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POLICY

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Technical Regulation on 'Red Fruit' (Berries)

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Strawberries

Fresh Fruit

Planting Seeds

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Report Highlights:

Beginning October 5, 2018, imported certified plant material must comply with the requirements of MinAg [Order No. 2109-17](#), a technical regulation concerning the production of strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, gooseberry and blackcurrant in Morocco. Imported plant material must belong to varieties registered in the official catalog of the species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco and must, in addition, meet the provisions of the phytosanitary legislation and regulations in force in Morocco. This measure has not been notified to the WTO.

General Information: Beginning October 5, 2018, imported certified plant material must comply with the requirements of [Order No. 2109-17](#), a technical regulation concerning the production of strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, gooseberry and blackcurrant in Morocco. Imported plant material must belong to varieties registered in the official catalog of species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco and must, in addition, meet the provisions of the phytosanitary legislation and regulations in force in Morocco.

Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests [No. 2109-17 of kaada 25, 1438 \(August 18, 2017\)](#) concerning the approval of the technical regulation relating to production, inspection and packaging, and the certification of red fruit plant species (strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, gooseberry and blackcurrant).

AGRICULTURE, MARITIME
DEVELOPMENT AND WATERS AND FORESTS,

[\(O.G No. 6610 of October 5, 2017, page 1155\)](#)

THE MINISTER OF
FISHERIES, RURAL

Having regard to the [Dahir No. 1-69-169 of Joumada I 10, 1389 \(July 25 1969\)](#) regulating the production and marketing of seeds and plants, as amended, in particular Articles 1, 2 and 5 thereof;

Having regard to the [Law No. 25-08](#) establishing the National Office of food safety, promulgated by the [Dahir No.1-09-20 of the Safar 22, 1430 \(February 18, 2009\)](#), in particular its article 2;

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform [No. 863-75 of Chaoual 8, 1397 \(September 22, 1977\)](#) laying down the conditions for holding the official catalog of species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco, as well as the experimentation modalities prior to the inclusion of new varieties in the said catalog, in particular Article 3 thereof,

Decide:

FIRST ARTICLE - The technical regulation on the production, inspection, packaging and certification of red fruit plant species (strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, gooseberry and blackcurrant) is approved, as annexed to this Order. This regulation can be consulted at the services of the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA) and on the website of the said office.

Article 2 - In accordance with Article 5 of [Dahir No. 1.69.169](#) referred to above, the plants mentioned in Article 1 above may be marketed only by the bodies approved by order of the Minister of Agriculture.

Those bodies are required to declare, in November and May of each year, to the ONSSA the situation of their stocks of certified seed.

Article 3 - The Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform No. 1477-83 of Rabia I 16, 1404 (December 21, 1983) approving the technical regulation for the production, inspection, packaging, the conservation and certification of strawberry plants is repealed. However, the bodies approved for the marketing of strawberry plants at the date of publication of this Order shall have one year from that date to comply with the requirements of the Technical Regulation annexed to this Order. Any reference to the provisions of the above-mentioned Order No. 1477-83 in the regulations in force shall be deemed to be made in this Order.

Article 4 - This Order will be published in the Official Gazette.

Rabat, kaada 25, 1438 (August 18, 2017)

The Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries,

Rural Development and Water and Forests, Aziz AKHANNOUCH

ANNEX:

To the Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests [No. 2109-17 of kaada 25, 1438 \(August 18, 2017\)](#) concerning the approval of the technical regulation relating to production, inspection and packaging, and the certification of red fruit plant species (strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, gooseberry and blackcurrant)

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Technical regulation relating to production, inspection and packaging, and the certification of red fruit plant species (strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, gooseberry and blackcurrant)

I. INTRODUCTION

The certification of red fruit plant species is organized in accordance with the provisions of this technical regulation adopted under [Dahir No. 1-69-169 of Joumada I 10, 1389 \(July 25 1969\)](#) regulating the production and marketing of seeds and plants, as amended by the Dahir Law No. 1-76-472 of Chaoual 5, 1397 (September 19 1977), in particular Articles 2 and 5 thereof.

