

# Mexican Legislation on Biological Control of Agricultural Pests



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# PLANT HEALTH FEDERAL ACT

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Consist of four titles, several chapters and 75 articles

## TITLE ONE GENERAL PROVISIONS

### CHAPTER I PURPOSE OF THE ACT

Article 2.- Plant Health has as an objective to promote and monitor compliance with applicable legal provisions; to diagnose and prevent the spread and introduction of plant pests, their products or by-products that represent a phytosanitary risk; and establish phytosanitary measures and **regulate the effectiveness of phytosanitary inputs** and integrated control methods.

**Phytosanitary input:** Any substance or mixture used to control plant pests such as pesticides, **biological control agents**, pheromones, attractants, and varieties of pest-resistant cultivated plants;



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# PLANT HEALTH FEDERAL ACT

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## CHAPTER III COMPETENT AUTHORITY

**Article 6.-** The Federal Executive Branch through the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of this act.

**Article 7.-** The following are the powers of the Ministry of Agriculture with regard to plant health:

**Part II.** Promote and guide research on plant health, the development of pest resistant varieties **and multiplication and conservation of biological control agents** or alternative methods for pest control;

**Subsection XXXIV.** Authorize and regulate the use, movement, **importation** and reproduction of live **biological control agents** used to control pests that affect plants, their products or by-products;

## REGULATION OF THE PLANT HEALTH FEDERAL ACT

**(under revision)**

**Last update: May 18, 2015**

**Article 127.** The Secretariat will inform interested parties about **potential species to be used as biological control agents for regulated pests** that affect plants, their products or by-products.

**Article 128.** With regard to biological control of plant pests, SENASICA, based on the Pest Risk Analysis, will implement phytosanitary measures on the following:

- I. The movement of useful species such as biological control agents;
- II. The importation of arthropods as commercial biological control agents, and non-formulated entomopathogenic microorganism for research purposes;**
- III. The importation of exotic biological control agents.** In this case, **we may seek the advice of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources,** in order to strengthen the risk analysis for the importation of such organisms
- IV. The analysis of the biological suitability of mass-reared species for the biological control of regulated pests,
- V. The export of commercial biological control agents** for regulated pests that affect plant species.



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**Article 129.** SENASICA will verify biological control activities for regulated pests.

**Article 130.** SENASICA will validate and, if necessary, will develop the technology for the biological control of regulated pests.



**REGULATION OF THE PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH ACT: WITH  
REGARD TO PLANT HEALTH (still in effect)  
Since January 18, 1980**

1. Name and address of the applicant;
2. Name and address of the exporter;
3. Scientific name of the material;
4. Place of origin of the material;
5. Host/prey for rearing or growth medium used \*\*;
6. Intended use: colonization, extensive application or reproduction under laboratory conditions;
7. Area of the country where the material will be used;
8. Pest species to control and host crops;
9. Quantity recommended for release per hectare, cost to the farmer, and
10. The material must be accompanied by the following documents:
  - a) Certificate of origin issued by the agricultural authorities of the country of origin.
  - b) Certificate of biological purity issued by plant health authorities or biological control agencies in the country of origin.

It is also necessary to indicate the quantity to be imported, the point of entry of the biological material (Customs or International Airport) and expiry date of the import permit.

**\*\* *Pachypsylla* (psylid) genus is used for production of the parasitoid *Tetrastichus triozae*, therefore its introduction to Mexico poses a phytosanitary risk.**

## Importer application to the Plant Health General Directorate

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The NBCRC (National Biological Control Reference Centre ) receives a copy of the import application, addressing the requirements set out in Articles 101 and 102 of the Plant Health Act, and additional supporting technical information based on the RSPM 12

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Issue authorization and recommendations together with an official letter signed by the Plant Health General Director.

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Issue rejection of import and recommendations together with an official letter signed by the Plant Health General Director, including detailed reasons for rejection

Recommendation

If in doubt, consultation with the NCPAG (National Consultative Phytosanitary Advisory Group) Biological Control Committee takes place. The group consist of:

- ✓ Academic Professionals
- ✓ Research Professionals
- ✓ Government Officials

6

Decision is sent to the interested parties

- Note:
1. In order to be able to import, the applicant is responsible to send copies of the certificates of origin and biological purity to the NCBCR, as well as information about the actual activities after the importation.
  2. If the applicant fail to send the information indicated above, the next application to import biological control agents will be refused until all requirements are fulfilled.
  3. **Permits are valid for one year and are renewable.**

## Steps to import and release biological control organisms in Mexico



**SAGARPA**

SECRETARÍA DE AGRICULTURA,  
GANADERÍA, DESARROLLO RURAL,  
PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN



**SENASICA**  
SERVICIO NACIONAL DE SANIDAD,  
INOCUIDAD Y CALIDAD  
AGROALIMENTARIA

**Thank you for your attention**

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