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**THIS IS AN UPDATED AND CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE (REGULATION OF IMPORT INTO INDIA) ORDER, 2003, AND INCLUDES AMENDMENTS ISSUED THERETO FROM TIME TO TIME**

**Introductory Note**

Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 regulates import and prohibition of import of plants and plant products into India. The Order was published in the Gazette of India, vide, S.O.1322 (E), dated 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2003 and has been subsequently amended vide following notifications:

Sl. No.	Notifications	Sl. No.	Notifications
1.	S.O. 167 (E), dated 6 <sup>th</sup> February, 2004	36.	S.O. 2542 (E), dated 29 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014
2.	S.O. 427 (E), dated 29 <sup>th</sup> March, 2004	37.	S.O. 2879 (E), dated 11 <sup>th</sup> November, 2014
3.	S.O. 644 (E), dated 31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2004	38.	S.O. 3114 (E), dated 10 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014
4.	S.O. 203 (E), dated 14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2005	39.	S.O. 1413 (E), dated 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015
5.	S.O. 263 (E), dated 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2005	40.	S.O. 2496 (E), dated 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015
6.	S.O. 462 (E), dated 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2005	41.	S.O. 101(E), dated 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2016
7.	S.O. 1121(E), dated 14 <sup>th</sup> July, 2006	42.	S.O.680 (E), dated 7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2016
8.	S.O. 1353, dated 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2006	43.	S.O. 1873 (E), dated 25 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016
9.	S.O. 1873(E), dated 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2006	44.	S.O. 2192 (E), dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2016
10.	S.O. 2074(E), dated 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2006	45.	S.O. 2248 (E), dated 29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
11.	S.O. 2069 (E), dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2007	46.	S.O. 2453 (E), dated 5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
12.	S.O. 3 (E), dated 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2007	47.	S.O. 2614 (E), dated 5 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
13.	S.O. 2847 (E), dated 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 2008	48.	S.O. 264 (E), dated 12 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017
14.	S.O. 2888(E), dated 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2008	49.	S.O. 364 (E), dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2017
15.	S.O. 2286(E), dated 9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2009	50.	S.O. 1344 (E), dated 27 <sup>th</sup> April, 2017
16.	S.O. 2390(E), dated 16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2009	51.	S.O. 1475 (E), dated 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017
17.	S.O. 3269(E), dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2009	52.	S.O. 2019 (E), dated 21 <sup>st</sup> June, 2017
18.	S.O. 3298(E), dated 24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2009	53.	S.O. 2152 (E), dated 6 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017
19.	S.O. 907(E), dated 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2010	54.	S.O. 2752 (E), dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> August, 2017
20.	S.O. 2095(E), dated 27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2010	55.	S.O.3293 (E), dated 6 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017
21.	S.O. 2284(E), dated 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2010	56.	S.O. 3556 (E), dated 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
22.	S.O. 2516(E), dated 11 <sup>th</sup> October, 2010	57.	S.O. 4082 (E), dated 27 <sup>th</sup> December, 2017
23.	S.O. 2711(E), dated 4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2010	58.	S.O. 1248 (E), dated 20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018
24.	S.O. 3052(E), dated 28 <sup>th</sup> December, 2010	59.	S.O. 1873 (E), dated 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
25.	S.O. 887(E), dated 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011	60.	S.O. 1930 (E), dated 15 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
26.	S.O. 2845(E), dated 21 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011	61.	S.O. 2059 (E), dated 24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
27.	S.O. 296 (E), dated 17 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012	62.	S.O. 2286 (E), dated 4 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018
28.	S.O. 2775(E), dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2012	63.	S.O 3194 (E) dated 29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018
29.	S.O. 799(E), dated 21 <sup>th</sup> March, 2013	64.	S.O. 3392 (E) dated 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018
30.	S.O. 1378 (E), dated 28 <sup>th</sup> May, 2013	65.	S.O. 3998 (E) dated 16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2018
31.	S.O. 1531 (E), dated 14 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013	66.	S.O.5158 (E) dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2018
32.	S.O. 2919 (E), dated 26 <sup>th</sup> September, 2013	67.	S.O.5830 (E) dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2018
33.	S.O. 1508 (E), dated 13 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014	68.	S.O.6224 (E) dated 18 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018
34.	S.O. 1632 (E), dated 27 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014	69.	S.O. 941(E) dated 19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2019
35.	S.O. 2320 (E), dated 12 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014	70.	S.O.1728 (E) dated 6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2019

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Notifications</b>	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Notifications</b>
71.	S.O. 1817 (E), dated 24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2019		
72.	S.O. 1954 (E), dated 11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019		
73.	S.O. 2525 (E) dated 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 and its corrigendum S.O. 2603 (E) dated 18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019		
74.	S.O. 3141 (E), dated 29 <sup>th</sup> August, 2019		
75.	S.O. 3357 (E), dated 17 <sup>th</sup> September, 2019		
76.	S.O. 3594 (E), dated 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2019		
77.	S. O. 3845 (E), dated 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2019		
78.	S.O. 4083 (E) dated 8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2019		
79.	S.O. 4615 (E) dated 21 <sup>st</sup> December, 2019		
80.	S.O. 352 (E) dated 24 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020		
81.	S.O. 488 (E) dated 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2020		

The Plant Quarantine Order has 15 clauses describing various aspects and conditions of import of agricultural articles (plants and plant products) into India. There are 16 forms for various plant quarantine regulatory functions. The Order has following Schedules:

- Schedule I Points of Entry for Imports of plants/plant materials and other articles
- Schedule II List of Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations for import of plants and plant products
- Schedule III List of Foreign Post Offices for import of plants and plant products
- Schedule IV List of plants/planting materials and countries from where import is prohibited along with justification
- Schedule V List of plants and plant materials imports of which are restricted and permissible only by authorized institutions with additional declarations and subject to special conditions
- Schedule VI List of plants/plant materials permitted import with additional declarations and special conditions
- Schedule VII List of plants/planting materials where imports are permissible on the basis of phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country, the inspection conducted by Inspection Authority and fumigation, if required, including all other general conditions
- Schedule VIII List of Quarantine Weed Species
- Schedule IX A- Inspection Fees; B- Fumigation/disinfection/disinfestation/supervision charges
- Schedule X List of Permit Issuing Authorities for Import of Seeds, Plants and Plant Products and other articles
- Schedule XI List of Inspection Authorities for Certification of Post-Entry Quarantine facilities and inspection of growing plants
- Schedule XII Quantities of seeds permitted for trial purpose/accession to gene bank of National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources

# PLANT QUARANTINE (REGULATION OF IMPORT INTO INDIA) ORDER, 2003 (Updated and consolidated version)

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (2 of 1914), the Central Government hereby makes the following Order, for the purpose of prohibiting and regulating the import into India of agricultural articles mentioned herein, namely:-

## CHAPTER I Preliminary

### 1. Short title and commencement. –

- (1) This order may be called the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003.
- (2) Sub-clause (22) of clause 3 shall come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2004 and all other provisions of this Order shall come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2004.

### 2. Definitions. –In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires.–

- (i) “**additional declaration**” means a statement that is required by an importing country to be entered in a phytosanitary certificate and which provides specific additional information pertinent to the phytosanitary condition of a consignment;
- (ii) “**bio-control agent**” means any biological agent such as parasite, predator, parasitoid, microbial organism or self replicating entity that is used for control of pests;
- (iii) “**consignment**”- means a quantity of seeds, plants and plant products or any regulated article consigned from one party to other at any one time shipment and covered by a phytosanitary certificate, bill of entry of customs, shipping/airway bill or invoice;
- (iv) “**cotton**” includes ginned cotton, cotton linters and dropping, tripping, fly and other waste products of cotton mill other than yarn waste, but does not include cotton seed or un-ginned cotton;
- (v) “**form**” means a form appended to this Order
- (vi) “**fruit**” means any fleshy portion of the plant, that contains seeds, which is used for consumption, including seedless fruit both fresh and dry but does not include preserved or pickled or frozen fruits.
- (vii) “**grain**” means seeds intended for processing or consumption and not for sowing or propagation.
- (viii) “**germplasm**” means plants in whole or in parts and their propagules including seeds, vegetative parts, tissue cultures, cell cultures, genes and DNA based sequences that are held in a repository or collected from wild as the case may be and are utilized in genetic studies or plant breeding programmes for crop improvement;
- (ix) “**import**” means an act of bringing into any part or place of territory of Republic of India any kind of seed, plant or plant product and other regulated article from a place outside India either by sea, land, air or across any customs frontier;

- (x) “**import permit**” means an official document authorizing importation of a consignment in accordance with specified phytosanitary requirements;
- (xi) “**Inspection Authority**” means an authority specified in Part I of Schedule XI or an officer of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage duly authorized by the Plant Protection Adviser for the purpose of approval and certification of Post-entry quarantine facilities and inspection of growing plants in such facilities in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Plant Protection Adviser and for any specified purpose, an authority specified in Part II of the said Schedule.
- (xii) “**Irradiation**” means the treatment of food or agricultural products with any type of processing of ionized radiation such as gamma irradiation or micro-electron acceleration processing.
- (xiii) “**issuing authority**” means an authority as envisaged under Schedule-IV of this order or duly notified by the Central Government from time to time either generally or specifically for issuance of import permit;
- (xiv) “**notification**” means a notification published in the official Gazette and the expression “notifies” shall be construed accordingly;
- (xv) “**noxious weeds**” mean any weed harmful or hazardous or unwholesome to human beings, animal life or parasitic on plant species;
- (xvi) “**packing material**” means any kind of material of plant origin used for packing of goods;
- (xvii) “**pest**” means any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants and plant products;
- (xviii) “**pest risk analysis**” means the process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it;
- (xix) “**phytosanitary certificate**” means a certificate issued in the model format prescribed under the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food & Agricultural Organization and issued by an authorized officer at the country of origin of consignment or re-export;
- (xx) “**plant**” means a living plants and parts thereof including seed and germplasm;
- (xxi) “**plant product**” means an un-manufactured material of plant origin including grain and those manufactured products that, by their nature or that of their processing, may create risk for the introduction and spread of a pest.
- (xxii) “**Plant Protection Adviser**” means the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage;