The implementation of the inspection operations and certification of plants is carried out by the competent services of the National Office of food safety (ONSSA) or, for some of these others; by persons benefiting from a delegation decision issued for the said purpose by the Director General of ONSSA in accordance with the regulations in force. This control is exercised at all stages of production, packaging, storage and marketing of plants.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this technical regulation:

1. **Red fruit species:** The following species:
 - **Strawberry:** Plants of the species *Fragaria x ananassa duch* intended for the production of strawberries;
 - **Raspberry:** Plants of the species *Rubus-idaeus L.* intended for the production of raspberries;
 - **Blueberry:** Plants of the species *Vaccinium sp.* intended for the production of blueberries;
 - **Blackberry:** Plants of the species *Rubus fruticosus* intended for the production of blackberries;
 - **Gooseberry:** Plants of the species *Ribes rubrum L.* intended for the production of gooseberries;
 - **Blackcurrant:** plants of the species *Ribes nigrum L.* intended for the production of blackcurrants;
2. **Variety:** Any cultivated plant grouping of a botanical taxon of the lowest known rank and which may be:
 - Defined by the expression of characters resulting from a given genotype or combination of genotypes;
 - Distinguished from any other plant grouping by the expression of at least one of the said characters;
 - Considered as an unit with regard to its suitability for being propagated identically;
3. **Cuttings:** The fraction of twig, bearing one or more eyes intended for propagation of a given variety;
4. **Stolon:** The creeping stem that develops roots and leaves forming a new plant;
5. **Wood Utilization Yard:** Shrubs controlled in accordance with this technical regulation and intended for the production of cuttings;
6. **Strawberry plant:** Any plant obtained by vegetative propagation of strawberry;
7. **Raspberry plant:** Any plant obtained by vegetative propagation of raspberry;
8. **Blueberry plant:** Any plant obtained by vegetative propagation of blueberry;
9. **Blackberry plant:** Any plant obtained by vegetative propagation of blackberry;
10. **Gooseberry plant:** Any plant obtained by vegetative propagation of gooseberry;
11. **Blackcurrant plant:** Any plant obtained by vegetative propagation of the blackcurrant.

III. CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION TO THE CONTROL:

III-1. CONDITIONS RELATING TO NURSERYMEN

Any nurseryman, natural or legal person, who wishes to produce the various categories of certified red fruit plant material, must meet the following conditions:

- Have an easily accessible field;
- Have a professional qualification or benefit from the services of qualified technical staff capable of carrying out all the production operations in good conditions;
- Commit to not produce and not commercialize plants of uncontrolled red fruit species in the nursery, in accordance with the provisions of this technical regulation;
- Have the necessary facilities and equipment for the production, maintenance, health protection and storage of certified plants;
- Use only parcels or substrates that are free from nematodes or other pathogens that are harmful to red fruit species. In the case of plots intended for the production of strawberry plants, they must not have been used for the production of nightshades or strawberries for the five (5) years preceding the start of production of the certified strawberry plants. However, this period may be reduced to three (3) years in the event of disinfection of the said parcels. These requirements do not apply to above-ground production;
- Commit to have a traceability system that makes it possible at any time to know the origin of the plants that make up the batch presented for certification;
- Have the approval issued in accordance with the provisions of the [Dahir Law No. 1-69-169](#) cited above, currently valid.

III-2. SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO PRODUCERS OF PLANT AND PRE-BASIC PLANT MATERIAL

In addition to the conditions laid down in III-1 above, any nurseryman producing plant and pre-basic plant material must have:

- Authentic and disease-free plant material;
- Insulating shelters to avoid insect attack and contamination by different disease vectors for pre-basic plant material;
- A laboratory of in vitro culture, whose equipment allows the sampling of meristems and the production of rooted plants for the propagation of strawberry plants.

III-3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION DECLARATION

Before the beginning of the execution of its production program, any nurseryman must send to the department concerned of ONSSA a declaration of production established according to the model fixed in Annex I to this technical regulation, accompanied by the following documents:

- An analysis bulletin of the *Meloidogyne* and *Pratylenchus* nematodes for strawberry and raspberry and *Xiphinema diversicaudatum* for blackberry. This analysis must be carried out in the three months preceding the use of the substrate;
- Documents justifying the origin of the plant material used (invoice, certificate of origin or other documents);
- A sketch indicating the location of the nursery to be inspected, with all the information that enables its location, including by means of the Geographic Information System (GIS), where applicable, as well as the indications relating to kilometric distances, routes and tracks leading from the nearest commune to the nursery.

