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Conditions for the Importation of Tobacco Products (*Nicotiana spp.*)

Plants (Importation & Exportation) Law (1997 Revision)

DEFINITIONS

In this condition:

“Tobacco Products” means Tobacco Leaves, Cigars, and Shag (chopped tobacco).

“Commercially Packaged” means the container in which the cigars or manufactured tobacco, as the case may be, are normally offered for sale to the general public, including any outer wrapping that is customarily displayed to the customer about the manufacturer and product.

“Manufactured tobacco” means every article, other than cigars, made by a tobacco manufacturer from raw leaf tobacco by any process whatever, and includes cigarettes, snuff (dried or moist) and chewing tobacco.

PURPOSE

To regulate and prevent the entry of invasive pathogen and insect pests that are associated with tobacco, which can impact local food crops especially those that are in the Solanaceae family.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A written application to obtain an Import Permit must be made to Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (DOA) on the prescribe form and pay the applicable fees, before importing tobacco products into the Cayman Islands.
- B. Applications will be processed by DOA in accordance with the Plant (Importation and Exportation) Law (1997 Revision) and a response issued within 72 hours of receipt of the completed application form.
- C. Importers must present the import permit issued by DOA to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country for guidance regarding the conditions for the importation.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. Tobacco leaves and/or shag intended for importation into the Cayman Islands must be inspected in the country of export and **must** be accompanied with a Phytosanitary Certificate issued and signed by an authorized officer from the NPPO.
2. Loose, unpackaged and/or artisanal cigars must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued and signed by an authorized officer from the NPPO of the exporting country.
3. All consignments **must** be shipped within seven (7) days of the issuance of the Phytosanitary Certificate.
4. Cigars manufactured and packaged by an established/licensed commercial plant or manufacturer must be accompanied by a valid invoice from the country of export.
5. All tobacco products for export to the Cayman Islands must be free of pests and soil.

EXEMPTION

The following are exempted from the requirement of an import permit:

- Manufactured tobacco
- Commercially packaged cigars intended for personal use **not** exceeding 25 cigars.

INSPECTION

- All consignments, including import permit exemptions will be subjected to inspection, at the port of entry, by an Inspector of the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture.
- If pests are found, consignment will be subjected to refusal and return to origin, post quarantine treatment and/or confiscation.

Failure to comply with any or all of the above measures in this condition will result in the confiscation of consignments.