- (xxiii) “**point of entry**” means any sea port, airport, or land-border check-post or rail station, river port, foreign post office, courier terminal, container freight station or inland container depot notified as specified in Schedule-I or Schedule-II or Schedule-III as the case may be;
- (xxiv) “**post-entry quarantine**” means growing of imported plants in confinement for a specified period of time in a glass house, screen house, poly house or any other facility, or isolated field or an off-shore island that is established in accordance with guidelines/ standards and are duly approved and certified by an inspection authority notified under this order;
- (xxv) “**quarantine pest**” means a pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled;
- (xxix) “**regulated article**” means any article the import of which is regulated by this order;
- (xxvi) “**schedule**” means a Schedule to this Order;
- (xxx) “**seeds**” means seeds intended for sowing or propagating and not for consumption or processing;
- (xxxi) “**soil**” means earth, sand, clay, silt, loam, compost, manure, peat or sphagnum moss, litter, leaf waste or any organic media that support plant life and shall include ship ballast or any organic medium used for growing plants.
- (xxxii) “**timber**” means a form of dead wood, log and lumber cut from plants, with or without bark or sawn and sized, which is used for manufacturing veneer, plywood, particle or chip board and making building material, furniture, packages, pallets, sports goods and handicrafts;.
- (xxxiii) “**tissue cultured plant**” means any part of a plant or plant tissue or plantlet grown under aseptic or sterile conditions in flasks or other suitable container on appropriate media and shall include ex-agar washed plant lets;
- (xxxiv) “**dunnage**” means wood packing material used to secure or support a commodity but which does not remain associated with the commodity [FAO, 1009; revised ISPM Pub. No. 15, 2002]
- (xxxiii) “**wood packing material**” means wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity (includes dunnage) [ISPM Pub. No.15, 2002]
- (xxxiv) “**article**” means any kind of movable property including any goods and stores consigned from one party to another as a shipment and covered by a bill of entry of customs, shipping or airway bill and/ or invoice in the course of international trade.
- (xxxv) **Animal Feed**- Kibbled-crushed seeds/ pellet/ dried cake form thereby denatured and free from weed seeds, bacterial and fungal pathogens.
- (xxxvi) “**Commodity**” A type of plant, plant product, or other article being moved for trade or other purpose (S.O.2286 (E), dated 04.06.2018).
- (xxxvii) “**Processed Items**” means processed to the point where the commodity does not remain capable of being infested with quarantine pests [ viz. Cooking (boiling, heating, microwaving), Fermentation, Malting, Multi-Method processing (combination of heat, high pressure, etc.) Pasteurization, Preservation in liquid, Pureeing, Sterilization, Sugar infusing and Tenderizing] (S.O.3194 (E) dated 29.06.2018).

## CHAPTER II

### General conditions for import

#### 3. Permits for Import of plants, plant products etc.

- (1) No plants, plant products and other regulated articles (hereinafter referred to as “consignment”) shall be imported into India without complying the phytosanitary conditions stipulated under this Order. The order shall regulate import of all plants, plant products and other articles including but not limited to seeds/grains, pods, nuts, fruits, bulbs, tubers, corms/cormlets, rhizomes, suckers, cuttings, grafts, saplings, bud woods, roots, rootstock, flowers, pollens, dry plant materials, timber, wood, logs, tissue culture plants, soil, earth, clay, sand, peat/moss, live insects, microbial culture, bio-control agents, transgenic plants and genetically modified organisms etc.,
- (2) No categories of plants/plant products in respect of the plant species or variety mentioned in Schedule-IV shall be allowed to be imported into India from the countries mentioned against each in column (4) of the said Schedule.
- (3) ~~Every applications for a permit under this clause shall be made at least one month in advance to the Issuing Authority as listed in Schedule-X, in Form PQ-01 for the import of plants and plant products for consumption and processing and in form PQ-02 for import of seeds and plants for propagation covered under Schedule-V, VI and VII (Deleted vide Sixth Amendment of 2016, vide S.O.2453 (E), dated 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016).~~
- (4) Import of consignments of seeds of coarse cereals, pulses, oil seeds and fodder seeds and seeds/stock material of fruit plant species for propagation shall only be permitted based on the recommendations of EXIM Committee of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers’ Welfare (DAC&FW), except the trial material of the same as specified in Schedule-XII of Plant Quarantine Order.
- (5) ~~A fee of Rs.150/- shall be payable along with the application for the import of seeds, fruits and plants for consumption and Rs.300/- for application for the import of seeds and plants for sowing or planting and the fee shall be payable in the form of Demand Draft payable to the Competent Authority having jurisdiction (Deleted vide Sixth Amendment of 2016, vide S.O.2453 (E), dated 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016).~~
- (6) No consignment of regulated articles as referred under Clause 4, 6 & 7 shall be allowed for import unless accompanied with an import permit issued by the authority as specified under Schedule X.
- (7) (i) The Plant Protection Adviser shall, after obtaining the approval of the Central Government in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and based on International Standards established by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) under Food and Agriculture Organization, issue the guidelines for carrying out Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). No import shall be permitted for the consignment other than those listed in Schedule-V, VI and VII unless the Pest Risk Analysis is carried out in accordance with such guidelines and subject to such restrictions and conditions as specified. For this purpose the importer or NPPO of exporting country shall submit an application for PRA for import of agricultural commodities into India in form PQ 23, including the technical information in form PQ 24 for conducting PRA to PPA or Joint Secretary (PP). The technical information must be updated, validated and provided by National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country. The process of PRA involves the categorization of pests associated with the commodity into quarantine pests; evaluation of their introduction potential; critical assessment of economic and environmental impact of their introduction and spread; and specification of risk mitigating measures against them. The completion of PRA process shall involve the visit of phytosanitary experts to the country of export to carry out pre-shipment inspections, evaluate post-harvest treatment technologies and quarantine inspection and certification facilities. In

the event of interception of a quarantine pest in imported consignment, further import of consignments shall be suspended until earlier PRA in respect of the consignment is reviewed and the risk mitigating measures are evaluated.

