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Indonesia's Re-recognition of the U.S. Food Safety Control System for Fresh Foods of Plant Origin

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments – Other (Market Access)

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WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN

On January 03, 2013, the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) officially issued its re-recognition of the U.S. food safety control system for fresh foods of plant origin (FFPO). The re-recognition was issued as MOA Regulation No. 3/2013 (Reg. 3/2013). Reg. 3/2013 is critical for maintaining enhanced market access for a wide variety of U.S. products, to include soybeans, tree nuts, fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, corn, and wheat. U.S. exports of these products in 2012 were upwards of 1.35 billion dollars. Moreover, the food safety re-recognition for U.S. FFPO maintains access for U.S. horticulture through Tanjung Priok, the port of Jakarta.

HOW

U.S. Embassy Jakarta's Office of Agriculture Affairs, (OAA), in conjunction with FAS Washington, coordinated the re-verification audit by MOA to Minnesota and California in June 2011. According to Indonesian regulation, the MOA was required to issue its determination within 60 days of its return to Jakarta. However, after months of delay, OAA officials led a strategic, interagency push for an official renewal of the U.S. FFPO country recognition.

Indonesia's original recognition of the U.S. FFPO food safety control system expired in November 2011. Following the expiration, the MOA provided an extension until a follow-up re-verification could be conducted in the United States. The previous recognition was valid for 38 commodities, per MOA Regulation 27/2009. The January 2012 re-recognition expands the list of eligible U.S. commodities from 38 to 100 commodities, per Regulation 88/2011, which supersedes Reg. 27/2009. Consequently, shipments of FFPO from non-recognized countries must be accompanied by additional health certificates other than phytosanitary certificates stating that the FFPO is safe for human consumption and are also subject to additional testing. Additionally, Indonesian regulations specifically state that only countries with recognized food safety systems for FFPO are currently eligible to ship exported horticultural products through Tanjung Priok, the port of Jakarta. Countries without FFPO recognition are forced to use other ports, to include Surabaya and Medan. These alternative ports are far from Jakarta, Indonesia's biggest city and most significant market. The re-recognition retains access to Tanjung Priok for U.S. horticulture.

WHY

As the 8th largest market for U.S. agricultural products, Indonesia is a critical market for U.S. FFPO products. In 2012, U.S. FFPO products accounted for over 50 percent of the total U.S. agricultural products to Indonesia.

U.S. Export Value of Agriculture and Forest Products to Indonesia (US Dollar)

Export Value	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
FFPO	701,782	1,028,455	852,034	1,082,483	1,372,773	1,353,766
Total	1,607,970	2,268,324	1,840,935	2,305,149	2,885,824	2,570,890
Share of FFPO	44%	45%	46%	47%	48%	53%

Source: BICO (recalculated)

WHO

Below is the list of U.S. agricultural cooperators that directly benefit from the issuance of Regulation 3/2013

1. Washington Apple Commission
2. Californian Table Grapes
3. California Raisin Marketing Board
4. United States Soybean Export Council
5. United States Dry Pea and Lentil Council
6. United States Dry Bean Council
7. Almond Board of California
8. United States Potato Board
9. United States Wheat Association
10. United States Grain Council
11. Medjool Dates
12. United States Pear Bureau