

**Agreement of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Tobacco Leaves export from
Argentina to China**

**Between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and
Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and
the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of the Argentine
Republic**

To ensure the tobacco leaves safely export to China from Argentina, and based on the pest risk assessment, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred as AQSIQ) and the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of Argentine Republic (hereinafter referred as SENASA), through friendly consultations, have reached agreement as follows:

Article I

The tobacco leaves mentioned in this protocol include burley tobacco leaves and flue-cured tobacco leaves which have been cured and re-dried, produced in the provinces of Tucuman, Misiones, Salta and Jujuy of Argentina.

Article II

For the tobacco leaves for export to China shall comply with the relevant phytosanitary and sanitary laws and regulations of China and meet the phytosanitary requirements as stipulated in this Protocol.

Article III

The importers of tobacco leaves shall obtain the import permit from AQSIQ before trade contracts are signed.

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Article IV

AQSIQ shall send inspectors, together with the Chinese Tobacco leaves buying team to Argentina, for the pre-inspection of tobacco leaves intended for purchase. SENASA shall collaborate with and provide technical support to the inspectors from AQSIQ. Only the tobacco leaves which have passed the pre-inspection shall be placed in the commercial contracts and permitted shipment to China. SENASA shall conduct the inspection of each consignment of contracted tobacco leaves and issue the Phytosanitary Certificates.

Article V

SENASA shall investigate and monitor for tobacco blue mold (TBM), *Peronospora tabacina* (which includes conidia, mycelia, and especially, oospores), ensuring that all tobacco leaves are from the free areas of TBM. If TBM is found, SENASA shall notify immediately to AQSIQ and suspend the exportation of Tobacco leaves to China from the corresponding county. For each harvest season, SENASA shall submit to AQSIQ a report of investigating and monitoring on TBM, including the methods and its results, in the production areas during the current year.

Article VI

The planting, harvesting, processing, storage, and transportation of the tobacco for export to China shall be done under the supervision of SENASA, ensuring free from pests concerned by AQSIQ (see Annex), plant debris and soil, and to avoid the mixed tobacco leaves origin from the other countries. If live insects such as *Lasioderma serricorne* are found, quarantine measures such as fumigation shall be carried out.

For the shipment of tobacco leaves that meets the phytosanitary requirements of China, SENASA shall issue a Phytosanitary Certificate according to the standards of International Plant Protection Convention, and with the following statement as an additional declaration: "The consignment is in compliance with requirements described in the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of tobacco leaves from Argentina to China signed on, and is free from TBM and other quarantine pests and soil".


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Article VII

The tobacco leaves shall be securely packaged in airproof way to avoid the contamination of TBM and other quarantine pests. Each carton shall be labeled to include the following information of tobacco leaves: type, grade, origin of production place (province), harvesting year, processing plant and contract number.

The packing material for tobacco leaves shall be clean, sanitary, and comply with the phytosanitary requirements of China

The containers for transportation of tobacco leaves shall be clean and free of soil and other foreign material.

Article VIII

When the shipment of tobacco leaves arrives at the entry ports, China Inspection and Quarantine organs (the branch of AQSIQ, hereinafter referred to as CIQ) will examine the relevant certificates, labels on the packages and conduct inspection and quarantine.

If the TBM is found on arrival, the consignment will be returned or destroyed. AQSIQ shall immediately suspended temporarily the importation of tobacco leaves from Argentina. Both parties shall conduct investigations jointly, as well as propose and take relevant corrective measures according to the finding causes.

If any other quarantine pests or other inconformity against regulation are found on arrival, the consignment shall be quarantine treated, returned or destroyed in accordance with the relevant articles of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its regulation for implementation.

Article IX

In order to initiate the program, with the assistance of the SENASA, AQSIQ shall send two quarantine inspectors to Argentina to conduct onsite visit of the sanitary conditions of the production areas, the processing plants, and storage facilities, as well as the situation of investigation, record and quarantine treatment associated with pests concerned by AQSIQ, such as TBM. All the expenses related to the above-mentioned onsite visit, including transportation, accommodation and living expenses will be afforded by SENASA. SENASA shall be in charge of sending an formal invitation, arranging the agenda and support the work of the Chinese inspectors.


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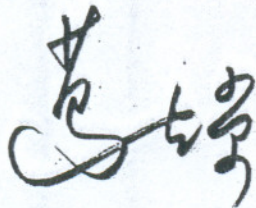
RODOLFO AGUSTIN ALONSO
DESPACHO
DIRECCION GRAL. DE DESPACHO Y MESA DE ENTRADAS
MINISTERIO DE ECONOMIA Y PRODUCCION

Article X

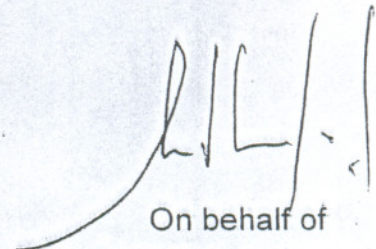
AQSIQ shall conduct further risk assessment according to the pest occurrence and interception information of tobacco leaves, and reconfirm the quarantine pests and the corresponding quarantine measures. If necessary, in consultation with SENASA, Chinese quarantine officials shall conduct on-site review visit in Argentina.

The protocol shall enter into force since the date of signature and will remain valid for a period of two years. If neither side gives notice to amend or terminate this protocol at least six months prior to the expiry date, this protocol shall be extended automatically for an additional two years.

This protocol is signed in Buenos Aires on October 3, 2006, in Chinese, Spanish, and English, in duplicated copies, each side has a copy of the three texts. All texts are equally authentic.



On behalf of
the General Administration of Quality
Supervision, Inspection and
Quarantine of the People's Republic
of China



On behalf of
the Secretary of Agriculture,
Livestock, Fisheries and Food of
Argentine Republic