- (ii) The commodities with least phytosanitary risk which are processed to the point where the commodity does not remain capable of being infested with quarantine pests (processed items), shall not require Plant Quarantine clearance. (S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)
- (8) The issue of permit may be refused or withheld by the issuing authority after giving reasonable notice to the applicant and for reasons to be recorded in writing.
- (9) The Import Permit issued shall be valid for twelve months from the date of issue and valid for multiple port access and multiple part shipments in accordance with Clause 3(14) (i) provided the exporter, importer and country of origin are the same for the entire consignment. The issuing authority may, on request, extend the period of validity for a further period of twelve months after charging Rs. 500/- provided such request for extension of validity is made to the issuing authority before the expiry of the permit with adequate reasons to be recorded in writing. Suppression of the facts or any material information while issue of import permit is liable to be cancelled or with drawn.
- (10) The import permit issued shall not be transferable and no amendments to the permit shall be issued except for change of point of entry subject to reasons to be recorded in writing.
- (11) ~~An orange and green colour tag shall be issued in form PQ-05 in the case of permits issued for import of seeds and plants for sowing or planting so as to facilitate the identification of consignments at the time of their arrival at the point of entry (Deleted vide Sixth Amendment of 2016, vide S.O.2453 (E), dated 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016).~~
- (12) No consignment of seed or grain shall be permitted to be imported with contamination of quarantine weeds, which are listed in Schedule-VIII unless the said consignment has been devitalized by the exporting country and a certificate to that effect has been endorsed in the phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country. Every application for quarantine inspection and clearance shall be made in Form PQ 15.
- (13) All the consignments of plants and plant products and other regulated articles shall be imported into India only through ports of entry as specified in Schedule-I and Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations and foreign post offices falling within the jurisdiction of concerned plant quarantine station operating here under or those notified by the Government from time to time in this behalf.
- (14) Points of entry for all consignments of seeds and plants for propagation and regulated articles- (S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)
  - (i) (a) All consignments of seeds and plants for propagation and regulated articles such as live insects, microbial cultures, bio-control agents, soil, growing media (with soil, peat or other organic materials) and peat or sphagnum moss shall only be imported into India through Regional Plant Quarantine Stations, Amritsar, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru or through any other points of entry as may be notified from time to time for this purpose, provided that import of germplasm/ transgenic plant material and genetically modified organisms shall be permitted only through New Delhi Airport.
  - (b) National Plant Quarantine Station, New Delhi is renamed as Regional Plant Quarantine Station, New Delhi.
  - (c) Plant Quarantine Station, Bengaluru is renamed as Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Bengaluru for import of seeds, consumption and propagating material.
  - (d) Plant Quarantine Station, Kandla is renamed as Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Kandla for import of consumption materials.
- (ii) All consignments of sand in any form for industrial and non-agricultural purpose shall be imported into India through notified sea ports under Schedule-I.



(iii) All consignments of stone (aggregated/dust) for non-agricultural purposes shall be permitted through the seaport, Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. (S.O. 1728(E) dated 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2019)

- (15) On arrival, at the first point of entry the consignment shall be inspected by the Plant Protection Adviser or any other officer duly authorized by him in this behalf and appropriate samples shall be drawn for laboratory testing, in accordance with the guidelines issued by Plant Protection Adviser from time to time.
- (16) The Plant Protection Adviser or the officer authorized by him may, after inspection and laboratory testing, fumigation, irradiation, disinfection or disinfestation, as may be considered necessary by him, accord quarantine clearance for the entry of a consignment or grant provisional clearance for growing under post-entry quarantine, as the case may be in form PQ 16 and or order deportation or destruction of the consignment in form PQ 17 in the event of non-compliance with the restrictions and conditions specified in this Order.
- (17) Where fumigation or disinfestation or disinfection is considered necessary in respect of a consignment of plants, seeds and fruits the importer shall on his own and at his cost arrange for the fumigation, disinfection or disinfestation of the consignment, through an agency approved by the Plant Protection Adviser under the supervision of an officer duly authorized by the Plant Protection Adviser in that behalf.

“Provided that where irradiation is necessary in respect of any consignment of fresh fruits or vegetables or other plant products, the same shall be carried out by the importer at his own cost, at an irradiation facility, established as per the regulations of the “Atomic Energy Regulatory Board” and duly approved by the “Plant Protection Adviser” to the Government of India (PPA) under the International Standards established under the “International Plant Protection Convention” and at the scheduled dosage approved by the Plant Protection Adviser under supervision of an officer authorized by him, where necessary”

- (18) It shall be the responsibility of the importer or his authorized agent –
- (i) to file an application for the quarantine inspection of imported seeds, plants and plant products or other regulated articles in the form PQ 15 along with copies of relevant documents and fees as prescribed under Schedule-IX payable by a demand draft to the competent authority
  - (ii) to provide information on any plant and plant product and other articles covered under this Order and which are imported by him/her or are in his/her possession, to Plant Protection Adviser or any officer duly authorised by him;
  - (iii) to bring the consignments to the concerned plant quarantine station or to place of inspection, fumigation or treatment as directed by Plant Protection Adviser or any officer duly authorised by him;.
  - (iv) to permit drawing of appropriate samples for inspection and laboratory investigation and extend necessary facilities towards the same;
  - (v) to open, repack and load into or unload from the fumigation chamber and seal the consignment;
  - (vi) to remove them after inspection and treatment according to the directions issued by the Plant Protection Adviser or any officer authorised by him;
- (19) to arrange deportation or destruction of the consignment at the cost of importer as may be deemed necessary by Plant Protection Adviser or an officer authorized by him

