

**PROTOCOL OF PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE EXPORT OF TOBACCO LEAVES FROM INDIA TO CHINA
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND FARMERS WELFARE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

In order to safely export tobacco leaves from India to the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as MOA&FW) and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as GACC), on the basis of the pest risk assessment, friendly exchanged views and have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The tobacco leaves exported to China, which must be produced in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka of India, and have been cured and re-dried, must comply with the relevant phytosanitary and sanitary laws and regulations of China, and meet the requirements as stipulated in this Protocol.

ARTICLE 2

The importers of tobacco must obtain the import quarantine permit from GACC before trade contracts are signed.

ARTICLE 3

Both sides agree that tobacco blue mold (*Peronospora tabacina*) pathogen does not exist in India at present. However, MOA&FW will take effective monitoring measures in the field to ensure that the tobacco producing area is free of tobacco blue mold. If tobacco blue mold is found, MOA&FW shall inform GACC immediately and the tobacco trade will be temporarily suspended accordingly.

ARTICLE 4

The tobacco leaves must be securely packaged in airproof way to prevent the contamination of quarantine pests. During the processing and transportation, MOA&FW should take necessary measures to prevent the contamination from the other production areas' tobacco leaves.

The packing material for tobacco must be clean, sanitary, unused and comply with the phytosanitary requirements of China. Each carton should be labeled to include the following information: type of tobacco, production place, harvesting year and processing plant.

The containers to be loaded for tobacco must be clean and free to soil and other foreign material.

ARTICLE 5

The tobacco must be free from any other quarantine pests of concern to China and plant debris and soil. If live insects such as tobacco beetle (*Lasioderma serricorne*) are found, fumigation or other measures must be conducted for the consignment.

ARTICLE 6

MOA&FW shall conduct export quarantine inspection for tobacco leaves. For the consignment of tobacco leaves which meets the requirement stipulated in this protocol, MOA&FW shall issue a Phytosanitary Certificate according to the standards of IPPC 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 India to China, and is free from tobacco blue mold and other quarantine pests."

ARTICLE 7

When the shipment of tobacco leaves arrives at the entry ports, GACC will examine relevant certificates, labels and conduct inspection and quarantine.

If the tobacco blue mold is found on arrival, the consignment will be returned or destroyed. GACC will immediately inform MOA&FW that the importation of tobacco leaves from India is temporarily suspended. Both parties shall conduct investigations to find out the causes and take relevant effective corrective measures.

If any live insects are found on arrival, the consignment will be subject to fumigation.

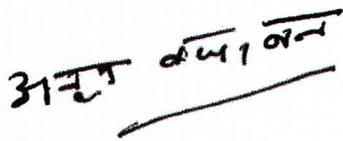
If other inconformity is found, the consignment will be treated in accordance with the relevant articles of the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine* and its regulations for implementation.

ARTICLE 8

In order to review and assess the implementation of this protocol, GACC will dispatch experts to conduct on-site inspection once at the end of first year of signing this Protocol.

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

Signed at Beijing on 21 January 2019, in duplicate in Chinese, Hindi and English. All three texts have equal force. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text will prevail.



On behalf of
the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
of the Republic of India

21/01/19



On behalf of
the General Administration of Customs
of the People's Republic of China