	5 %	15 %	20 %

**Article (18)**

The symbols in the tables of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 are expressed as follows

**\*\*\* Severe infection:** - the infection in which the disease covers more than 10% of the surface of the tuber.

**\*\* Medium infection:** - the infection in which the disease covers 5-10% of the surface of the tuber.

**\* Light infection:** - the infection in which the disease covers less than 5% of the surface of the tuber.

**Article (19)**

-The consignment shall be free from potato tubers mouth, which includes the following types of Lepidoptera:

*Phthorimaea operculella*

*Symmetrischama tansolias*

*Tecia solanivora*

**Article (20)**

Viral infections shall not exceed the rates shown below for different grades, provided that all viral infection rates do not exceed the limits set out below, even if they are individually successful.

Disease	Maximum allowable limit
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	for grades (%)				
	SE	E	A	B*	C*
Potato leaf roll (PLRV) virus	0	1	4	5	6
Potato Virus Y (PVY)	0	1	4	5	6
Potato Virus A (PVA)	0	1	4	5	6
Potato Virus X (PVX)	0	2	4	5	6
Potato Virus S (PVS)	0	2	4	5	6
The maximum allowable limit of total rate of infection with viruses PLRV, PVY, PVA	0	2	7	10	14
The maximum allowable limit of total rate of infection with viruses PVX, PVS	0	3	6	8	10

### **Article (21)**

The Minister forms a committee of specialists to inspect the consignments of the imported and locally produced potato seeds, called the Potato Seeds physical Inspection Committee and headed by the Director of the Directorate of Plant Production.

### **Article (22)**

Upon the arrival of a shipment of potato seeds to the border centers, the virtual inspection committee shall be notified and the inspections shall be carried out according to the following steps:

- 1 - The staff of the border agricultural center shall examine the documents attached to the consignment, according to the following:
  - A. If the documents are not complete, samples shall not be taken for examination and the importer shall be notified to complete the documents

within 72 hours from the date of arrival. In case of failure to do so, the consignment shall be returned back to the country of origin or be damaged at the border at the expense of the importer.

- B. If the documents are complete, the staff of the agricultural center shall take representative samples of each consignment so that the samples represent the variety, grade and grower number. The sample shall be selected from 2% of the bags in the consignment and shall be mixed well. A random sample of an appropriate size of not less than 50 kg shall be taken and sent within a duly marked and sealed bag to conduct the inspection and a copy of all the documents attached to the consignment shall be sent to the inspection committee.
2. The virtual inspection shall be done within 48 hours from the date of sending the sample to the inspection center.
  3. The Committee shall examine the documents received with the consignment
  4. The Committee shall inspect the sample ostensibly, with respect to the conformity of the variety, size, mechanical damage, fungal and bacterial diseases and insect infestation to what indicated in Articles 11-18 above.
  5. The virtual inspection committee shall prepare a report containing the results of the virtual inspection and indicating the conformity of the consignment to the specifications and shall submit the report to the director for approval.
  6. In the case of success of the virtual inspection, the remaining sample shall be sent to the laboratory to detect viral, fungal, bacterial, nematode and brown mold diseases, by taking samples representing the grower number of each imported variety. The importer shall be given a delivery permit and shall not be allowed to clear the consignment, which shall be kept with him pending the result of the laboratory inspection under a legal declaration of the value of the consignment. If the consignment meets the specifications, it shall be duly cleared. Otherwise, it shall be destroyed at the expense of the importer or re-exported.

### **Article (23)**

- If the consignment does not meet the specifications mentioned in Article (11) because of the size or the mechanical damage, the importer shall be allowed to enter it with a legal declaration of the value of the consignment and shall not be allowed to clear it. The consignment shall be sorted at his expense according to the variety, grower number and lot number, each separately, after submitting a request and obtaining the approval of the chairman of the committee. The labels should be re-affixed properly to the bags and then re-examined by the virtual inspection committee. If the consignment conforms to the specifications, the sample of the laboratory examination shall be taken; otherwise the non-conforming amount of the consignment shall be re-exported or destroyed at the expense of the importer.
- If the consignment of potatoes is rejected for any reason other than those stated in paragraph (A), the chairman of the committee may allow the importer to repeat the inspection for only once. In this case, the inspection shall be carried out by the virtual inspection committee or by the laboratory on the samples deposited with them at the expense of the applicant. If the quantity deposited is not sufficient, another sample shall duly be requested.

### **Article (24)**

It shall not be allowed to use non-certified potato seeds in the fields of potato seed production in Jordan.

