



Notice to Industry

Shipments of Seed Potatoes to the United States

OTTAWA, January 21, 2014: Effective immediately, shipments of seed potato tubers destined for the United States (U.S.) will be inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) upon request prior to export. This is an interim measure to facilitate export of the 2013 seed potato crop to the U.S.

The CFIA has been working with stakeholders to expand the Seed Potato Tuber Quality Management Program (SPTQMP) to allow farmers or their representatives to perform grade and quality inspections for seed potato tubers shipped domestically and to the U.S. The CFIA will continue to work with industry and its U.S. counterparts towards full implementation of the SPTQMP. However, at this time, inspection of shipments of seed potato tubers destined for the U.S. will be carried out by the CFIA at the request of the producer. The proposed changes to the SPTQMP for domestic shipments of seed potato tubers remain unchanged.

Effective immediately, Canadian producers and exporters of seed potatoes to the U.S. are required to contact their local CFIA office at their earliest convenience to schedule the inspections. The applicable fees for CFIA seed potato inspections will remain the same (\$1.20 per tonne) for inspections conducted during regular working hours. Industry is asked to provide as much advance notice as is possible should after-hours inspection be required. Please note that additional fees will be applied to cover the costs of the after-hours inspection.

The Government of Canada is committed to facilitating continued market access for Canadian seed potato growers and exporters.