

## **Steps to follow for the Issuance of Recommendation Letters to importation of Basmati Rice under PSFTA**

### **1. General Information**

- 1.1. The Cabinet of Ministers have approved (Ref. Cabinet Decision No. 22/1343/627/010 dated 2022.10.04) the importation of annual duty free quota of 6,000 metric tons of PK385/ Super Kernel Basmati/ Super Basmati Rice/ 1121-Kainat Rice/ D-98 Basmati Rice under Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA) by the public and private sectors subject to compliance with the minimum standards prescribed by the Bathalagoda Rice Research and Development Institute. The Department of Commerce facilitates importation of the said quota by recommending duty waivers to Director General of Customs of Sri Lanka.
- 1.2. Duty waiver recommendation will be issued on first-come, first-serve basis, subject to criteria developed with the assistance of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security.
- 1.3. The order of priority for issuance of duty waiver recommendations will be;
  - i. Public sector
  - ii. Private sector
2. All imported basmati rice should comply with the minimum quality/ standards prescribed by the Bathalagoda Rice Research and Development Institute.
3. Inform the Pakistan government authorities on the importation of Basmati rice under PSFTA by the public and private sector along with the procedure through the Sri Lanka Consulate in Karachi with a copy to the Ministry.

### **4. Registration Procedure**

- 4.1. As per the instructions received from the Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security, the notice will be circulated among the existing rice importers registered at the Ministry on the availability of annual quota of 6,000 MT of PK385 / Super Kernel Basmati/ Super Basmati Rice/ 1121-Kainat Rice/ D-98 Basmati Rice for duty-free importation during the following calendar year (January – December).
- 4.2. The format of the application and the relevant guidelines will be published on the Department of Commerce website, [www.doc.gov.lk](http://www.doc.gov.lk).
- 4.3. Deadline for registration of importers will be 7 working days after publishing/ circulating the notice. Maximum quota quantity allocated for a company will be subjected to the criteria developed with the assistance of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security.



#### 4.4. Documents to be submitted to the Department of Commerce for the registration

- a) Duly completed application form
- b) The original and a certified copy of the company registration\*
- c) The original and a certified copy of the TIN certificate.\*
- d) The original and a certified copy of the Form 01 or 20 (for companies)\*
- e) Names and complete contact details of company directors / proprietor
- f) Brief description of the company activities (company profile)
- g) Company bank statements for the last three consecutive months certified by the bank. If the fund balance is negative, company should provide a letter from the respective bank, confirming the availability of credit facilities for the intended importation of basmati under PSFTA
- h) Any other documents/information that would be required by the DOC
- i) Approval letter from the supervisory authority of the public organization

#### *Additional Documents*

- j) The terms of payments (Letter of Credit, Documents against Payments, Contract) ,
- k) The exact quantity of importation
- l) The intended date completing the importation process that can be accepted to the Director General of Commerce.

*\* The original documents will be returned to the applicant after verification*

#### 4.5. Registration of Importers

Once registered, an importer will be issued with an official letter of registration by the Director General of Commerce.

#### 5. Submission of Importer Requests for Duty Waivers

For each and every imported shipment, a registered importer has to submit to Director General of Commerce a formal request letter for duty-waiver recommendation/s along with the documents listed below;

- a) The original letter of registration issued by the Department of Commerce
- b) Original and a copy of the Certificate of Origin issued by the Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)
- c) Phytosanitary certificate issued by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Development of Plant Protection of Pakistan
- d) Original and a copy of the Bill of Lading
- e) Original and copy of the commercial invoice
- f) Certificate of fumigation issued by any institute approved the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Department of Plant Protection of Pakistan
- g) Import CUSDEC
- h) A third-party quality certificate issued from either Bureau Veritas or Intertek Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, confirming the exact variety of Basmati.
- i) Quality certificate/s issued by M/s Trading Cooperation of Pakistan, confirming the exact variety of Basmati

- j) Packing list
- k) Original and a copy of the quality certificate issued by the Rice Research & Development Institute, Batalagoda
- l) Any other documents requested by the Director General of Commerce, Department of Commerce

After verification of the above documents, the Department of Commerce will issue a letter of recommendation for duty waiver and handover its original to the importer, so the importer can produce it to the Director General of Customs. The Department of Commerce will e-mail/ fax a copy of the said letter to Director General of Customs directly for smooth coordination.

## 6. Variety and quality certification

The Director General of Customs is expected to make necessary arrangements to ensure that the rice imported is of PK385/ Super Kernel Basmati/ Super Basmati Rice/ 1121-Kainat Rice/ D-98 Basmati Rice suitable for human consumption. For this purpose, the Director General of Customs will request from the importer, a quality certificate issued by the Quality Assurance body of Sri Lanka that can be accepted to the Director General of Customs, confirming the exact variety of Basmati and the suitability for human consumption.

## 7. General conditions

7.1. If the importer could not complete the process of importation before the agreed date, the importer should produce an explanation that can be acceptable to the Director General of Commerce to continue with the issued letter of allocation.

7.2. Importer can submit only one request at a time and next request can be submitted only in the following situations.

- a) Completing of the importation based on the submitted application
- b) Expiration of the letter of allocation

7.3. The Director General of Commerce can issue any other relevant conditions/ guidelines relevant to this.

7.4. Director General has no any responsibility over the delays at the customs clearance due to holidays/ weekends / non-working days and the delays in obtaining the quality certificate by the laboratory.

Approved by



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Secretary

Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

09<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**S. T. Kodikara**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Trade, Commerce and  
Food Security