

Update On Market Access for Canadian Pulses to India

Earlier this week the Indian Government provided notice of a six-month extension of the derogation of fumigation regulations for the import of agriculture commodities until December 31, 2017. Methyl bromide fumigation in Canada will not be required for Canadian pulses shipped to India through the fall, which is a key marketing period for Saskatchewan producers. However, additional clarity is required from India on higher inspection fees that may apply to Canadian pulse exports to India leaving Canada after June 30, 2017.

***Update*:** Canada received notification that Canadian pulse exports to India will be exempt from additional inspection fees until September 30, 2017. Pulse Canada is advocating for the exemption to continue until December 30, 2017 while the Government of Canada and Government of India continue to work together to find a long-term solution.*

Since 2004, India has granted derogations that allow shipments of Canadian pulses to be fumigated upon arrival in India instead of in Canada prior to export. One of the reasons the Indian Government has allowed this derogation is that the temperatures in Canada are too low for most of the year for fumigation to be effective.

In the fall of 2016, the Indian Government began to send signals that they were not going to renew Canada's derogation when it expired in March 2017. In response to these signals Pulse Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Canadian Grain Commission, and other partners developed proposed alternatives to India's blanket fumigation requirements that would still address India's plant health concerns, while removing market restrictions for Canadian pulses. In March of 2017, the Indian Government granted a three-month extension of the derogation (until June 30), while it reviewed the proposed alternatives presented by the Canadian industry.

The CFIA also conducted a science-based risk assessment of India's pest concerns that showed that Canadian pulse exports to India pose no risk to India's plant health concerns. This suggests that no fumigation is needed, either in India or Canada, on pulse exports originating in Canada. Plant health officials expect that the new extension will provide sufficient time for the Government of India to complete its review of the dossier of information provided by the Government of Canada, resulting in a solution past December 31, 2017 that does not restrict trade for pulse crops.

As negotiations with the Indian Government continue through this extension, Pulse Canada continues to work closely with, and support, the Government of Canada in reaching a permanent solution for Canadian pulses in India. India is one of Canada's most important export markets, with over 1.9 million tonnes of Canadian pulses



exported to India last year. SPG remains confident that this issue will be resolved, and that market access for Canadian pulses to India will continue.