



Royal Dutch Trade Association for Flowerbulbs and Nursery Stock

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TO: Anthos members

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URGENT

Subject: The Russian Federation's Decree 128 regarding the import of flower bulbs and perennial plants

On 8 February 2018, the Russian Federation's plant protection service (Rosselhoznadzor) issued a decree regarding 'plants for planting' involving the need for having the production location or the supplier inspected by Russian inspectors before the import of such products into the Russian Federation is permitted.

This involves the following procedure:

- The Russian import company has to submit a request to Rosselhoznadzor asking to import plant products, including the quantities and varieties of these products, from a certain supplier;
- Rosselhoznadzor then sends a letter to the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) in the country from which the plant material is to be exported, asking whether it would be willing to have inspectors conduct inspections at that particular supplier's location. The NPPO in the Netherlands is the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA);
- The NVWA is asked to send Rosselhoznadzor a confirmation of its willingness to receive the Russian inspectors so that they can inspect the supplier in question;
- During the inspection, samples are taken in order to determine (as based on testing and other methods) whether the lots are free of organisms on the Russian Federation's quarantine list;
- The inspection and sample findings will determine whether or not an export company will receive permission to supply the products.

This procedure has already been in use for a number of years for such products as nursery stock products and seed potatoes. Approved companies then receive official permission from Rosselhoznadzor to export these products despite the import ban that applies to them in principle.



Last week, the NVWA unexpectedly received a letter from Rosselhoznadzor stating that it also wanted to inspect some Dutch flower bulb suppliers.

Anthos has asked the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality to request a clarification from Rosselhoznadzor as well as to indicate emphatically that the export season is just about to begin. For this reason, it would be extremely impractical to require Dutch flower bulb suppliers to be inspected first.

Anthos is also of the opinion that there is no actual reason for justifying the application of Decree 128 to flower bulbs and perennials since, unlike other product categories, they are not subject to an import ban. Furthermore, no notifications for these products have been received in recent years.

At this time, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is awaiting a response from Rosselhoznadzor regarding whether Decree 128 will actually apply to flower bulbs and perennials.

Meanwhile, we have learned that Rosselhoznadzor has sent a letter about the implementation of Decree 128 to all companies that import plant material. In light of this, it surprises us that so few import companies have submitted an inspection request to Rosselhoznadzor. If your buyer has also informed you about this, we ask you to inform Anthos.

Finally, we would like to warn you that unconfirmed reports have reached us that deliveries made by Dutch suppliers that have not been approved by Rosselhoznadzor will be retained at the border.

Please do not hesitate to contact Anthos for additional information. Meanwhile, we will keep you updated with regard to further developments.