Any declaration of production which does not conform to the model indicated above or not accompanied by the aforementioned documents is inadmissible.

For any declaration complying with the conditions prescribed by this technical regulation, a receipt is given to the declarant by the ONSSA service referred to above.

From the date of receipt by the person concerned of the receipt of the production declaration, it must allow the persons referred to in I of this technical regulation to access the nursery including the premises of packaging and storage of plants.

III- 4. CONDITIONS RELATING TO CERTIFIED VARIETIES

Only plants of varieties of red fruit species listed in the official catalog of species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco may be certified.

III- 5. PRODUCTION BODIES

III-5-1. Category of Plant Material

The plant material of the red fruit species, subject of this technical regulation, includes the following categories:

1. **Beginning material:** Authentic and disease-free plant material coming directly from the breeder or maintainer, after inclusion of the variety in the official catalog of species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco. For strawberry, this category can be obtained either by macro-propagation (M0) or by in vitro propagation (F0);
2. **Pre-basic material:** Authentic and disease-free plant material from vegetative propagation in a single generation of beginning material. For strawberry, this category can be obtained either by macro-propagation (M1) or by in vitro propagation (F1);
3. **Basic material:** Authentic and disease-free plant material from vegetative propagation in a single generation of pre-basic material or beginning material. For strawberry, this category is called (M2) or (F2), depending on the propagation method used: macro-propagation or in-vitro;
4. **Certified material:** Authentic, disease-free plant material consisting of cuttings taken from basic or pre-basic material and intended for the production of certified plants, as well as rooted plants from cuttings. For the strawberry plant, certified plants (F3) are derived from the multiplication of basic plants (M2) or (F2).

III- 5-2. General Production Rules

Beginning, pre-basic, basic or certified plant material shall, as appropriate, be under the direct responsibility of the breeder and / or maintainer or nurseryman.

The identification of the batches of different categories of plant material in the nursery is carried out by means of signs bearing the following indications:

- The category of plant material;
- The batch number, attributed from the production declaration;
- The name of the variety;
- The date of planting.

The plants must be separated from all other crops by a strip of soil at least 20 meters wide permanently cleaned by cultivation techniques or herbicide treatments.

The minimum separation distance between the different categories of plant material is given in Annex II of this Technical Regulation.

III-5-3. Special Rules Applicable to Strawberry

In addition to the general rules referred to in III-5-2 above, the following special production rules, apply to strawberry:

- The flowering stalks must be removed before fruit set. Fruit production is a cause of refusal of certification;
- Stunted or abnormal plants or those suffering from disease or pests, and plants belonging to a variety other than the variety produced, including plants derived from these other varieties, must be removed and destroyed;
- Plants in the vicinity of a diseased plant must be removed and destroyed.

The above operations are carried out under the responsibility of the nurseryman.

IV. MODALITIES OF CONTROL OF PRODUCTION:

Plant material control for the purpose of certification includes:

- Nursery control;
- Laboratory control;
- Control in the conditioning and storage places;
- Control of imported certified plant material.

IV-1. NURSERY CONTROL

This control covers all categories of red fruit species plants. It concerns the control of the varietal authenticity and the health status of the plants, which must be free from the pests, and diseases referred to in Annex III to this Technical Regulation and meet the requirements for virus diseases laid down in B of the said Annex.

Any plant material that fails to meet the requirements of this IV-1 at the time of the inspection must, as the case may be, be treated or removed and destroyed.

When it comes to basic material or certified plant, the destruction concerns the whole batch.

IV-1-1. Beginning and pre-basic material

The beginning and pre-basic materials are visually inspected and subject to the following controls:

- **Before planting:** Checking the origin of plants and checking that the isolation is respected;
- **During production:**
 - Control of the varietal authenticity and health status of the plants;
 - Production estimation of cuttings and stolon before sampling.

