

**PROTOCOL ON PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
EXPORT OF CHINESE DATES**

BETWEEN

**THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY SUPERVISION,
INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA**

AND

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

In order to safely export fresh Chinese dates from the People's Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa (hereinafter referred to as DAFF) and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (hereinafter referred to as AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China on the basis of pest risk analysis, had friendly consultation and reached consensus as follows:

Paragraph 1
General provision

The fresh Chinese dates (*Ziziphus jujube*, hereinafter referred to as “Chinese dates”) to be exported to South Africa from the People’s Republic of China should comply with South Africa relevant phytosanitary laws and regulations and sanitary safety standards, and meet the phytosanitary requirements of the provisions of this Protocol, should not carry quarantine pests concerned to South Africa (See Annex 1).

Paragraph 2
Registration and approval

Production sites (orchards), packing houses, cold storage houses shall be registered with AQSIQ and approved both by DAFF and AQSIQ. Before the export season of every year, a list of registered production sites and packing houses should be submitted to DAFF by AQSIQ. All the orchards involved in the Chinese dates export should possess registration numbers, which make it possible to trace back in the case of non-compliance.

Paragraph 3
Pre-harvest pest management program and general surveillance

3.1 AQSIQ shall ensure that production sites registered for export are subjected to an orchard control program. Programs shall incorporate field sanitation (Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), appropriate pesticide application and integrated pest management programme (IPM) for the in-field risk management of pests of quarantine concern to South Africa, as

listed in Annex 1 of this protocol.

3.2 Detection/monitoring surveys for pests that require in-field management measures shall be conducted regularly by AQSIQ in orchards registered for export. Upon request, AQSIQ shall submit the results to DAFF using their standard reporting format. If new quarantine pest(s) of concern to South Africa (excluding Annex 1) is detected, DAFF shall be notified immediately for appropriate action to be taken.

3.3 AQSIQ shall, through inspection and continuous surveillance programs ensure that the export fruits are free from quarantine pests listed in Annex 1 of this protocol. Surveillance records shall be made available for review upon request by DAFF.

3.4 Monitoring of pests shall be conducted regularly in the registered production sites by AQSIQ. Should new potential quarantine pests be detected in association with Chinese dates, AQSIQ shall immediately notify DAFF for appropriate action to be taken. DAFF shall then respond to AQSIQ for any phytosanitary measures to be implemented and subsequent changes to the quarantine pest list and phytosanitary import requirements.

3.5 Pest control, inspection and other relevant records and information shall be made available for review upon request by DAFF.

3.6 The control measures shall provide regulatory assurance that the Chinese dates for export are free from pests of quarantine concern to South Africa, and shall be described in a written format and signed by the responsible technician of the AQSIQ.

Paragraph 4
Pest free areas

The Pest Free status in respect of *Bactrocera correcta*, *Bactrocera cucurbitae*, *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera diversa* (listed in Annex 1) in the Chinese dates producing areas in the People's Republic of China (the following provinces: Anhui, Beijing, Gansu, Hebei, Henan, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Shandong, Tianjin and Xinjiang), is accepted based on the compliance of such areas with the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM 4, 1996), *Requirements for the Establishment of Pest Free Areas* as well as other relevant ISPMs.

Paragraph 5
Post- harvest measures

5.1 Chinese dates shall be packed and stored in approved facilities situated within the fruit fly free area. Only fruit identified by a registered orchard number and that meets the export conditions set out in this protocol, shall be delivered to the packing houses.

5.2 The facility shall be clean and maintained free of pests, soil, plant debris, discarded and/or infested fruit. The packing line shall be cleaned prior to packing if fruit for the domestic or other export market(s) has been packed and no other fruit should be on the packing line at the time of packing. The fruit is not to be mixed or stored with non-export fruit.

5.3 Export Chinese dates shall be clearly identifiable from domestic fruit and the storage facilities shall be equipped with appropriate facilities to avoid fruit re-infestation by pests.

5.4 During the Chinese dates packing period for export to South Africa, no fruit for the domestic market is to be packed at the same packing line. Rejected fruit shall be removed from the packing area at the end of each day.

5.5 Chinese dates shall be appropriately selected, cleaned, culled, sorted, packed, inspected, stored and transported under supervision by AQSIQ and/or the branch of AQSIQ known as the China Inspection and Quarantine Organization (CIQ) so as to ensure that the fruits are free of any quarantine pests of concern to South Africa and safe guard against contamination with quarantine pests.

5.6 Only mature, disease symptomless and unblemished Chinese dates shall be exported.

5.7 Chinese dates shall be effectively safeguarded from contamination from orchards or other crops in the vicinity during packing, loading and transportation.

