

***Directives of Plant Quarantine
Directives No. Zain /2 for the year,2003
Issued vide the Articles (26,23,22)of the Agricultural
Act No. (44) for the year,2002***

Article (1)

These directives are called "Plant Quarantine Directives for the year, 2003". They are enforced after thirty days from their advertisement date in the official gazette.

Article (2)

By observing the directives stated in article (2) of the agricultural act no. (44) For the year, 2003 and for the purposes of these directives, the following statements and wordings will have the meanings as assigned below, unless otherwise, stated by the context.

Directorate	Plant Protection Directorate of the Ministry
Director	Director of Plant Protection of the Ministry
Agricultural center	The Agriculture Health Quarantine Center approved by the Ministry at any customs center on the Kingdom borders or inside it for validating the safety of the consignments identified by these directives, the imported, exported or passing through the Kingdom to another State (transit).
Consignment	Any shipment of plants or plant products or from alternative materials for protecting plants or from insects used for inoculating the plants: imported or exported or passing through the Kingdom.
Inspection	Perceptive inspection of any imported, exported consignments or passing through the Kingdom to ensure that they are free of the quarantine pests, and their tuning with the plant hygienic procedures.
Alternative Materials for Protecting Plants	Useful materials, living organisms and biological materials used for protecting plants from pests and harmful organisms.
Competent Employee	Chief of the agricultural center or in-charge- of plant quarantine in the agricultural center, located in the customs point, including any employee of the ministry, authorized in writing to implement any provision of these directives.
Quarantine pest	Economic harmful pest. It is not registered in the importing country or registered in definite areas. It can be controlled and prevented by the official authorities of the country. But, fearfully, it might move to another country.
Health Certificate	A certificate prepared and approved in accordance with the typical certificates as stated in the international agreements for protecting plants.

Article (3)

a- The plant quarantine procedures as stated in these directives are applied on the kinds of plants and plant products identified by the decisions issued in this respect. Any consignment: exported or imported or passing through the Kingdom is subject to these procedures including the passengers' enclosures.

b- Any customs authority in the border exits or any other location inside the Kingdom, including government or private post offices is not allowed to clear any imported consignment or allowing the exit of any exported consignment unless it is cleared by the competent employee.

Article (4)

It is not allowed to bring in any material of those stated in para (a) of this article into the Kingdom, and no customs clearance to be made for any consignment and to be re-exported within three days from the arrival date to the entry point. In case the importer or his deputy will fail to return it within that period, then it will be destroyed at the expenses of the principal without any compensation. It may be destroyed immediately, if its retention in the entry point until it is re-exported will harm the local plants:

- a- 1. Non-manufactured soil and fertilizers.**
- 2. Plants of which their roots are preserved in the soil or in the non-manufactured fertilizers or in both of them.**
- 3. Living agricultural pests in any of their life phases except the alternative materials for protecting plants.**
- 4. Residues of plants and plant products left over from ships, planes and international land transport means. It, for exceptional circumstances, were landed inside the kingdom, they should be directly burnt at the entry point under the supervision of the concerning employee and with the cooperation of the customs authorities and at the expenses of the importer.**
- 5. Cultures of bacteria, parasitic fungi, viruses, moss and organisms harmful to the plants.**

b- It is excluded from the provisions of para (a) of this article, those which are exported for the purpose of the scientific research provided that prior permit is obtained from the directorate, and their entry and transport are in accordance with the conditions and protective precautions identified by the Ministry.

Article (5)

By observing the provisions of article (6) of these directives, the following is to be actioned:

a- Along with any imported consignment, there should be an agricultural health certificate issued by the concerning authorities in the country of origin and prepared in accordance with the international standards.

b- If the imported and re-exported consignment is from a country other than the country of origin, it should be accompanied with an agricultural health certificate pertaining to re-exported consignments as per international standards in addition to a copy of the health certificate issued by the country of origin and approved by the concerning authorities of the country where it was re-exported.

c- In case the exported consignment is re-exported, it should be accompanied by an agricultural health certificate pertaining to re-exported consignments as per the international standards in addition to a copy of the health certificate issued by the country of origin and approved by the directorate.

Article (6)

The agricultural health certificate accompanying the consignment should be in original, written and typed in both languages, Arabic or English or hand-written and in color different from the form color, including the following basic information:

- Serial No. of the certificate.**
- The concerning government authority which issued the certificate along with its official seal.**
- The employee's name who inspected the exported consignment, his signature and inspection date.**
- Country of origin or re-exporting country.**
- Exporter's name and address.**
- Importer's name and address.**
- Goods description, type, common, commercial and scientific names.**
- Goods volume in weight, number or size according circumstances. It is preferable to use metric measure units to determine weight and size.**
- Distinguishing signs of goods.**
- Shipping method : land-sea-air.**
- Exit point (from the exporting country).**
- Entry point (to importing country).**

- Additional information to be included within the health certificate of a certain product from a certain country. The additional information of any consignment to the Kingdom is identified by the decisions issued for this purpose.**

- The countries through which the goods will pass in transit if available**

Article (7)

a- It is not allowed to bring in any consignment imported from plant nurseries to the kingdom or exported from them, unless done through the border exit point stated in the import or export permits according to circumstances.

b- The entry of plant productive consignments and alternative materials for protecting the plants imported to the kingdom or exported from it, will be allowed through the approved border entry points.

