

Indonesia : Onions vs. Shallots

Clearance through Indonesia Customs

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Exporters of onions to Indonesia must take great care not to mix them with shallots in order to avoid creating difficulties for their importers with clearance through Indonesian Customs.

Although both onions and shallots are classified under HS 0703.10, under the Indonesian Tariff Code, the last four digits are different, onions being 0703.10.19.00 and shallots being 0703.10.29.00. Although both items may be imported, the Customs duty on onions is only 5% whilst the duty on shallots is 20%.



The two types of plant species *Allium Cepa* can be readily distinguished. Onions are grown from seed and grow as a single bulb per plant, whereas shallots like garlic grown as a cluster of bulbs from a single planted bulb which is vegetatively multiplied. Shallots are much smaller and appear like an elongated onion.

There is no doubt that suppliers are well aware of these differences so a shipment which is a mixture of onions and shallots may be seen by Customs as an attempt to mis-declare shallots as onions and take advantage of the lower rate of duty.

To avoid future problems suppliers would be well advised to follow three simple rules: (1) never physically mix onions and shallots in the same container, (2) never describe onions on the invoice as "onions (shallots)" (3) ship onions and shallots separately by FCL.

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