

# Requirements for Exporting Potatoes



Washington State Potato Conference 2008

2/7/08

## Washington State Fresh/Chip Potato Exports

### Overview:

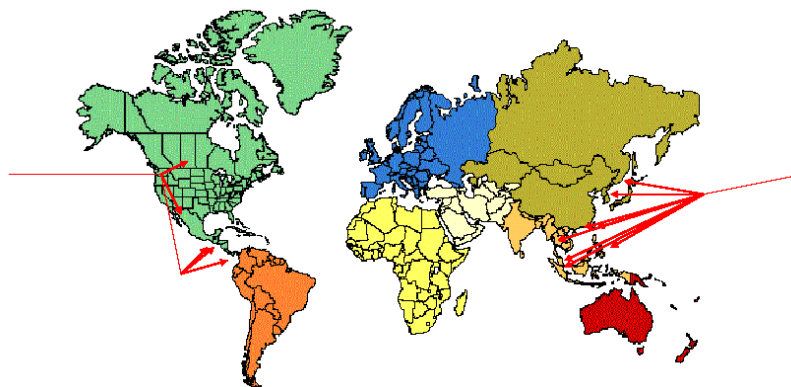
#### Washington State Fresh Potato Exports

#### General Exports of US Frozen Potatoes

#### Fresh Potato Export Requirements for Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, and Korea

#### General MRL Review

Washington State fresh & chip potato exports represent, on average, 17% of their respective production annually. Our potatoes have been exported to countries including Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, Korea, Russia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand, and Guatemala.



The chart to the right shows current exports by volume. Notably the largest export markets are Canada, Mexico, & Taiwan. Each respective market is sensitive to the presence of pests and allowable chemical residues. For example, in the winter of 2006 Columbia root knot nematode was detected in a shipment of chipping potatoes at a Korean port. This detection, in essence, shut down Washington's fresh potato export market to Korea for a short period. We estimate the total volume lost

for the year to be over 41,000 cwt. The long-term effect was a loss of market share to which a considerable amount of time and resources were dedicated to rebuilding. In another example, we have seen an increase of 68% in Washington fresh potato exports to Mexico. This increase is largely due to the recent find of PCN in Idaho. Considering that this increase will only be a short-term gain, the underlying effect has been increased field survey requirements for Idaho fresh potato

Country	Marketing Year 04/05* (cwt)	Marketing Year 05/06* (cwt)	Marketing Year 06/07* (cwt)	Marketing Year 06/07* thru Jan 31 (cwt)	Marketing Year 07/08* thru Jan 31 (cwt)	% Increase/Decrease from 06
Canada	1,588,653	1,962,719	1,431,226	928,468	1,018,015	10%
Costa Rica	-	301	-	-	-	-
Dubai	540	-	-	-	-	-
Ecuador	525	-	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	9,451	12,000	4,238	1,575	4,792	204%
Guatemala	-	1,725	1,142	609	-	-
Honduras	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	7,661	27,023	35,268	20,805	18,186	-13%
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Korea****	90,617	49,260	87,686	50,101	98,419	96%
Malaysia	7,698	1,620	19,850	17,319	3,502	-80%
Mexico	86,867	88,534	101,277	82,187	138,459	68%
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other So. Asia	820	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	6,788	10,315	7,358	7,245	-	-
Philippines	-	790	2,377	2,377	5,707	140%
Russia	62,730	32,361	31,710	30,660	41,276	35%
Singapore	4,180	6,385	3,700	525	7,245	1280%
Taiwan	101,555	148,457	181,820	181,220	169,606	-6%
Thailand	838	-	164	164	-	-
Trinidad	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	2,579	-	685	685	27	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,971,499</b>	<b>2,341,488</b>	<b>1,908,499</b>	<b>1,323,938</b>	<b>1,505,234</b>	<b>14%</b>

Source: WSDA Inspection Service

\* The electronic database was developed in the 2003 season, not all country designations were applied. Includes exports of both fresh and chipstock potatoes

\*\* Source: USDA, FAS Agricultural Export Aggregations (0701900000 - Fresh & 070110000 - Seed)

\*\*\* Source: SWPC

\*\*\*\* Includes estimated deduction for potatoes rejected and/or diverted from Korea (04/05 only).

