

### **(Part I of Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803))**

The Plant Quarantine Division (PQD) works closely with the Customs Excise and Preventive Services (CEPS) at all the official entry points. It keeps records of plant imports and exports, importers and exporters as well as pests and diseases of quarantine importance. The division issues phytosanitary certificates and import permits.

#### **General Import Requirements**

Import permits shall be required for:

1. Importation of commercial quantities of cereals, pulses, bulbs and other plant materials for consumption;
2. Importation of commercial plants, ornamentals plants, plant parts and seeds for cultivation and propagation;
3. Importation of consignments of plants, ornamental plants, plant parts and seeds for cultivation and propagation for personal use;
4. Importation of plants and plant products used for processing or for any other purpose.
5. A person shall import plants, plant products and regulated articles without a permit when the Minister determines that the import does not present a risk.

#### **Special Import Requirements**

1. Importation of live insects, microbial cultures, algae, bio-control agents and mushrooms;
2. Importation of soil, peat, and other growing media of plant origin;
3. Importation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) for research purpose.

#### **Import Permits**

1. An application for an Import permit shall be made at least seven days prior to the importation of the consignment; the application could be sent to the nearest regional agricultural office, to the nearest official entry point of the country or to PPRSD headquarters. The application should contain; name and address of importer, name and address of exporter, quantity of plant commodity to be imported e.g. Kg, Cartons, and Crates etc., country of origin of the commodity, indication of the port of entry, means of transport or conveyance, a Pro-Forma invoice if necessary to the Application letter.
2. An Import permit patterned after the IPPC format shall be issued by designated officers of PPRSD in accordance with the provisions of this Act and these Regulations;
3. An import permit shall be issued subject to restriction and condition prescribed in list of high risk quarantine pests for Ghana ;
4. An import permit issued shall be valid for six months from the date of issue and valid for only one shipment of a consignment from a country of origin;

One copy of the import permit shall be forwarded to exporter (by importer) in advance to facilitate compliance with requirements prescribed on the import permit.

#### **Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)**

To ascertain and reduce the risk associated with the importation of certain plant commodities, a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) would be conducted in conformity to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) requirements.

#### **Phytosanitary measures for Imported Consignments**

All Imported consignments of plants, plant products and regulated articles shall be substantively free from pests and accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate patterned after the IPPC format and issued by an authorized officer of the exporting country and the Import Permit issued by PPRSD.

#### **Note:**

Depending on the Phytosanitary Status of the Consignment, a Pest Risk Analysis may be conducted before the Permit would be issued.

## **Exemptions**

Phytosanitary measures and or certification shall not be required for commodities which have been processed to the point where they are incapable of being infested with quarantine pests associated with the commodity before processing.

## **Phytosanitary Import Inspections of Consignments**

a. The inspection of consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles entering Ghana shall be carried out by a designated officer to prevent the introduction and / or spread of pests into the country.

b. Samples of seeds and other propagative materials shall be subjected to seed health test

after visual inspection has been conducted and a phytosanitary decision shall be taken

on the basis of the test results.

## **Prohibitions**

The following are prohibited for importation:

1. Consignment of seed or grain contaminated with noxious weeds, insects, pathogens etc listed as High Risk Quarantine Pests for Ghana
2. Such items imported in contravention of Section 27a shall be refused entry or destroyed.
3. Soil and articles contaminated with soil are prohibited for importation unless under special permit.

## **Export Requirements**

To ensure compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of importing countries, all exporters of plants, plant products and regulated articles shall be officially registered and their registration annually renewed by PPRSD.

There should be an application for a phytosanitary certificate. The application could be sent to the nearest regional agricultural office, to the nearest official entry point of the country or to PPRSD headquarters. The application should contain; name and address of exporter, name and address of importer/consignee, quantity of plant commodity to be imported e.g. Kg, Cartons, and Crates etc., indicate the Destination of the export commodity, indicate the port of Exit, means of transport or conveyance.

## **Phytosanitary Inspections and certification**

Inspection and other related activities leading to issuance of phytosanitary certificates shall be carried out only by or under the authority of designated officers of PPRSD;

1. Phytosanitary inspection and certification shall be carried out to meet the import requirements of trading partners;
2. Phytosanitary certificates shall be issued after ensuring that consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles meet specified phytosanitary import requirements;
3. Phytosanitary certificates shall be issued on all plants, plant parts, plant products and regulated articles exported from Ghana.

## **Transit Requirements**

The Minister shall establish a transit system for phytosanitary purposes in accordance with the provisions of this Act and these Regulations:

1. All consignments in transit through Ghana shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin;
2. If a consignment in transit is not exposed to infestation or contamination by pests, it shall neither be inspected nor certified by a designated officer;

3. If a consignment is exposed to infestation or contamination by pests, a report on phytosanitary inspection shall be issued by a designated officer.

### **Regulations on Wood Packaging Material used in International Trade**

The guidelines for the use of Wood Packaging Material (WPM) in international trade shall be based on the standards provided by the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

Regulated Wood Packaging Material include pallets, pallet covers, dunnage, crates, packing cases, cable drums, spools/reels, load boards, skids and others which may have not undergone sufficient processing or treatment to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of pests associated with raw wood.

### **Exemptions**

The following materials shall be exempted from regulation:

- a. WPM made from wood products created from glue, heat and pressure or their combination is considered sufficiently processed or treated to remove wood pests e.g.(plywood, particle board, oriented strand or veneer);
- b. Veneer peeler cores, saw dust, wood wool, shaving and raw wood cut into thin pieces up to 6mm thickness.

WPM imported into Ghana should be subjected to any of IPPC approved treatments listed in related ISPMs.

For further information contact;

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