- (20) No consignment or container carrying plants and plant products intended for other countries shall be allowed transit through or transshipment at air or sea ports or land customs stations, unless they are packed in such a manner so as not to permit spillage of material or contamination with soil or escape of any pest, and subject to the condition that the package or container shall not be opened or seals are broken anywhere in India
- (21) No consignment shall be permitted import unless accompanied by an original Phytosanitary Certificate issued by an authorized officer at the country of origin in PQ Form 21 or at the country of re-export in PQ Form 22;

Provided that cut flowers, garlands, bouquets, dry fruits/nuts etc., weighing not more than two kilograms imported for personal consumption may be allowed to be imported without a Phytosanitary Certificate or an import permit.

Provided that all consignments of Similar material: Inorganic soil additives, Leonardite, Lignite, Pure sand (Silica, Zircon, Quartz, etc.), Pure clay like kaolin etc., Rock aggregates and Gravel, Volcanic pumice, Chalk, Rock salt, Diatomaceous earth, All kinds of ore, Vermiculite, Perlite, Gypsum, Zeolite etc., may be allowed to be imported in any form, for industrial and non agricultural purpose, without a Phytosanitary Certificate or an import permit.

- (20A) No article, packed with raw / solid wood packaging material shall be released by the proper officer of Customs unless the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated and marked as per ISPM-15 or is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the treatment endorsed.

The treatment of raw / solid wood packaging material prior to export shall include either Methyl bromide (MB) @ 48 g/m<sup>3</sup> for 24 hrs at 21<sup>o</sup>C and above or any equivalent thereof or heat treatment (HT) at 56 <sup>o</sup>C for 30 min (core temperature of wood) or Kiln Drying (KD) or Chemical Pressure Impregnation (CPI) or any other treatments provided that these meet the HT specification of the ISPM-15.

Any, article, if found packed with raw / solid wood packaging material without specified treatment and without marking as per ISPM-15 or if not accompanied by Phytosanitary Certificate with treatment endorsed, as the case may be, shall be considered untreated and shall be referred by the proper officer of the Customs to Plant Quarantine Officer. The proper officer or Customs shall grant release of such articles packed with untreated wood packaging material only after ensuring that the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated at the point of entry under the supervision of Plant Quarantine Officer.

Provided that above conditions shall not be applicable to wood packaging material wholly made of processed wood products such as ply wood, particle board, oriental strand board or veneer that have been created using glue, heat and pressure or combination thereof. Also the above conditions shall not be applicable to wood packaging material such as veneer peeler cores, saw dust, wood wool and shavings and thin wood pieces (less than 6 mm thickness), unless they are found to be harboring any regulated pests specified in this order.

Provided further that nothing contained in this clause shall be applicable to wood packaging materials used for packaging of bona-fide passenger baggage containing goods other than plant and plant products.

- (20 B) No article packed with hay or straw shall be allowed to be imported unless such hay or straw, as the case may be is treated prior to export and the article shall accompany the treatment certificate.

**Explanation:** In this sub-clause, the word “treated” shall mean treated by Methyl bromide fumigation @ 48 gm/m<sup>3</sup> for 24 hours at normal atmospheric pressure at 21<sup>0</sup>C or above or equivalent thereof; or steam sterilization under pressure 56<sup>0</sup>C for 30 minutes; or any other treatment approved by the Plant Protection Adviser.

- (21) ~~No consignment packed with the packaging material specified in clause 2(xiii) of this order shall be permitted import unless appropriately treated. The treatments shall include heat-kiln treatment at 56<sup>0</sup>C for a minimum of 30 hrs or Methyl Bromide fumigation at 48 g/cum for 32 hours or chemical impregnation of wood with wood preservatives such as copper chrome arsenic or any other approved treatment as per international standards and the treatment shall be endorsed in phytosanitary certificate (Deleted vide Third Amendment of 2004, vide S.O. 644(E), dated 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2004).~~
- (22) ~~No article packed with packaging materials shall be released by the proper officers of customs unless the consignment is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate in respect of said packing material;~~

~~Provided that if no phytosanitary certificate is furnished in respect of said packaging material, the proper officer of customs shall grant out of charge only after clearance is obtained from local plant quarantine authorities, who shall grant clearance from the quarantine angle and may, if deemed fit, subject the said packaging material to treatment at the expense of importer.~~

~~Provided further nothing contained in this clause shall be applicable to packaging materials in respect of bonafide passenger baggage containing goods other than plants and plant products~~

~~(Deleted vide Third Amendment of 2004, vide S.O. 644(E), dated 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2004).~~

**4. Import of soil, growing media, etc. - No import of soil, growing media (with soil, peat or other organic materials), sand and peat or sphagnum moss, similar material and stone shall be permitted except under the following conditions, namely:-**

- (i) The consignments of soil in any form for research purpose; growing media (with soil, peat or other organic materials like sphagnum moss) for horticultural purposes shall be permitted through specified air or sea ports or land customs station, on application made for that purpose. Provided an import permit shall be required for consignment of soil in any form for research purpose; growing media (with soil, peat or other organic materials), peat or sphagnum moss for horticultural purposes. (S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)
- (ii) The application or online application for the purpose referred to in (i) above shall be made to the Issuing Authority as listed in Schedule-X, at least 10 days in advance, in PQ Form 06.
- (iii) A fee of Rs. 1000/- shall be payable along with the application. The fee shall be payable online or in the form of Demand Draft payable to the Competent Authority having jurisdiction.
- (iv) The Competent Authority may, after scrutiny of the application, and if satisfied of the purpose, for which such consignment is being imported, issue special permit in Form PQ 07. The import permit shall be issued subject to such restrictions and conditions prescribed under Schedule-VI.

