

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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Mexico

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Modifications to NOM-012-FITO-1995 on Potatoes

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Report Highlights:

Modifications of NOM-012-FITO-1995, which establishes a physical quarantine area to prevent the entry of potato pests into the country. The Mexican government maintains the Northern Border Line as the only geographic area where potatoes for consumption can be imported.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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Introduction: This report summarizes an announcement published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on February 17, 2003.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary: The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) published on February 17, 2003, in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), a Modification to NOM-012-FITO-1995 that establishes a physical area of quarantine to prevent the entry of potato pests into the country. Basically, the regulation states that since the phytosanitary situation of potatoes has not changed, the Mexican government maintains the Northern Border Line as the only geographic area where potatoes for consumption can be imported from the United States and Canada. The Mexican government saw the need to reiterate its policy on this, since NAFTA TRQs on potatoes were phased out on January 1, 2003. Since January 1, 2003, there are now no more limits on the volumes of potatoes for human consumption, which are allowed in the designated Northern Border Line quarantine area.

Title: Modification to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-012-FITO-1995, which establishes a physical quarantine area to prevent the entry of potato pests into the country.

Background: SAGARPA published NOM-012 on February 13, 1996, in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), and it basically established a total quarantine for U.S. potato seeds (tuber) for importation into Mexico or transit through the country. Although potatoes for consumption were also quarantined under this NOM, a physical quarantine area was established -- the Northern Border Line -- which allowed in both U.S. and Canadian potatoes for human consumption in accordance with the NAFTA TRQ volumes.

Definitions:

The Northern Border Line is defined as -- The Mexican territory between the international line with the United States and a 20 km parallel line from the International limit, including a portion of the state of Sonora and the Gulf of Mexico, and the municipality of Cananea, Sonora.

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FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.atomexico.gob.mx> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.se.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.