



Canola Exports to China Phytosanitary Requirements for Blackleg

- China's AQSIQ has issued a directive respecting quarantine measures for Canadian canola effective November 15, 2009. The measures address China's concern with the possible importation of *Leptosphaeria maculans* (blackleg) – a plant disease common in canola/rapeseed production.
- The measures are highly restrictive. The Canola Council estimates they will restrict 70% of our canola seed (for processing) export sales to China.
- Canada's canola sector is disappointed with China's decision. Our canola industry and Government of Canada officials have worked together to propose alternative steps which would mitigate against blackleg introduction while maintaining trade. We are frustrated and disappointed that China has been unwilling to consider these steps.
- China has an obligation to be as least trade restrictive as possible with its measures. The Canola Council of Canada is concerned that China has not taken appropriate steps to limit impact on trade.
- China is an important market for Canadian canola. In 2008-09 China was Canada's top canola seed market, importing 2.87 million tonnes valued at \$1.3 billion.
- The Canola Council urges the Government of Canada to take this issue up with Chinese government officials at the highest level.
- The Canola Council of Canada is thankful for the immediate and comprehensive response to this issue from the Government of Canada. Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ritz took steps immediately to address the issue. A team of senior Canadian negotiators have been in Beijing for the past two weeks negotiating with Chinese officials.
- Since China's regulators are unwilling to consider reasonable risk mitigation strategies while maintaining trade with Canada, the Canola Council of Canada calls on the government to make this issue the top priority in our bi-lateral relations with China.

Background on November 10 Statement from AQSIQ

- AQSIQ's November 10 statement on the implementation of quarantine measures on imported canola confirms that no extension will be permitted to the November 15, 2009 date originally proposed. Canadian officials had asked for this extension while risk mitigation measures are implemented.
- China has provided for a transition year affecting the 2009 canola harvest for both Canada and Australia.
- As of November 15, 2009 shipments that test positive for blackleg can be directed only to a limited number of provinces in China.
- Shipments that test negative can be imported to any location in China. However, given the common occurrence of blackleg in canola production areas in Canada and around the world it is unlikely that shipments can be certified as blackleg-free.
- The directive bans exports of canola that test positive for blackleg from 19 provinces in China – including the majority of ports regularly used by Canadian exporters.
- The directive confirms that tests for blackleg conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will not be satisfactory for Chinese officials. Shipments that test negative in Canada will be tested again in China and could be denied entry under Chinese testing protocols, which will further deter trade.
- Procedures for blackleg control beyond the current crop year are not clear, which will add additional uncertainty for Canadian exporters.

November 10, 2009

Contact:

JoAnne Buth, President 204-982-2109

Jim Everson, Vice President Corporate Affairs 613-488-9916

Canola Council of Canada