**5. Fees for inspection, fumigation, etc. -The importer of the consignment or his agent shall pay to the Plant Protection Adviser or any other officer duly authorized by him in this behalf, the fees prescribed in Schedule-IX towards inspection, fumigation, disinfestation, disinfection of consignment.**

**6. Permits required for import of Germplasm, Transgenic or Genetically Modified Organisms**

- (1) No consignment of germplasm/transgenics/Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) shall be imported into India for the purpose of agricultural research or experimentation purpose without valid permit issued by the Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi - 110012.

**Explanation:** In this sub-clause, “purpose of agricultural research or the purpose of experimentation” shall not include commercial imports which are governed by separate guidelines issued by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, or as the case may be by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM)”.

(2) Every application for import of plant germplasm/ transgenics/genetically modified organisms for research/experimental purpose by the public/private organizations will be made to the Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi in form PQ 08 and the permit shall be issued in form PQ 09 in triplicate and a red/green tag in PQ 10 for germplasm and a Red/White tag in PQ 11 for transgenic/Genetically Modified Organisms. Such permits for import of transgenic/Genetically Modified Organisms shall be issued subject to the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) or as the case may be, the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) set- up by Department of Biotechnology under the provisions of sub-rule (2) of rule 4 of the Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms, Genetically engineered organisms or cells made under Sections 6, 8 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) and subject to such restrictions and conditions prescribed thereof.

(3) No imported consignments of plant germplasm/ transgenics/ genetically modified pests shall be opened at the point of entry and it shall be forwarded to the Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

#### **7. Import of live insects and other arthropods/nematodes/microbial cultures including algae/bio-control agents -**

(1) No consignment of live insects and other arthropods/nematodes/microbial cultures including algae/bio-control agents shall be permitted into India without valid import permit issued by competent authority as specified under Schedule-X.

(2) Every application or online application for permit to import live insects and other arthropods/nematodes/microbial cultures including algae/bio-control agents, shall be made in the PQ Form 12 at least thirty days in advance to Plant Protection Adviser along with a fee of Rs. 1000/- towards registration in the form of bank draft issued in favour of the Accounts Officer, Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad-121001.

(3) The competent authority shall issue the permit in PQ Form 13 in triplicate, if satisfied of the purpose for which import is made and subject to such conditions imposed thereon.

(4) All the consignments of live insects and other arthropods/nematodes/microbial cultures including algae/bio-control agents shall be permitted only through points of entry specified under Clause 3(14). The consignment of beneficial insects shall be accompanied by a certificate issued by National Plant Protection Organisation at the country of origin with additional declarations for freedom from specified parasites and parasitoids and the bio-control agents free from hyper-parasites. The consignment of beneficial insects/bio-control agents shall be subjected to Post-entry quarantine as may be prescribed by the Plant Protection Adviser.

(5) Nothing contained in the clause shall apply to import of live insects and other arthropods/nematodes/microbial cultures including algae/bio-control agents having no relevance in agriculture.

#### **8. Permit required for import of plants and plant products –**

(1) No consignment of plants and plant products, if found infested or infected with a quarantine pest or contaminated with noxious weed species shall be permitted to be imported.

- (2) Every vessel carrying out bulk shipment of grains shall be inspected on board by an officer duly authorized by Plant Protection Adviser before the same accorded permission to off-load the grain at the notified port of entry. On inspection, if found free from quarantine pests and noxious weed species, permission shall be accorded to off-load the grain at the port or order fumigation/treatment of grain on board or immediately upon unloading at the port, as the case may be, before such permission is granted for movement outside the port and subject to such conditions as imposed thereon.
- (3) The bulk shipment (s) of transgenic plants or plant products or genetically modified organisms shall be dealt as per the provisions of the Rules for manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms, Genetically engineered organisms or cells made under Sections 6, 8 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) or under the mechanism established as per the provisions of Biosafety Protocol by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