Article (8)

The customs authorities or the importer or his deputy at the arrival of any consignment subject to the procedures of plant quarantine, should notify the concerning employee in the agricultural center, providing him with the consignment documents and statements such as the agricultural health certificates, certificate of origin and the import license if the consignment is of the items for which an import license is to be obtained.

Article (9)

a- The concerning employee in the agricultural center will check the documents enclosed with the imported consignment to ensure that the documents stated in these directives are approved and complete.

b- The agricultural health certificate attached with the imported consignment will not be accepted if it was made on a date preceding the shipping date of the consignment for a period as limited below according to the circumstances:

1- Fifteen days if the consignment is seedlings or plant nurseries.

2- Twenty-one days if the consignment is seeds.

3- Seven days if the consignment is from other plant products.

c- The agricultural health certificate enclosed with the imported consignment will be considered as disapproved or incorrect or bogus. It will be approved in any of the following cases:

1. If it is in disapproved form or issued by an unauthorized person or does not contain the name and signature of the authorized person or not officially sealed by the issuing authority or not approved or ratified by the concerning authorities in the country of origin.

2. If it does not include any information stated in article (6) of these directives or its information is incomplete.

3- If the certificate validity period is expired in accordance with the valid veterinary or plant quarantine instructions.

4- If it has any strike or omission or its contents are changed and modified.

5- If its stated information is contradictory or wrong or if it has words and statements not agreeing with the content.

Article (10)

If checking will turn out that the enclosed documents with the imported consignment are disapproved and incomplete or in lack of basic information, the consignment inspection and the clearance procedures will not be completed, and the importer, then, should re-export the consignment within the period specified by the minister. In case re-exportation is not made or he could not do, then the consignment will be destroyed at the importer's expenses and without compensation.

Article (11)

a- The imported consignments, which are supposed to be inspected as per the relevant decisions, should be inspected at the agricultural center at the entry point.

b- The consignments exported in the agricultural center at the entry point, through which the consignment will be exported, will be inspected including the issue of the health certificate which will accompany it.

c- The concerned employee at the entry point can transfer any imported consignment to the agricultural center at Amman customs office for completing the inspection and clearance procedures as requested by the importer, unless there are health reasons impeding this.

d- The customs authorities at the border customs center or inside the kingdom where there are no agricultural center, should not clear any imported consignment or transfer it to the nearest customs point containing an agricultural center, for completing their plant quarantine procedures, and should not allow the exit of any exported consignment if it is not accompanied by the documents which confirm that it is subject to the plant quarantine actions at an approved agricultural center.

Article (12)

If the documents enclosed with the imported consignment are complete, then the concerning employee in the agricultural center will check and inspect the consignment. He can take samples for the purpose of the laboratory test in case of suspected pests or if its nature or consumption purposes require this after observing the following:

a- If the inspection result will show that the consignment is free of prohibited pests or free of the pests which cannot be eliminated by sterilization or free of any disease symptoms or if its nature or consumption purposes do not require a laboratory test for assuring that it is free of pests and contamination, then the clearance procedures will be completed after the approval of the concerning employee.

b- If the inspection result will show that the consignment is free of pests or disease symptoms which can be seen by the naked eye, but its nature and consumption purposes require a laboratory test to ensure that it is free of pests which cannot be seen by the naked eye or free of pollutions, then the concerning employee will allow taking the consignment out of the customs yard to the importer's warehouses against a customs undertaking from him or from the clearance agent that he will not dispose them in any case until the issue of the result of the laboratory tests.

Article (13)

a- In case the result of the laboratory test will show that the consignment is intact and free of prohibited pests and pollutions, then, it can be cleared in customs.

b- If the inspection result or the laboratory test will show that the consignment is stricken by a quarantine pest or by any pest which cannot be eliminated by sterilization or cannot be diagnosed, then the importer should re-export it to the country of origin. If not possible, then the provisions of article (10) of these directives will be applied.

Article (14)

If the result of the consignment inspection or its laboratory test will show that it is stricken by a pest inside the kingdom and can be eliminated by sterilization, then, the importer should forward it for sterilization within (48) hours from the time of notifying the clearance agent. If the concerning employee comes to know that keeping it all that time without sterilization may threaten the local plants, he should ask for immediate sterilization with which the importer should comply without any delay. If he will refuse, then, it will be destroyed at his expense without any compensation.

Article (15)

If it is decided after inspection or laboratory test to sterilize the consignment imported through the borders where there is no fit sufficient equipment for sterilization, then the concerning employee should instruct to transfer it to the nearest agricultural center where there are the necessary capabilities for sterilization.

Article (16)

If the state of the imported consignment requires sterilization, and there are no barriers which may impede its exit from customs yard, or its exit will not have imminent danger upon the plants or can be sterilized in the importers warehouses, then the concerning employee will allow transporting it to the importers warehouses after he gives customs an undertaking that he will not dispose it unless it is sterilized under the supervision of the concerning employee or his deputy. Clearance actions cannot be made unless the importer will produce a certificate from the agricultural center confirming that.