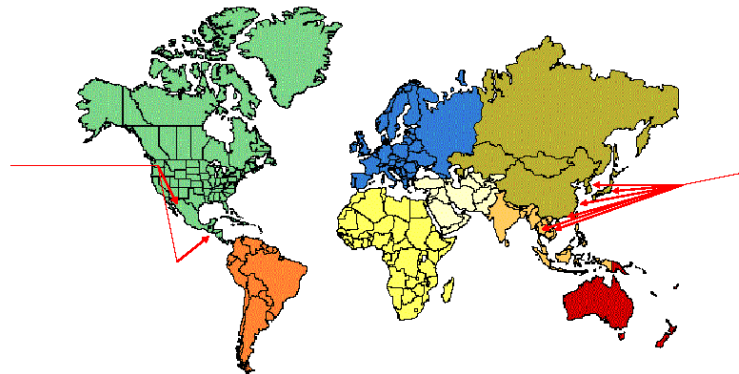
growers. This has restricted the overall available amount of US fresh potatoes to Mexican market. These new export policy requirements

demonstrate the sensitivity and needs of an export market.



# US Frozen Potato Exports

US frozen potato exports have grown over 58% since 2003 and have reached total world sales of over 597 million dollars. Those export countries include Japan, Mexico, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Central America, Thailand, and Vietnam. Over the past five years, US frozen potatoes have been exported to over 90 countries. Approximately 87



slices for casseroles, or turned into potato chips. Washington State leads the nation in french fry production and in general, 1/3 of all U.S. potato exports comes from our State.

percent of Washington State potatoes are processed into frozen potato products; french fries, hash browns, tater tots, dehydrated for instant mashed potatoes, cubes or

*“Over the past five years, US frozen potato products have been exported to over 90 countries.”*

- Angola
- Argentina
- Bahrain
- Barbados
- Bermuda
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Canada
- Cambodia
- Sri Lanka
- China
- Chile
- Cayman Islands
- Cameroon
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cen. African Rep
- Cuba
- Denmark
- Dominican Rep
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Ireland
- El Salvador
- Finland
- Micronesia
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Hong Kong
- Honduras
- Iceland
- Indonesia
- India
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Macau
- Macedonia
- Mauritius
- Oman
- Mexico
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Suriname
- Nicaragua
- New Zealand
- Peru
- Pakistan
- Poland
- Panama
- Palu
- Qatar
- Philippines
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Slovenia
- Singapore
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UAE
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Thailand
- Turks & Caicos Islands
- Turkey
- Taiwan
- UK
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Namibia
- Samoa
- Leeward
- Windward Isl
- French West Indies
- French Pacific Islands
- British Pacific Islands

	2002 Calendar Year (MT)	2003 Calendar Year (MT)	2004 Calendar Year (MT)	2005 Calendar Year (MT)	2006 Calendar Year (MT)	2006 Q1-Q3 CY (MT)	2007 Q1-Q3 CY (MT)	Inc/Dec From 2006
Japan	219,395	191,438	203,878	227,791	246,944	183,096	192,846	5%
Mexico	47,473	50,192	68,242	84,930	90,567	66,734	64,358	-4%
China	36,130	41,707	51,072	30,822	36,247	28,118	29,649	5%
Korea	35,917	26,975	24,226	25,833	30,084	22,552	23,116	3%
Hong Kong	29,027	19,772	19,536	19,480	22,164	15,865	20,141	27%
Central America	6,662	5,477	6,009	10,503	11,497	7,527	10,691	42%
Thailand	7,880	8,397	9,113	9,178	8,369	6,344	6,510	3%
Vietnam	106	196	185	251	473	369	657	78%
Sub Total	382,590	344,154	382,261	408,788	446,345	330,605	347,968	
Total US Exports	499,695	449,317	506,133	548,878	630,892	460,488	521,721	13%
% of US Total	77%	77%	76%	74%	71%	72%	67%	
<b>TOTAL WORLD</b>	<b>1,490,717</b>	<b>1,649,368</b>	<b>1,878,968</b>	<b>1,906,006</b>	<b>2,060,098</b>	<b>1,513,412</b>	<b>1,564,977</b>	<b>3%</b>
Imports From Canada	653,586	743,814	833,943	742,344	775,876	581,435	578,164	-1%
% of World Total	60%	50%	48%	47%	49%	49%	53%	

**Inclusive of:** 0710100000 POTATOES, UNCOOKED OR COOKED BY STEAMING OR BOILING IN WATER, FROZEN  
 2004108020 POTATOES, FRENCH FRIED, FROZEN  
 2004108060/204108040 POTATOES EXCEPT FRENCH FRIES, PREPARED OR PRESERVED OTHERWISE THAN BY VINEGAR, FROZEN

**Source of Data:** United States Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Division / ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)  
 Statistics Canada / Eurostat / Statistics New Zealand  
 World Exports: United States, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, Australia

Before exporting fresh potatoes one must consider; if there any special phytosanitary or grade restrictions, if there are any restrictions to what US State has been approved for

shipping, or if US fresh potatoes are allowed in the country in question. The best source to determine what regulations need to be addressed before shipments are made, is to reference the

most current EXCERPT listing for the country in question. Below are EXCERPTS for Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, and Korea. For an updated listing please contact the

WSPC office, as this information can change frequently.