IV-1-2. Basic material

Control of basic materials is carried out on plant material intended for the production of cuttings or stolon. This control is performed as follows:

- **Before planting:** Checking the origin of the plants and checking that the isolation is respected;
- **During production:**
 - Control of the varietal authenticity and health status of the plants;
 - Production estimation of cuttings and stolon before sampling

The plants shall be visually inspected and, where appropriate, sampled for laboratory analysis for the purpose of determining the possible presence of the harmful organisms on the list set out in Annex III to this Technical Regulation.

IV-1-3. Certified plant

Certified plants are subject to the following controls:

- A control carried out after the cuttings to verify the origin of the plant material used, the rate of rooting of the cuttings, as well as their varietal authenticity and health status;
- A control carried out at the time of plant development to verify their varietal authenticity, vegetative state and health status.

IV-2. LABORATORY CONTROL

Any plant material accepted after control in the nursery is subject to laboratory control. The beginning, pre-basic and basic material is systematically checked by the breeder, the maintainer or the nurseryman, as the case may be. The relevant departments of ONSSA carry out, by sampling, the control of this equipment in accordance with the provisions of Annex IV of this technical regulation.

IV-3. CONTROL IN THE CONDITIONING AND STORAGE PLACES

The control in storage premises aims to ensure storage conditions and good conservation of the plant material of red fruit species plants.

IV-4. CONTROL OF IMPORTED CERTIFIED PLANT MATERIAL

Imported certified plant material must comply with the requirements of this technical regulation in respect of plant material of the same category (beginning, pre-basic, basic and certified plant) produced in Morocco.

The importation must concern plants belonging to varieties registered in the official catalog of the species and varieties of cultivable plants in Morocco and must, in addition, meet the provisions of the phytosanitary legislation and regulations in force in Morocco.

V. CERTIFICATION AND LABELING

V-1. CERTIFICATION

Only the plant material, which after the inspection operations carried out, meets the requirements of this Technical Regulation and the specifications laid down in Annexes II, III and V may be certified. This certification gives rise to its labeling in accordance with the provisions of V-2 below.

When the plant material is ready for sale, the nurseryman must notify the concerned department ONSSA to conduct its certification and to allow its labeling.

V-2. LABELING

The certified plant material commercialized must bear a label conforming to the model prescribed by ONSSA, and bearing the following information: The variety, the batch number and the category of plant material.

These labels are white for basic and pre-basic plant material and red for certified plants. The certified plants can not under any circumstances, be used for propagation.

The aforementioned labels are attached to each plant (pre-basic, basic and certified), for the production in bags is affixed to packages of 25 to 30 plants for bare-root production.

Where, following one of the checks referred to in IV above, it appears that the plant material no longer meets the certification requirements of this Technical Regulation, the certification and the corresponding labels are withdrawn.

V-3. SPECIFIC MEASURES

In the event of unavailability on the national market of plants to be certified that meets all specifications, the Director General of ONSSA may, for a period not exceeding one crop year, decide on the certification, by way of exemption, of plants that at least meets the following specifications:

- Comply with the requirements set out in Annex III in this technical regulation;
- Do not have open wounds;
- Have a healthy and intact root system.

The exemption decision issued to each nurseryman must bear, in addition to the identification details of the nurseryman, the nursery and the plants concerned, the crop year and the requirement (s) to which the exemption applies.

Plants certified under this exemption must bear on the label, in addition to the particulars referred to in V-2 above, the mention << Certified plant by way of exemption... (Decision of the DG of ONSSA No: Of...) >>.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Each natural or legal person who produces and / or commercialize certified plant material of red fruit species plants must keep at the disposal of the relevant ONSSA services a register stating the following:

- The reference of the Order approving the nursery;
- The identification of the nursery and its location, the identity of the nurseryman or manager of the nursery;
- The name of each variety produced;
- The batch numbers;
- The categories of plant material;
- The number of plants produced and commercialized by variety and category;
- The dates of the sales;
- The name of the purchaser and the destination of the plant material delivered.