## **9. Requirement of Import of Wood and Timber:**

- (1) No consignment of timber and wood/bamboo products shall be brought into India unless such consignment fulfils the following conditions, namely: (S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)-
  - (i) No consignment of timber and wood/bamboo species other than those listed under Schedule-VI & VII shall be imported into India unless the provisions of Clause 3(7) are fulfilled.
  - (ii) The timber/wood with or without bark and bamboo shall be fumigated prior to export with Methyl bromide at 48 g/m<sup>3</sup> for 24 hrs at 21<sup>0</sup>C or above or equivalent thereof or any other treatment duly approved by the Plant Protection Adviser and the treatment shall be endorsed on the Phytosanitary Certificate issued thereof at the country of export or re-export;
  - (iii) The timber or sawn or sized wood with or without bark prior to export shall be either fumigated as per Clause 9(2)(ii) or kiln dried at 56<sup>0</sup>C for 30 minutes (core temperature of wood) or heat treated at 56<sup>0</sup>C for 30 minutes (core temperature of wood) and the treatment shall be endorsed on the Phytosanitary Certificate issued thereof at the country of export or re-export.
  - (iv) Wood/Bamboo based products such as manufactured/ finished/ handicrafts/ furniture/ joinery and articles from carpentry (windows/doors/shutters/photo frames/ curtain rods/boxes/ thatch etc)/ conveyances (row boats, vehicle decks, trailers etc)/ garden items/house hold articles/ musical instruments/ sporting equipments/ tools/toys/flower vase/ wood fiber/ woody dry branches without bark/ cones/baskets etc/., shall be fumigated/treated prior to manufacturing/crafting/ finishing process etc., with methyl bromide at 48 g/m<sup>3</sup> for 24 hrs at 21<sup>0</sup>C or above at NAP or kiln dried or heat treated at 56<sup>0</sup>C for 30 minutes (core temperature of wood) or Gamma irradiation at 25 kGray or equivalent thereof or any other treatment duly approved by the Plant Protection Adviser and the treatment shall be endorsed on the Phytosanitary Certificate issued thereof at the country of export or re-export;
- (2) All the consignments of timber shall be inspected on board prior to unloading at the port of arrival by an officer duly authorized by Plant Protection Adviser and, if necessary, fumigated or treated on board before unloading:
 

Provided that no such inspection shall be necessary in case of containerized cargo.
- (3) The containerized cargo of timber or sawn/sized wood without bark and wood/bamboo based products shall be inspected by an authorized Plant Quarantine Officer after unloading of the containers from the ship at the port of Container Freight Station or Inland Container Depots under the jurisdiction of concerned Plant Quarantine Station.
- (4) The provision of this Order shall not apply to consignments of processed wood material such as plywood, particleboard, oriental strand board or veneer that have been manufactured by using glue, heat and pressure or combination thereof.

**CHAPTER III**  
**Special conditions of Import**

**10. Special conditions for import of plant species –**

- (1) In addition to the general conditions listed above in Chapter-II, the plant species herein after mentioned in Schedule-V, VI and VII shall be permitted to be imported subject to such restrictions and conditions specified in this Chapter.
- (2) Every consignment of plant species herein specified in Schedule-V, VI and VII shall be accompanied by an original Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the authorized officer at country of origin or Phytosanitary Certificate for re-export issued by the country of re-export along with attested copy of phytosanitary certificate from country of origin, as the case may be, with the additional declarations being free from pests mentioned under Schedule-V and VI of this order or that the pests as specified do not occur in the country or state of origin.
- (3) The special conditions as specified under Schedule V and VI including treatment and freedom from soil and/ or weed shall be endorsed on such Phytosanitary certificate wherever applicable. (S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)
- (4) The consignment of plants and planting material shall be imported subject to the conditions stipulated under Clause 3(4). (S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)

**CHAPTER IV**  
**Post-entry Quarantine**

**11. Post-entry quarantine (Replaced vide S.O.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018)**

- (1) Plants and seeds, which require post-entry quarantine as laid down in Schedule V and VI of this Order, shall be grown in Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) facilities duly established by importer at his cost, approved and certified by the Inspection Authority (IA) as per the guidelines prescribed by the Plant Protection Adviser.
- (2) Nothing contained in Sub-clause (1) shall apply to the import of tissue-cultured plants that are certified virus-free as per Schedule-V and VI, but such plants, shall be subjected to inspection at the point of entry to ensure that the phytosanitary requirements are met with.
- (3) Every application for certification of PEQ facilities shall be submitted to the Inspection Authority in Form PQ 18. The Inspection Authority if satisfied after necessary inspection and verification of facilities shall issue a certificate in Form PQ 19.
- (4) Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S) shall carry out audit of PEQ facilities jointly with concerned IA for its approval. The inspection will be carried out to establish the compliance of the facility with the relevant SOP.
- (5) At the time of arrival of the consignment, the importer shall produce this certificate before the Officer-in-Charge of the Plant Quarantine (PQ) Station at the entry point along with an undertaking in Form PQ 20.
- (6) Where the Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Plant Quarantine Station, after inspection of the consignment is satisfied, shall accord provisional clearance under PEQ on the production, by an

importer, of a certificate from the Inspection Authority with the stipulation that the plants shall be grown in such PEQ facility for the period specified in the PQ Order.

