

Unofficial Translation by FAS/Beijing:

General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of People's Republic of China (AQSIQ)

Zhijian Dongwai letter (2013) No.1225

Re: Notice on Substandard Geoducks Originated from the United States

Agricultural Affairs Office of American Embassy to China:

Recently, two shipments of geoducks originated from the 67 Northeast Pacific sea region in the United States were found to have above standard residue of paralytic shellfish poisoning (maximum level 30.2 MU/g by China standard) and inorganic arsenic (0.5mg/kg by China standard) during the inspection/quarantine conducted by China Inspection and Quarantine Agencies. The above shipments were disposed according to China's relevant regulations. In an effort to ensure the safety of live aquatic animals originated from USA to China, AQSIQ would like to notify the following:

1. The health certificates for the substandard shipments and the reasons are attached in appendix. Based on this notification, please conduct investigation on paralytic shellfish poisoning and inorganic arsenic monitoring records, and information for geoduck catch, transfer and packing and delivery, then, forward the investigation results to AQSIQ.
2. To ensure the safety, AQSIQ has suspended tentatively importation of geoduck and other double shell aquatic animals from 67 Northeast Pacific in the USA, and intensified the inspection/quarantine rate for geoduck originated from other sea regions in the USA.
3. AQSIQ request the US side to take effective measures to ensure the safety of live aquatic animals for exports to China and prevent this incidents from happening again.

With best regards

Department of International Cooperation
AQSIQ

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Appendix: 2 health certificates