

## **AQIS Import Conditions For Lucerne/Alfalfa seed from approved counties of California issued to APHIS on 7 February 1994**

1. An Import Permit issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is required.
  - The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), will provide assurances concerning 'area freedom' from *Verticillium albo-Atrum* (Verticillium wilt) of lucerne/alfalfa.
2. The seeds must have been grown in the following California counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Imperial, Merced, Stanislaus, or Tulare.
3. The county in which the export seed was grown is not known to have experienced any outbreak of *Verticillium albo-Atrum* (hereafter referred as Vaa) and annual surveys in the current growing season have verified the Vaa free status of that county.
4. The export seed was grown in a field in the CDFA Phytosanitary Seed Field inspection Program (CDFA-PSFIP) and the export seed field was assigned a unique number (PQN) by CDFA-PSFIP.
5. The export seed field was not located within 50 kilometer radius of a site where Verticillium wilt of lucerne (Vaa) was recorded.
6. The export seed was isolated by a minimum distance of 1 kilometer radius from any alfalfa crops which did not participate in CDFA-PSFIP.
7. Seed produced for export to Australia shall be segregated from all other seed and possible sources of contamination of Vaa throughout the production/export pathway.
8. The action referred in clause 13 will apply in the event that:
  - a. Vaa is detected in any of the counties listed in clause 2, or,
  - b. an outbreak of Vaa is subsequently recorded within 50 km radius of an export seed field, or,
  - c. the export seed field is subsequently found to be within 1 km radius of a non-CDFA-PSFIP lucerne crop, or,
  - d. the identity and segregation of an export seed consignment is not maintained.
- Pre-Clearance Growing Crop Inspection and Seed Testing Assurance by APHIS
9. The seed crop was inspected twice by CDFA during the growing season and was found free from Verticillium wilt (Vaa). The first inspection was performed in late winter or early spring and the second inspection was performed in late spring or early summer.

Every eighth row of the seed crop was inspected. Any plant suspected of being infected with Vaa was submitted for laboratory analysis to CDFA and found free from Vaa.

10. A minimum number of 3000 seeds (10 replicates of about 300 seeds each representing a package or a collection of packages of the export seed with the same PQN (referred in clause 11) was tested by CDFA employing the Sheppard and Needham's wash test and found free from Vaa. This test is described in Sheppard, J.W. and Needham, S.N., 1980. Verticillium wilt on alfalfa in Canada: Occurrence of seed-borne inoculum. Canadian Journal on Plant Pathology, 2(3):159-162.

- Packaging and Labelling Assurances by APHIS

11. The seed has been packaged in new packaging material which is clearly labeled 'For Export to Australia' and bears a unique number (PQN), which matches the corresponding export seed field number (referred in clause 4). A PQN shall enable trace back of the origin of the export seed in the event that Vaa is detected in tests by either CDFA or AQIS.

- Additional Declarations by APHIS

12. A USDA phytosanitary certificate shall contain additional declaration as follows: "The consignment complies with Australia's phytosanitary requirements for freedom from **Verticillium albo-Atrum**, AQIS Import Conditions for Lucerne/Alfalfa seed from approved counties of California issued to APHIS on 7 February 1994." AND, "The seed in the shipment has been inspected and found apparently free from all species of the genus **Trogoderma**."

- Action by APHIS in the Event of Non-Conformity to AQIS Conditions

13. In the event of any nonconformance to AQIS's conditions APHIS shall notify AQIS immediately and undertake the following action:

- a. If seed from a county is found to carry Vaa further exports from that county shall be suspended immediately.
- b. If an export seed consignment is in transit and is subject to clause 8, action referred in paragraph (d) below will apply.
- c. If the Vaa status of the seed is unclear, e.g. because of presence of undetermined **Verticillium** sp. or other contaminants, action referred in paragraph (d) below will apply.
- d. The subject seed export field shall be suspended indefinitely from exporting seed and AQIS shall be notified to enable appropriate quarantine action.