- (7) After according provisional release under post-entry quarantine, the Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Plant Quarantine Station at the entry point shall inform the Inspection Authority, having jurisdiction over the post-entry quarantine facility, of their arrival at the location where such plants would be grown by the importer.
- (8) Consignment or part thereof shall not be removed from the designated PEQ facility by way of donation/ distribution/ sale etc. until such time the consignment is granted final clearance by Plant Protection Adviser or the officer authorized by him.
- (9) It shall be the responsibility of the importer or his agent -
  - (i) to intimate the Inspection Authority in advance about the date of planting of the imported plant or seed.
  - (ii) not to transfer or part with or dispose the consignment during the pendency of PEQ except in accordance with a written approval of Inspection Authority.
  - (iii) to permit the Inspection Authority complete access to the PEQ facility at all times and abide by the instructions of such Inspection Authority.
  - (iv) to maintain an inspection kit containing all requisite items to facilitate nursery inspection and ensure proper plant protection and upkeep of nursery records.
  - (v) to extend necessary facilities to the Inspection Authority during his visit to the nursery and arrange destruction of any part or whole of plant population when ordered by him in the event of infection or infestation by a quarantine pest, in a manner specified by him.
- (10) The Inspection of the consignment in PEQ facility shall be carried out at frequent interval by IA jointly with the nominated Officers of DPPQS. The frequency of the inspections shall be decided considering the growing period of the consignment subject to a minimum of two inspections out of which one inspection shall invariably at the end of PEQ period of the plant species concerned in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Plant Protection Adviser, with a view to detect any pests and advise necessary phytosanitary measures to contain the pests.
- (11) Where the plants in the PEQ are found to be affected by pests and diseases during the specified period the inspection authority shall: -
  - (i) Order the destruction of the affected consignment of whole or a part of the plant population in the PEQ if the pest or disease is exotic, or
  - (ii) Advise the importer about the curative measures to be taken to the extent necessary, if the pest or disease is not exotic and permit the release of the affected population from the PEQ only after curative measures have been observed to be successful. Otherwise, the plants shall be ordered to be destroyed.
- (12) Where destruction of any plant population is ordered by the Inspection Authority, the importer shall destroy the same in the manner as shall be directed by the IA and under his supervision.
- (13) At the end of final inspection, the Inspection Authority shall forward a copy of the report of PEQ inspection duly signed by him to the Plant Protection Adviser under intimation to officer-in-charge of concerned PQ station.

- (14) Final decision regarding release of the consignments shall be granted only by Plant Protection Adviser or the officer authorized by him taking into consideration of inspection report.
- (15) Proper record of each inspection visit shall be maintained by IA.
- (16) The importer shall be liable to pay the prescribed fee for inspection of plants in the PEQ facility as laid down in Schedule-IX.

## **CHAPTER V Appeal and Revision**

### **12. Appeal**

- (1) If an importer is aggrieved by the decision of the inspection authority regarding the destruction of any plant population, he may appeal to the Plant Protection Adviser within 7 days from the date of communication of the decision giving the grounds of appeal.
- (2) It shall be lawful for the Plant Protection Adviser to rely on the observations of the inspection authority and such other expert opinion, as he may deem necessary, for deciding the appeal.
- (3) The memorandum of appeal under sub-clause (1) shall set out the grounds in successive paragraphs on which the decision is challenged and shall be accompanied by a bank draft in favour of the Plant Protection Adviser and payable at Faridabad, evidencing the payment of fee of Rs. 100/-

### **13. Revision -**

The Plant Protection Adviser may, at any time, call for the records relating to any case pending before the inspection authority for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality or propriety of any decision passed by that authority and may pass such order in relation thereto, as it thinks fit:

Provided that no such order shall be passed after the expiry of three months from the date of the decision;

Provided further that the Plant Protection Adviser shall not pass any order prejudicial to any person, without giving him a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

## **CHAPTER VI Power of Relaxation**

### **14. Relaxation conditions of Import Permit and Phytosanitary Certificate in certain cases –**

- (1) The Central Government may, in public interest, relax any of the conditions of this Order relating to the import of any consignment. The Joint Secretary in-charge of Plant Protection in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation shall be the competent authority for according the relaxation. Further the powers of relaxation has been delegated (vide DAC Lt. No. 8-5/2004-PPI(pt) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005) to officers in charge of the Plant Quarantine Stations for relaxing the conditions of Import permit and phytosanitary certificate required as per Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 as a one-time exception in favour of a single party and not for repeated violations by that party. All second or subsequent cases of violation of requirement of Import Permit and Phytosanitary certificate by any party shall be forwarded to Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), Department of Agriculture & Cooperaton.
- (2) In the event of grant of relaxation by competent authority, the consignment shall be released after charging the fee for import permit and fee for plant quarantine inspection at five times of normal rates.



- (3) The provisions of this Order shall apply without prejudice to the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) or any other Acts or Order related to imports.

## **Chapter VII Repeal and Savings**

### **15. Repeals and Savings -**

- (1) The following orders and notifications are hereby repealed, namely: -
- (i) Rules for regulating the import of insects into India notified under F-193/40A dated 3.2.1941.
  - (ii) Rules for regulating the import of fungi into India notified under F.16-5(I)/43A dated 10.5.43.
  - (iii) Import of cotton into India Regulations, 1972.
  - (iv) Plants, Fruits & Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989.
- (2) Not with standing such repeal, an import permit issued by any competent authority, which is in force immediately before the commencement of this Order and shall continue in force till the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2004 and all appointments made and fees levied under the repealed Rules, Regulations and Orders, and in force immediately before such commencement shall likewise continue in force and be deemed to be made or levied in pursuance of this Order until revoked.

**\* PQ Forms 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 10, 11 and 14 have been deleted vide Sixth Amendment of 2016, S.O. 2453 (E), dated 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.**

PQ Forms 01 (Application for permit to import plants/plant products for consumption or processing), PQ Forms 02 (Application for permit to import plants/plant materials for sowing/planting /propagation), PQ Forms 03 (Permit for Import of Plants/Plant products for Consumption/Processing),  
PQ Forms 04 (Permit for Import of Plants/Plant materials for Sowing/Planting/Propagation),  
PQ Forms 05 (Orange/Green colour tag),  
PQ Forms 10 (Face of the Tag or Label),  
PQ Forms 11 (Face of Label, Reverse of the Label) and PQ Forms 14 (Face of label, Reverse of the Label).