



NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND STRATEGIES UNIT

QUARANTINE BULLETIN

Vol. 4

Reasons for Rejections of Agro-Export Commodities

For the guidance of exporters of agricultural commodities and the members of the public, the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS) is publishing ten (10) major reasons for declining to certify a consignment meant for export and which are possible grounds for their rejection in the destination country.

Agricultural items intended for export may be rejected for any of the following listed reasons, amongst others:

1. Absence of sanitary/ phytosanitary certificate

The consignment must be accompanied by a valid sanitary certificate (for products of animal and aquatic origin) and a phytosanitary certificate (for products of plants origin). The certificates are issued after inspection and certification of the contents of the cargo, in accordance with the conditions on the import permit of the destination country. The exporter must submit the items for inspection and certification by NAQS and obtain the applicable certificate prior to shipment.

2. Infestation with harmful organisms

The produce intended for export must be free of harmful organisms or toxic substances.

3. Incomplete information on sanitary/phytosanitary certificate

All information required in the sanitary/ phytosanitary certificate must be provided legibly in print.

4. Forgery/ Alteration of certificate

Forgery or alteration will render the certificate invalid and make products subject to rejection. Any alteration in the date on the certificate, type of consignment, weight and volume of consignment, and authorized signature on the certificate renders it invalid. A certificate with mutilated particulars is, therefore, unacceptable.

5. Wrong labeling

The information on the label of the cargo must be descriptive of the exact contents of the cargo as they are in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary certificates.

6. Concealment of strange agro-produce in a consignment of certified commodity

Concealment of an uncertified agricultural item in the consignment of a certified produce earns total rejection.

7. Improper export procedure

Certain products require the exporter to give the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service advance notification of country to which export is intended.

8. Exporting prohibited items

Some countries prohibit the export of certain agricultural items. Cargo of products on the prohibition list of the destination is liable to rejection at the port of entry.

9. Absence of additional declaration

Some countries require declarations like date of harvest, place of harvest, whether there are any special handling precautions in addition to the sanitary/phytosanitary certificate.

10. Use of unapproved fumigants

The detection of residues of unapproved fumigants in the produce intended for export may constitute basis for rejection of the cargo.

General information on quarantine procedures are obtainable from our website, www.naqs.gov.ng but for more specific guidance on agro-export, please contact NAQS preparatory to export.



Dr. Chigozie Nwodo

Head, Media, Communication and Strategies Unit

28th May, 2019.
Abuja