ANNEX I

Model of production declaration of red fruit species plants
(III-3)

Model of production declaration of red fruit species plants (*)

I the undersigned, ⁽¹⁾ nurseryman in..... ⁽²⁾ Declare having read the technical regulation relating to the production, the inspection, the packaging and the certification of red fruit plant species, and asks to submit my productions hereinafter designated to this inspection and accepts in advance the results:

Species	Variety	Category (3)	Number of plants to be inspected	Batch number of the plant material used

(*) Declaration to be filled out by the nurseryman or his representative if necessary and to be addressed to the ONSSA concerned department of the nursery's area.

Documents attached to this declaration, in accordance with III-3 of the Technical Regulation on the production, inspection, packaging and certification of red fruit species plants:

- Bulletin of nematological analysis done on (date).....on:
Plot Substrate ⁽⁴⁾
- Documents justifying the origin of the plant material used:
Invoice Certificate of origin Other documents
- Sketch indicating the location of the nursery to be inspected, with its location including by means of (SIG), if applicable, and the indications relating to the kilometric distances, roads and tracks leading to the commune at the nursery ⁽⁵⁾;

- ⁽¹⁾ Specify the name and quality of the declarant.
- ⁽²⁾ Indicate the complete address of the nursery where the declared plants are produced.
- ⁽³⁾ Specify the plant material (pre-base, basic or certified).
- ⁽⁴⁾ Check the correct mention.
- ⁽⁵⁾ Mention the nearest commune to the nursery.

Done at: (Date).....

Name and Signature of the Declarant

ANNEX II

Minimum distances of productions separation
(III-5-2)

Plant material category	Separation minimum distances				
	Beginning	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified	Plot of production
Beginning	5m	10m	20m	30m	50m
Pre-basic	10m	5m	20m	30m	50m
Basic	20m	20m	5m	50m	50m
Certified	30m	30m	50m	5m	50m

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ANNEX III

Phyosanitary control of plant material List of pests, diseases, and requirements against virus diseases (IV-1)

A. List of Pests and Diseases

1. Strawberry:
 - Yellow strawberry aphid (*Chaetosiphon fragaefolii*);
 - Tarsonemus (mite: *Steneotar sonemus pallidus*);
 - *Phytophthora cactorum*;
 - *Verticilium dahliae* and *Verticilium alboatrum*;
 - *Oidium*, *Botrytis*

2. Raspberry / Blackberry:
 - Vermiform larvae (*cleoptera*);
 - Aphid (*Aphisrubicole*, *Amphorophora agathonica*);
 - Mite (*Tetranychus urticae*);
 - White fly (*Bemisia tabaci*);
 - *Phytophthora* of the roots.

3. Blueberry:
 - Rust (*Pucciniastrum vaccinii*);
 - Root rot;
 - White fly (*Bemisia argentifolii*);
 - Rose bush leafhopper (*Edwardsiana rosae*);
 - *Oidium*;
 - Mealybug.

B. Requirements against virus diseases

The rate of plants with the following virus diseases should not exceed the percentage indicated in the following table:

Species	Virus	Category			
		Beginning	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
Strawberry	Strawberry Mottle Virus or (SMoV)	0%	0%	0.1%	1%
	Strawberry mild yellow edge virus (SMYEV)	0%	0%	0.1%	1%
Raspberry / Blackberry	Raspberry ringspot virus	0%	0%	0.1%	1%
	Raspberry mosaic virus	0%	0%	0.1%	1%

ANNEX IV

Periodicity of laboratory controls (IV-2)

Plant material category	Controls periodicity	
	Nurseryman (systematic)	ONSSA or persons referred to in I of the technical regulation (By sampling) (*)
Beginning	1 / 4 years	-----
Pre-basic	1 / 4 years	1 year
Basic	1 / 2 years	1 year

(*) Sampling for spot controls:

10% at least for pre-basic plant material and at least 5% for basic plant material.

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ANNEX V

Technical characteristics of certified plants (V)

Purpose of the assessment	Strawberry	Blueberry	Raspberry/Blackberry	Gooseberry/Blackcurrant
Root system	Healthy and intact	Healthy and intact	Healthy and intact	Healthy and intact
Plant minimum size	---	30 to 45 cm	15 to 20 cm	30 cm
Open wound	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
Health status	Comply	Comply	Comply	Comply
Age	---	12 to 18 months	12 to 18 months	12 to 24 months