

**BILATERAL QUARANTINE  
ARRANGEMENT**

between the

**Plant Protection and Inspection Services  
of Israel (PPIS)**

and the

**Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad  
Agroalimentaria of the Ministerio de Economia,  
Argentina (SENASA)**

regarding the

**Conditions for the Importation of  
Apple, pear and quince fruit  
*(Malus domestica, Pyrus communis and Cydonia  
oblonga)***

**from Argentina into Israel**

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose**

This arrangement on plant quarantine requirements is between the Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Israel and the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA) of the Ministerio de Economía, Argentina. This arrangement is to enable Argentina to send consignments of fresh apples, pears and quinces (*Malus domestica*, *Pyrus communis* and *Cydonia oblonga*) to Israel while minimizing the phytosanitary risks involved. It is understood that the producing country's national plant protection organization is officially and directly responsible for assuring that the requirements detailed herein are fully implemented prior to export.

### **1.2 Scope**

This paper contains the conditions that permit the importation of fresh fruit of apples, pears and quinces from Argentina to Israel. It also, outlines the responsibilities in implementing this arrangement by the two quarantine services.

### **1.3 Background**

Until January 2002, fresh apples and pears from Argentina were not permitted entry into Israel. Until December 2004 fresh quinces from Argentina were also not permitted entry into Israel. This was consistent with the policy that prohibits the import of plant material from new sources until a pest risk analysis (PRA) has been completed. The PRA was completed for apples and pears in January 2002 and for quinces in December 2004 and the PPIS concluded that the importation of fresh apples, pears and quinces from Argentina could be permitted, provided that Argentina meets the requirements described in a bilateral arrangement that was signed in January 2002. Following a number of years of experience in the import of these commodities, this revised arrangement puts into place the agreed changes in the import requirements as agreed by the two sides.

## **2. Definitions**

### **2.1 Quarantine Regulated Pests for Israel**

These pests, according to information received from the exporting country or from the literature may occur in Argentina on apples, pears or quinces and are not known to occur in Israel or are present in Israel but are not widespread and are being officially controlled.

#### Arthropods

*Anastrepha fraterculus*,  
*Ceroplastes sinensis*,  
*Graphognathus leucoloma*,  
*Naupactus xanthographus* (burrito de la vid)  
*Pseudococcus martinus*,  
*Psylla piricola* (psilido del peral)

*Bryobia rubrioculus* (aranuela parda),  
*Edwardsiana crataegi* (chicharrita),  
*Grapholita molesta* (*Cydia molesta*) (grafolita),  
*Oiketicus platensis* (bicho de casto),  
*Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*,  
*Quadraspidiotus perniciosus* (piojo de san jose)

#### Diseases

*Monilinia fructicola*,

Apple mosaic virus

This list does not include all quarantine pests, such as passenger pests that may arrive or a new pest of apples, pears and quinces in Argentina.

Quarantine action will be taken when a quarantine pest is intercepted on an imported shipment.

## **2.2 Non-quarantine regulated pests**

These are pests that are present but regulated in Israel. High levels of infestation of these pests are not acceptable in fruit. A high presence of these pests in a shipment will require the shipment to undergo sorting and / or treatment.

Not Applicable

## **3. General requirements**

### **3.1 Quality and safety standards**

Pesticide residues should conform either to the Israeli Regulations on Maximum Pesticide Residue Limits (Doc 585 1997 or its amendments) or to the maximum residue limits of pesticides according to Codex Alimentarius (2006) of the FAO / WHO.

Quality requirements should conform either to the Israeli quality standards or should be according to the UN/ECE Standard FFV-01 Apples and Pears (UN, Geneva 1995).<sup>1</sup>

### **3.2 Variety restrictions**

All varieties of apples, pears and quinces are covered by this arrangement.

### **3.3 Seasonal and quantity restrictions**

Importation is not restricted to a specific season or quantity.

### **3.4 Trial period**

A trial period of two years (since January 2002) has been fulfilled. During these years a number of concerns and suggestions were raised by both sides. The arrangement on these issues are incorporated in this revised bilateral arrangement.

## **4. Responsibilities of SENASA**

### **4.1 Production site requirements**

The apples, pears and quinces must originate only from orchards in the Rio Negro and Neuquen provinces in the areas of Alto Valle or Valle Medio.