### **Article (25)**

Seeds of grades (E, SE) or above are locally used in the production of potato seeds. These seeds are only abundant for one season to produce the C, B and A seeds as determined by the results of field inspection and laboratory tests on the produced seeds.

**Article (26)**

Potato seeds shall be produced from the varieties specified by the ministry.

**Article (27)**

The parties wishing to produce potato seeds locally shall obtain approval to produce seeds from the Ministry according to the following conditions:

- A. The company shall be licensed as a seed company.
- B. The supervisor of the production field shall be an agricultural engineer specialized in plant production or plant protection and registered with the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association

**Article (28)**

- The license application shall be submitted to the Directorate of Plant Production for consideration, along with the following documents:
  - 1. New registration deed and land plan for the site as well as a lease contract for at least one year, duly certified if the land is leased.
  - 2. A statement showing available technical capabilities and supplies of equipment, machines and techniques.
  - 3. Seed company license.
  - 4. Valid certificate of practice for the agricultural engineer.
  - 5. A copy of the university certificate showing the specialization of the agricultural engineer.
- B. The application shall be considered within thirty days from the date of submission and completion of the required documents. In the event of approval, a license for seed production shall be granted.

**Article (29)**

The producer shall comply with the following:

- A. It shall not allowed to cultivate a plot of land for more than once provided that a triple crop rotation is followed before the cultivation of the same plot so that the rotation does not include any crops of the *Solanaceae* family.

- B. the instructions determined by the field inspectors shall be applied, in terms of:
1. Removing exotic plants from the variety and the plants showing fungal, bacterial or viral disease symptoms (Rouging).
  2. Combating herbs.
  3. Applying plant protection programs to control agricultural pests.
- C. Placing yellow water traps or any other type accepted by the Ministry to monitor Aphid insects from the production fields, recording their numbers periodically and providing these data to field inspectors upon request.
- D. Killing the total plant vegetation in the fields of production at the date specified by field inspectors.
- E. Providing a separation distance between seed propagation fields and the nearest table potato production field for a distance of not less than 300 meters.

**Article (30)**

it shall be permitted to produce potato seeds in all irrigated areas in the kingdom except for the Jordan Valley regions.

**Article (31)**

A technical committee shall be formed in the Ministry, called Field Inspection Committee, whose members include specialists in the plant production and plant protection.

**Article (32)**

The Plant Wealth Laboratories in the Ministry and the laboratories of the National Center for Agricultural Research and Transfer of Technology shall be used to conduct laboratory tests on samples produced in propagation fields.

**Article (33)**

Field supervision and inspections shall be carried out as follows:

- A. Field inspections shall be carried out 2-3 times during the season according to the planting dates of the cultivated varieties. The field inspection committee may conduct additional operations, if necessary.

B. the Field Inspection Committee shall inspect the field, verify the contents of Article (30) above and give the necessary guidance on pest infestation and control.

C. No plant with black leg disease or mild mold disease shall be allowed in seed propagation fields of grades (E,SE). A maximum of 10, 5 and 15 infected plants per hectare shall be allowed for grades C, B, A, respectively.

D. After harvesting and staging, the seeds produced shall be inspected, both outwardly and in laboratory, according to Articles (11-21). The final grade of the resulting seed shall be determined after all these tests.

### **Article (34)**

The product shall be licensed for sale as a seed for planting after fulfilling the following procedures:

A. The product shall be packed in new, unused, single-weight jute bags and the following information shall be printed on each bag:

Company name, variety name, seed grade, bag capacity(kg), production season.

B- A label shall be affixed to the bag specifying the grade of seeds according to the following specifications:

1 - The label shall have the size of (10x12) cm and be of cardboard.

2- The color of label:

Grades E, SE shall be given a white color.

Grade A shall be given blue color.

Grade B shall be given red color.

Grade C shall be given yellow color.

3- The following information shall be printed on the label:

- Inspector

- Producing company

- Variety Name

- Grade

- Size of tubers

- Year of production
- Packing date
- Grower number
- Chemical treatment

C- The Ministry shall approve the labels for the producer.

**Article (35)**

Potato seed production fields that do not meet the certification requirements of seed potatoes shall be transferred to table potato production fields

**Article (36)**

Any person who violates these instructions shall be punished under Article (18) of Law No. (13) For the year 2015 and its amendments.

**Article (37)**

These instructions shall supersede any prior instructions that conflict with its provisions.

**Minister of Agriculture**

**Dr. Akef Al - Zoubi**