

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Malaysia

**Post:** Kuala Lumpur

### New Import Requirements for certain products

**Report Categories:**

FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

Malaysia's National Plant Protection Organization recently announced that beginning 1 July 2014, imports of certain products derived from plants will require a phytosanitary certificate and import permit. Malaysia will soon notify the WTO of these new requirements and will inform trading partners what will be specifically required in the certificates. These new requirements will apply to several products of U.S. interest, including soybeans, corn, citrus, and cotton.

**General Information:**

On 20 December Malaysia's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) sent a letter to local stakeholders, and on December 24<sup>th</sup> met with Embassy representatives to provide information about a change in requirements governing imports of certain products. The main details of the new requirements are as follows:

1. An Import Permit (IP) and phytosanitary certificate (PC) will be required to import the following products: 1) corn; 2) soybeans; 3) raw and processed cocoa; 4) raw and processed coffee; 5) tobacco; 6) cotton; 7) citrus; 8) bananas; 9) hay; 10) other by-products for animal feed.
2. Both the IP and PC will be required, beginning 1 July 2014.
3. From 1 January to 30 June, 2014, NPPO will enforce what they refer to as "soft implementation" of these requirements.
4. During the "soft implementation", importers will be able to import 3 consignments without an IP. After the third shipment, they must have an IP. If after the third time, an IP is not obtained, the shipment will be detained.
5. During the "soft implementation" phase, the PC will not be required, but importers must submit written justification explaining why the PC from the exporting country was not forthcoming. Treatment of the consignment may be required.
6. All products arriving at port of entry after 1 July 2014 must have IP and PC. If not, the shipment will be detained and refused entry.

NPPO says that in January 2014 they will notify the WTO (via Malaysia's Ministry of Trade and Industry) of these changes in import requirements. At the same time, NPPO will begin telling trading partners what specific requirements each individual country will need to meet, including whether pre-export treatments will be required and what attestations may be required on the PC. NPPO said that they will offer trading partners the opportunity to comment on these new regulations, and to provide input on the specific country requirements. As of this writing, NPPO has still not provided details on what may be required.

Regarding the rationale and technical justification for these new requirements, NPPO said that Malaysia's Quarantine and Inspection Services Act (2011) specifically states that an IP and PC are required. In addition, NPPO alluded to an increase in the presence of harmful pests in shipments of imported products. NPPO did not specify the origin of these shipments, what specific pests were identified, nor in what types of products they were found.

Wheat, millet and other small grain imports will not be subject to these new requirements. However, NPPO has not yet clarified what may be included under item 10 above: "by-products for animal feed."