The apples, pears and quinces must originate from orchards registered and approved for export to Israel by SENASA where cultural practices and chemical controls are carried out to ensure freedom from pests and diseases.



These orchards should be identified according to the growers' name and orchard identification numbers. A list of approved orchards should be sent to PPIS prior to implementation of export and no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of February each year.

Orchards should be homogenous in character. Orchards with other fruit trees or other crops present are disqualified for export to Israel.

No peach (or other stone fruit) orchard should be within 200m' of the apple, pear or quince orchard designated for export to Israel.

#### 4.2 Inspection during active growth

The apples and pears must originate from orchards free of *Monilinia fructicola*, for at least 6 weeks prior to picking of the fruit.

#### 4.3 Recording and reporting of new pest discovered in the production areas

According to information supplied by Argentina the areas of Alto Valle and Valle Medio are believed to be free of *Anastrepha*, according to monitoring traps and the whole of the Patagonia Region has been official recognized as a Fruit Fly Free Area by the USA, countries of MERCOSUR and others (including all the genuses of economic importance: *Anastrepha* spp., *Ceratitis* spp., *Rhagoletis* spp., *Bactrocera* spp., etc.)

Any trapping of *Anastrepha* spp., *Rhagoletis* spp. or *Bactrocera* spp. in these areas should be reported immediately to PPIS.

In addition, any discovery of a new pest of apples, pears or quinces in these areas should also be reported immediately to PPIS.

#### 4.4 Packinghouse requirements and labeling

Only large packinghouses, such as P.E.A., Expofrut, Mono Azul, McDonalds etc. are approved. A list of approved packinghouses should be sent by SENASA to PPIS prior to initializing shipments to Israel.

Only new, unused cartons are acceptable. Each box should be marked with the packinghouse name, grower's name and orchard number or codes identifying this. Each carton should be marked with a label stating "approved for Israel". Each pallet should be marked with the destination.

Technical staff of the packinghouse will be responsible to maintain the traceability of the fruit through the complete process, registering in an appropriated manner all the bins that enter to the packinghouse and/or cooled rooms classified by orchard, date, species and variety.

Supervision of traceability: in charge of inspectors of SENASA or it's equivalent.

Fruit inspections:

- a) Fruit monitoring at entry to the packinghouse:

At entry into the packinghouse from the orchards, the fruit from the bins will be inspected to detect larvae of *Cydia molesta*.

b) Fruit monitoring at packing line

The packinghouses must perform fruit sampling during the packing line.

- The staff of the packinghouse will make visual inspections of the fruit, and will separate those fruits with signs of damage by larvae.
- All the fruits with such damage will be put aside in containers.

Technical staff of the packinghouse must evaluate each hour all the fruit from those receipts, in detail, cutting the damaged fruit in order to detect live larvae and its identification as *Cydia molesta*.

The fruit inspections mentioned above will be performed and/or supervised by SENASA officials at the packinghouse

Presence of living stages of any quarantine pest should automatically disqualify that lot and the orchard from which it was harvested, to export to Israel during that season.

#### 4.5 Post-harvest treatments

Not applicable

#### 4.6 Handling and storage of export

Boxes should be safeguarded after inspection and packing and kept separate from incoming harvested or culled fruit in cooled rooms until they are shipped.

#### 4.7 Pre-shipment inspection

The apples, pears and quinces must be pre-shipment inspected by SENASA officials in Villa Regina (or its equivalent) for freedom from pests and diseases. Samples of the consignment should be officially taken from the packinghouses and sent to the SENASA regional office for inspection according to: 2% of the cartons (but no less than 30) per lot.

In addition to the visual inspection, 10% of the 2% inspected fruit (i.e. 0.2% of the total consignment) will be cut for the examination of internal pests.

The definition of lot for this purpose is per grower, orchard plot and apple / pear / quince variety.

These samples should be taken in a representative manner from each pallet.

Presence of living stages of any quarantine pest should automatically disqualify that lot and the orchard from which it was harvested, to export to Israel during that season.

#### 4.8 Shipping requirements

Shipments should be sent from Puerto San Antonio Este seaport. Alternatively, shipments may be made from Puerto de Buenos Aires on the condition that the shipping containers are closed and sealed by SENASA officials in Villa Regina (with a seal of SENASA Villa Regina) and remain closed and sealed during their transport to Buenos Aires and shipment to Israel. Containers arriving in Israel without this seal or without the seal intact, may be refused entry. All containers should be sealed with a seal from SENASA and the seal number stated in the Phytosanitary Certificate.