## Fresh Potato Exports – Canada EXCERPT



More than 100 lbs of packed potatoes (bulk).

Ministerial Exemptions for bulk potatoes adopted Nov 1, 2007:

Year 1 (110%) applicants historical average for that month (2002 – 2006)

Year 2 (125%) applicants historical average for that month (2002 – 2006)

Year 3 (125%) applicants historical average for that month or any volume of fresh potatoes, if a contract

has been signed 60 days prior to entry into Canada

All purple and blue skinned potato varieties susceptible to potato wart disease (*Synchytrium endobioticum*), are prohibited into Newfoundland except the following varieties; AC Blue Pride, AC Domino, Blue Mac and Brigus.

Only "U.S. No. 1" grade potatoes may be shipped to Canada.

Document US State of origin

on (AMS Form -205).

Must be treated with a sprout inhibitor and documented on the form.

An exemption will be given to this sprout inhibitor treatment requirement for potatoes harvested within 30 days prior to export, and packed in containers of 50 lbs. or less.

OR,

A Phytosanitary Certificate may be issued with an AD stating, "Potatoes were

grown in an area free of the Columbia root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*); this declaration is made on the basis of official soil surveys."

## Fresh Potato Exports – Mexico EXCERPT



Importation of fresh potatoes into Mexico is limited to the 26-kilometer border zone.

Must be free from:

Bacterial ring rot  
Root knot nematode  
Pale cyst nematode  
Mop Top Virus  
Golden cyst nematode

PVYn & PVYntn  
Columbia root knot nematode

Establish a shed number through the WSDA Inspection Service

For individual truckload potatoes, which are not certified seed potatoes, the 1% inspection rate

specified in the potato protocol will be superseded by the following Ware Potato Inspection Procedure for Mexico:

Shipments for export to Mexico will be sampled at the rate of 400 tubers per shipment. Sampling will be conducted in the same manner as under the

current inspection procedure (4 bags taken at tailgate inspection, or the equivalent in-line inspection for each truckload, etc.).



## Fresh Potato Exports - Mexico EXCEPT

For root knot nematodes, the 400 tubers will have 75% of their surface peeled and the USDA approved inspector will visually examine the peeled potatoes for symptoms of root knot nematode. The shipper will provide personnel for the peeling and adequate light for the peeling area. Adequate lighting will mean at least two 60-watt bulbs directed at the work surface no more than 36 inches from the surface of the inspection table.

Should the inspector observe indications that the potatoes may be infected with root knot nematodes, the shipment will not be certified for export to Mexico unless tested and found free of Columbia root knot nematode. The laboratory used will be a plant

pathology laboratory at the State Department of Agriculture, the State University or other APHIS accredited laboratory.

For bacterial ring rot, samples taken for nematode inspection will be cut and examined for symptoms of bacterial ring rot. Because potatoes exported to Mexico must be grown from certified seed, and certified seed addresses BRR, shipments will not require BRR testing unless symptoms of bacterial ring rot are discovered in a shipment.

Shipments with suspect BRR must be tested with the following procedures prior to certification. The shipper will be responsible for costs of shipment of the sample to

the laboratory and the costs of testing. If the exporter elects to not export the shipment, no testing will be performed.

An additional 200-tuber sample will be taken and sent to an approved laboratory.

The sample will be washed and the stem ends of all tubers in the 200 tuber sample will be thinly sliced to a depth of an inch and inspected by a professional bacteriologist for symptoms of BRR infection. Also, sampled and inspected potatoes must show no signs of sprouting. The presence of meristematic growth length of greater than 5 millimeters from the base of the growth is considered a "sprout." The presence of bud swellings measuring no more than 5 millimeters in

length from the base of the growth will be considered a "peep" and is acceptable by Mexico.

Potatoes sent directly for packing will be treated with sprout inhibitor on the packing line, utilizing label dosage and restrictions.

Potatoes placed in storage for less than three months must be treated with sprout inhibitor in storage or on the packing line.