Article (17)

a- Sterilization of imported and exported consignment will be made by the methods, means and materials as decided by the directorate according to the international recommendations. Charges against inspection and laboratory test will be due as limited in the decision of agricultural service allowance No. (zain/1) for the year 2003.

b- The importer undertakes that the ministry will not be held responsible for any loss or damage which may incur to the consignment as a result of sterilization. The importer will bear all additional expenses such as the wages of transport and handling.

Article (18)

The exported and re-exported consignments will be sterilized upon the exporter's request or if it is stipulated by the imported country. The concerning employee should provide the consignment with the approved agricultural health certificate.

Article (19)

The importer should transport the consignment the exit of which was allowed after sterilization from the agricultural center within (24) hours after sterilization. Otherwise, it will be transferred to the customs authorities retaining it as deposit. The importer will bear the additional expenses and the loss which may incur.

Article (20)

Packing and crating materials used for preparing the plant consignments should be new and free of pests. The types of materials used for this purpose will be specified by the decisions issued for this purpose in accordance with the state recommendations

Article (21)

a- The entry of any consignment is prohibited if its entry into the kingdom will be dangerous on plants for an emergency health reason, provided that the following will be observed according to the circumstances:

- 1. Publishing the prohibition decision in two daily local newspapers.**
- 2. The prohibition decision will be soon notified to the importer by phone if the consignment will require a license or import permit. The decision will be sent to him by registered mail on his address given in the import request raised by him. This will be considered as sufficient for his information.**

b- If the consignment imported from prohibited materials as per the provisions of para (a) of this article, is shipped before the issue of prohibition decision or reached the border exit point, it will not be cleared and should be re-exported within the period limited by the ministry. In case the importer will abstain, then, it will be destroyed in the border center at the expenses of the importer without any compensation.

Article (22)

Useful living organisms and particles which are self-growing (such as parasites, viruses, funji and bacteria) are allowed to enter in accordance with the international standards and local conditions for the purpose of using them in the biological control in the local environment. Handing them over to the importer, after the completion of their clearance procedures, can be made only after obtaining a permit from the directorate.

Article (23)

It is not allowed to export plants or plant products outside the kingdom unless they are accompanied by an agricultural health certificate except the consignments which the government allows to import without a health certificate.

Article (24)

Consignments entering the kingdom and unloaded in free zones will be subject to the procedures stated in these directives. If there is no agricultural center in the free zone into which the consignment enter, the customs authority in this zone should notify the director of agriculture where the free zone is within his area of interest to carry out the plant quarantine procedures.

Article (25)

If the concerning employee at the entry center suspected that the consignment to be re-exported has a pest which can be eliminated by sterilization, he should instruct for sterilizing it as per the adopted procedures and then issue the relevant agriculture health certificate.

Article (26)

Any area inside the kingdom stricken with a dangerous pest is subject to the internal plant quarantine procedures. Plants and nurseries supporting this will not be taken out. The concerning agriculture directorates should take necessary precautions to stop the infiltration and spread of the pest outside the epidemic area. They should ask the help of security authorities if necessary.

Article (27)

a- Consignments in transit will not be allowed to enter the kingdom unless they are shipped in closed transport covered firmly and within firm packages to stop the infiltration of any plant pest inside the kingdom. The concerning employee at the entry point should ensure that the transport means is sealed with lead. It should not be opened while passing through the kingdom except at the exit point going outside the kingdom if the concerning authorities approve this under the knowledge and participation of the concerning employee.

b- It is not allowed to bring in any consignment passing in transit through the kingdom if it is coming from an epidemic country or area. It should be returned from the entry center to its source or destroyed under the supervision of the ministry and at the expense of the owner without any compensation.

Article (28)

If for any reason, the consignment in transit will be opened at the entry center, it will be subject to test and inspection actions and all procedures stated in these directives.

Article (29)

If for any reason, the plant consignment in transit will be unloaded in the kingdom after leaving the entry center, then it will be dealt with as imported consignment and will be subject to plant quarantine procedures stated in these directives.

Article (30)

For the purposes of laboratory testing, the concerning authority will take a sample of the consignment as per sample-taking instructions and will be provided to the laboratory in a firm package and sealed by the center according to the approved form.

Article (31)

If it is decided to destroy a plant consignment imported or exported or in transit, then a committee will be formed consisting of the ministry employee in the agricultural center and one representative of the concerning customs authorities in the presence of the consignment owner or his deputy to preside upon the destruction or transition process vide a report including the consignment details and reasons of destructions, and one copy of it to be handed to the man concerned. Non-presence of the importer or his deputy will not affect the completion of this process, provided that he or his deputy will be notified.

Article (32)

As recommended by the director, the quarantine pests referred to in these directives will be limited by resolutions issued for this purpose.

Article (33)

Charges of services rendered by the ministry as per these directives and as stated in the resolution No. zain / 1 (resolution of agricultural service charges for the year,2003) will be due.

Minister of Agricultural.