Shipments must be free of pests, soil, sand, leaves, and plant debris, including woody material, except stems of fruit. If the pallet is made of wood it must be treated and marked in accordance with "Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade" (ISPM 15).

## **5. Documentation:**

### **5.1 Import permit**

An import permit from PPIS is required.

### **5.2 Phytosanitary certificate and additional declarations**

A Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) is required and the original must accompany the shipment to Israel. Copies should also be given to the captain of the ship and also faxed at least three working days prior to the arrival of the shipment in Israel to the PPIS main office in Bet-Dagan, Fax: 00972-3-9681571. The importer should bring the original certificate to the PPIS official at the port of arrival.

The phytosanitary certificate should include,

a) the additional declaration:

"The consignment is in accord with the bilateral quarantine arrangement on apples, pears and quinces from Argentina to Israel of January 2008. The consignment originates from the Alto Valle or Valle Medio of Patagonia. The fruit was inspected and found free of quarantine pests and diseases. The inspection was carried out on 2% of the consignment, 10% of which were cut for the examination of internal pests.

The fruit originate from orchards; free of *Monilinia fructicola* for at least six weeks prior to picking of the fruit."

b) the seal numbers of the containers in the consignment.

### **5.3 Required additional information**

The following information should be sent to PPIS before the commencement of shipping of each fruit-growing season but no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of February each year.

- a) A list of approved orchards and growers (# 4.1 above).
- b) A list of approved packinghouses (# 4.4 above).



## **6. Responsibilities of PPIS**

### **6.1 Pre-clearance**

Pre-clearance by PPIS is not required but may be required, e.g. if a problem arises.

### **6.2 Preshipment: on-site inspection, sampling and testing**

On site inspections by PPIS are not required but may be required, e.g. if a problem arises.

### **6.3 On-arrival inspection**

PPIS inspectors will verify that the PC conforms to the requirements specified in the Israeli Import Permit and in this document.

Shipments are subject to inspection and sampling on arrival to determine whether the shipment meets all the requirements. A representative sample of the contents will be randomly selected, at the inspector's discretion, and examined. If pests are found, samples will normally be sent for laboratory identification, and the shipment held pending the results.

### **6.4 Quarantine action**

When shipments reach the port of arrival in Israel they may be refused entry and returned to origin, disposed of or treated if they do not meet the requirements or if they are found to be infested with any quarantine pests.

The discovery of living stages of any quarantine pest/s in any shipment may result in suspension of the importation program until remedial action is taken at origin.

The importer is responsible for any costs relating to disposal, removal or rerouting, including costs incurred by PPIS to monitor the action taken. Treatments, where they are possible, will be applied only with the arrangement and at the expense of the importer.

The PPIS will report to SENASA the presence of any living stage of any quarantine pest interceptions or non-compliance with any of the conditions of this arrangement.

## **7. Names, mailing addresses, telephone, facsimile and e-mail numbers**

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Ing. Diana Guillén, Directora Nacional,  
Dirección Nacional de Protección Vegetal  
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad  
Agroalimentaria  
SENASA  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Tel: 0054-11-4121-5176,  
Fax: 0054-11-4121-5179



## 8. Authorization

### 8.1 Applicability

This arrangement will commence on the date of the signature below. The arrangement will remain in force unless rescinded or due to any of the circumstances given above as cause for such action. Either side may suggest changes in this arrangement for discussion at any time. After two years the arrangement will be reviewed and if no action is specifically recommended, will stay in force automatically.

PPIS reserves the right to suspend or change (in agreement with SENASA) the requirements for, the importation of apples or pears from Argentina in the event that Israel's phytosanitary requirements are not met or a change in the pest status of the commodity in Argentina has occurred.

### 8.2 Signatures

Signed  
(in the English language)

on the 22 day of FEBRUARY of the year 2008

name ELDAO LANDSHUT

title Director PPIS

signature 

For the Plant Protection and  
Inspection Services, Israel



name DIANA MARIA GUILLEN

title D. Nac. Protección Vegetal

signature 

For the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad  
Agroalimentaria, Argentina

INFORME DIANA MARIA GUILLEN  
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