Potatoes placed in storage for three to five months must be treated with sprout inhibitor in storage and once again on the packing line.

Potatoes placed in storage for more than five months must be treated twice with sprout inhibitor in storage and once again on the packing line.



## Fresh Potato Exports – Taiwan EXCERPT

States, including **Washington, Oregon, Idaho,** and **California** can export fresh potatoes to Taiwan.

Potatoes must be treated with a sprout inhibitor (maleic hydrazide (MH) 15ppm, chlorpropham (CIPC) 30ppm.)

Must come from areas free of:

- Golden nematode
- White fringed beetle
- Burrowing nematode
- Colorado potato beetle
- Potato late blight fungus (A2 strain)

- Potato tuber moth
- Potato rot nematode
- Bulb mite
- Stem and bulb nematode

Certify potatoes from the U.S. for export to Taiwan under an area freedom concept where the "area" in question means "the area or field from which the potatoes were harvested." Inspection will occur by a highly qualified State or Federal survey official.

Field inspection will occur late in the growing season

and as close to harvest when conditions are optimal for finding late blight; that is, when the plant is actively growing, and when the fungus would have had sufficient time to show symptoms if present.

Any evidence of either A1 or A2 strain of late blight during the field inspection disqualifies the field for that season from the export program.

Potatoes harvested from those fields will be kept

separate from produce from all other fields. They will go to a special storage area identified specifically for late blight free potatoes for export to Taiwan. A tracking system will ensure the identity of the potatoes is maintained throughout the entire process of field inspection, storage, packing, phytosanitary inspection and certification, and shipment.

# Fresh Potato Exports – Korea EXCERPT plus FTA Breakdown



States including **Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin,** and **Maine** can export fresh potatoes to Korea.

Free from:

Tobacco blue mold  
Potato spindle tuber viroid  
Potato wart  
Columbia root knot

nematode  
Golden nematode  
False root knot nematode

In addition to: soil.

Idaho is prohibited due to the detection of potato cyst nematode in the U.S.

## Korea-US Free Trade Agreement

Elimination of an 18% frozen potato tariff.

Elimination of a 20% dehy granule tariff over 7 years.

Expansion of a 5,000-mt quota for dehy flake over 11 years.

Establishment of a shipping window for fresh potatoes for chipping (Dec 1 to April 30).

Establishment of a 3,000 mt shipping quota for fresh potatoes with 3% growth each year.

## International MRL Database

More countries are adopting positive Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) lists. That means that they are determining what is the appropriate level for chemicals to be found on food and food products. In most cases, a country would fall back to what CODEX has advised as a safe and tolerable level. With a positive system, commodity groups must register all chemicals used. If a chemical is found on a food or food product, then the exporter may face severe penalties.

In 2006, Japan established

### Aldicarb - (*Temik*)

US	Cod	Can	Chn	CR	Els	Gua	HK	Jpn	Kor	Mal	Mex	Pan	Phi	Sin
1	---	{0.5}	---	---	---	---	{0.5}	{0.5}	{0.5}	---	1 US	---	---	{0.5}
Tai	Tha													
---	---													

### Chlorpropham - (*CIPC*)

US	Cod	Can	Chn	CR	Els	Gua	HK	Jpn	Kor	Mal	Mex	Pan	Phi	Sin
30	30	{15}	---	30 CODEX	30 CODEX	30 CODEX	30 CODEX	50	50	30 CODEX	30 US	30 CODEX	30 CODEX	50
Tai	Tha													
---	30 CODEX													

Source: [www.mrldatabase.com](http://www.mrldatabase.com)

an entirely new pesticide subsystem. This year Hong Kong announced that it would establish its own list. Taiwan has a limited MRL list and will establish over 250 new tolerances. In addition, Canada will discontinue its 0.1-ppm default tolerance

and is in the process of developing its own MRL list. Above are two chemical MRL listings for potatoes. Another question that has to be answered before exporting is if the chemical in question is approved for use in a country. For example, CIPC

has a 50-ppm tolerance established in Japan, but commercially the use of the product is not accepted, so the product is not used on potatoes destined for the Japanese market.

## Conclusion

In any instance, if you have questions about export trade data, MRL's, or EXCERPT, please contact the many sources available to address

your needs. For example, the United States Potato Board has an online reference guide to address most of your export

questions, or please contact Matt Harris, the Director of Trade for the Washington State Potato Commission, (509) 765-8845 or

[mharris@potatoes.com](mailto:mharris@potatoes.com). He would be happy to talk to you about this information.