



General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of P.R.C.

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## Living plant materials for propagation to be imported through designated ports

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According to an announcement issued by the AQSIQ recently, living plant materials for propagation including plant seeds, seedlings, parent stocks, scions, cuttings, corms and root tubers(plant seeds and seedlings) are to be imported into China through designated ports as of April 1, 2010.

According to the announcement, the ports for entry of imported plant seeds and seedlings should have the necessary conditions for carrying out on-site verification, disinfestation treatment, and isolation quarantine, and ect.. The inspection and quarantine agencies at the ports should possess the corresponding lab testing and technical capabilities. The importers or their agents, when importing such living plant materials, must go through the entry quarantine application procedures in accordance with the law and import these materials through the designated ports promulgated by the AQSIQ. Based on the field assessment and evaluation by experts, the AQSIQ has designated 44 ports in 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, including Beijing Capital International Airport, Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Tianjin Xingang Port, Foshan Nanhai Port and Dalian Dayaowan Port, as the first batch of ports for entry of the living plant materials(See [www.aqsiq.gov.cn](http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn) for the detailed list). The list will be adjusted on a dynamic basis in the light of the ports' situations and trade needs.

It's learned that all countries in the world attach great importance to quarantine of entry plant seeds and seedlings as they brings high risk of harmful alien organisms. Statistics show that in 2008, 14,600 batches of plant seeds and seedlings with a total value of 0.25 billion US dollars were imported. Of the 644 species of harmful organisms intercepted, 34 were quarantine pests. In 2009, 14,500 batches of plant seeds and seedlings with a total value of 0.24 billion US dollars were imported. Of the 1,136 species of harmful organisms intercepted, 67 were

quarantine pests. The inspection and quarantine agencies have taken such measures as returning, destroying and disinfection to prevent the plant pandemic from spreading into the country. However, as there are great difficulties in detecting and identifying pandemic brought by living plant materials, some alien harmful organisms may escape if the inspection and isolation facilities at ports, lab conditions and testing personnel cannot meet the requirements.

In recent years, more and more alien harmful organisms have been spread into the country. The inspection and quarantine agencies, in the alien pandemic monitoring initiatives, have found a series of pests with devastating effects on the safety of agricultural and forestry production, and coordinated with the local government departments to take effective elimination, prevention and control measures. These pests include Cucumber Mottle Mosaic Virus, Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus, *Cylindrocladium Parasiticum*, *Flaveria Bidentis*, *Quadrastichus Erythrinae*, *Solenopsis Invicta* and *Phenacoccus Solenopsis Tinsley*. The method of designating entry ports ensures import of plant seeds and seedlings in a safety way to meet the needs for scientific research and production, and meanwhile, prevents the harmful organisms from spreading into the country.

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