



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

10th November, 2016

To: **Ms. Andrea Simao**
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Phytosanitary Issues Management
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Dear Ms. Andrea Simao,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 28th October, 2016 regarding to the teleconference meeting between the Plant Protection Department (PPD) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) held on 18th October, 2016, at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi. In this regard, PPD would like to have further discussions as follows:

1. The quarantine pests intercepted on thousands of tons of DDGS recently had been fumigated by Phosphine under supervision of APHIS, even treatments had been endorsed on phytosanitary certificates.

PPD has notified to APHIS the situation and request you strengthen your phytosanitary measures to plant quarantine pests in DDGS. Unfortunately, the situation of interceptions got worse after that letter, resulting in notification of suspension by our Minister in the Decision No. 4217/QĐ-BNN-BVTV dated 17th October, 2016 that will go into effect from 17th December, 2016. To lift the suspension the Decision, as our regulation specified in the Decree No. 116/2014/ND-CP dated 4th December, 2014, PPD request APHIS conduct investigation and provide us the detail report of causes and taken remedial measures. An on-site visit might be required for verification for the report and effectiveness of the remedial measures. PPD will submit the verification report to our Minister for consideration of lifting the suspension decision.

2. For corns and wheats from the U.S., PPD recorded a number of detections common living insects on the commodities from the U.S. (from 2014 up to now), while all consignments had been fumigated by Phosphine with treatment parameters also were endorsed on APHIS Phytosanitary certificates. The details are as follows and in attached annexes:

- On corns from the U.S., 12 species of living insects have been found on 70 consignments (52, 343.187 tons), including: *Ahasverus advena*, *Carpophilus* sp., *Carpophilus hemipterus*, *Cryptolestes minutus*, *Cryptolestes* sp., *Ephiestia cautella*, *Oryzaephilus surinamensis*, *Necrobia rufipes*, *Sitophilus oryzae*, *Sitophilus zeamais*, *Tribolium castaneum*, *Typhaea stercorea*.
- On wheats from the U.S., 13 kinds of living species of insects have been found on 145 consignments (52992.144 tons), including: *Ahasverus advena*, *Alphitobius laevigatus*, *Carpophilus* sp., *Cryptolestes minutus*, *Ephiestia cautella*, *Ephiestia* sp., *Oryzaephilus surinamensis*, *Rhizopertha dominica*, *Sitophilus oryzae*, *Sitophilus zeamains*, *Sitotroga cerealella*, *Tribolium castaneum*.

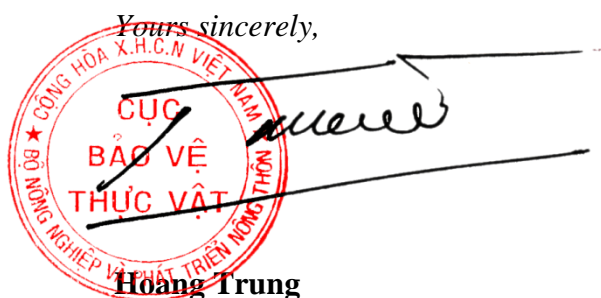
In addition, the pest resistance to phosphine has been widely reported over the world showed that the chemical is not adequately effective to eradicate insect quarantine pests.

For that all, PPD kindly request APHIS implementation of pre-shipment treatment by methyl bromide to consignments of corn, wheat and DDGS from 1st December, 2016 as the PPD's letter dated 26th September, 2016. We confirm that the date of the implementation for methyl bromide treatment and the Decision 4217/QĐ-BNN-BVTV should be referred to the Bill of Lading date.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further information is required.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Hoàng Trung

Director General

Plant Protection Department

Attachment:

1. *The record of pest interception of living insects on consignment of the U.S. corns.*
2. *The record of pest interception of living insects on consignment of the U.S. wheats.*

Cc: - Mr. Mark Dries, Agricultural Counselor, U.S Embassy in Hanoi.

- Mr. John GREIFER, us.ippcofficialcontactpoint@aphis.usda.gov; john.k.greifer@aphis.usda.gov