5.8 The packing materials for Chinese dates destined for South Africa shall be new and clean cardboard boxes/cartons. No packing material of plant origin, such as straw, shall be used.

Each carton (box) of Chinese dates will be marked in English with correct and accurate information as indicated in Annex 2.

5.9 Post harvest inspection: Inspect 100% of fruit in a sample consisting of 2% of the total cartons in shipment intended for export to South Africa (unless otherwise amended by an Addendum to this protocol). The minimum inspection sample will be 1,200 fruits regardless of the size of shipment. In small shipments where the number of samples by ratio sampling is less than 1200 fruits, it still needs to take 1200 fruits. Cartons selected will be representative of each of the grower lots in the shipment. At the same time, at least 40 fruits or suspected fruits during inspection should be cut for inspection, which should not carry quarantine pests of concerns to South Africa.

5.10 If *Bactrocera correcta*, *Bactrocera cucurbitae*, *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera diversa* be detected in the Pest Free Areas, AQSIQ shall reject the consignment/lot for export to South Africa and temporarily suspend the export of Chinese dates from the designated export area. AQSIQ shall notify DAFF immediately and appropriate action shall be taken.

5.11. Should any other quarantine pests of concern as listed in Annex 1 be detected, the consignment/lot shall be rejected for export to South Africa, and Phytosanitary action shall be taken by AQSIQ.

Paragraph 6
Phytosanitary certification

6.1 An import permit is required in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983).

6.2 On completion of the quarantine inspection, a Phytosanitary Certificate shall be issued by AQSIQ within 14 days prior to shipment, bearing the container number and the following statement: “This consignment of Chinese dates complies with *the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Chinese dates from China to South Africa*, and is free of any pests of quarantine concern to South Africa”. The province, production site (orchard), packing house identification number and container number should also be noted on the certificate.

Paragraph 7
Phytosanitary inspection on arrival

7.1 Ports of entry for the import of Chinese dates in South Africa from China shall be the following: seaports – Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth: Airports – O.R. Tambo International Airport and the container depot in City Deep.

7.2 After the program is initiated, AQSIQ shall notify DAFF in advance of the expected date of arrival and port of entry of the first shipment to enter South Africa.

7.3 Once a shipment of Chinese dates arrives at the designated port of entry, DAFF shall examine the relevant documents and markings.

7.4 Any consignment with certification that does not conform to the specifications set out in this protocol shall be rejected.

7.5 Upon arrival of the consignment at the port of entry, a representative sample shall be drawn and inspected for all quarantine pests listed in Annex 1 and suspect fruit shall be dissected to determine the status of infestation.

7.6 If living *Bactrocera correcta*, *Bactrocera cucurbitae*, *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera diversa* is detected on arrival, the consignment shall be returned or destroyed. DAFF will immediately notify AQSIQ that the export of Chinese dates from the designated export areas as listed in PARAGRAPH 4 is temporarily suspended. DAFF and AQSIQ will consult and implement corrective measures as deemed necessary.

7.7 If any other quarantine pest(s) of concern to South Africa are detected, the fruit will be treated, re-exported or destroyed in accordance with relevant South African legislation. DAFF will immediately take the necessary corrective actions and notify AQSIQ to carry out an investigation. DAFF and AQSIQ will consult and implement corrective measures as deemed necessary including temporary suspension of the corresponding orchard or packing house.

Paragraph 8
Visit to China by DAFF

8.1 Prior to program initiation, DAFF shall send two quarantine experts to the relevant Chinese dates producing areas in China to review and pretest the quarantine status in cooperation with AQSIQ, including pest surveillance and monitoring verification of pest free area status regarding fruit flies, the system of quarantine management practices and the phytosanitary condition of the production areas, orchards, packing houses and storage facilities.

8.2 Based on the official documents and technical information provided by AQSIQ and the report of the South African experts, DAFF will approve initiation of this program.

8.3 The expenses for the above-mentioned examination and preview, including travel, food and accommodation and allowance, will be covered by China

Paragraph 9
Implementation and dispute settlement

9.1 AQSIQ and DAFF agree to make every effort to settle any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this protocol through bilateral consultation or negotiation.

9.2 This agreement is subject to review, revision and amendment as necessary.

This protocol, written in both English and Chinese languages, is signed at *Beijing December 4, 2014* (location) on (date). The protocol will enter into effect on the date of signature. Each document is available in duplicate. Each participant shall keep a copy. Both texts are equally authentic. This protocol will remain valid for two years from the date of entry into force and will be extended automatically for one year if neither of the sides requests for amendment or termination two months before the expiration of its validity.

The General Administration of Quality
Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
of the People's Republic of China

The Department of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of
South Africa


Representative

 
Representative