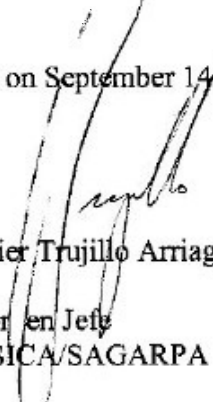


WORK PLAN FOR THE EXPORTATION OF HASS AVOCADO FROM CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES TO MEXICO.0

This work plan was developed jointly by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), the National Service of Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA), through the Direccion General de Sanidad Vegetal (DGSV) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal, Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), and will be used as a guide for the exportation of Hass avocado from California, United States to Mexico. Deviation from these guidelines is not authorized, unless previous written approval is given by both parties. Any deviation from the concepts mentioned here shall be documented in writing.

This work plan will be in force until a new version is approved and signed by both parties.

Concur on September 14, 2005.


Dr. Javier Trujillo Arriaga
Director en Jefe
SENASICA/SAGARPA



Mr. Bill Hawks

Under Secretary
USDA/MRP

I. Introduction:

1. The purpose of this document is to specify the guidelines that allow the exportation of Hass avocado from the State of California, United States to Mexico, as well as to ensure uniformity of the procedures used by the participants. For the first 12 months following the signing of this work plan, avocados may be distributed in to all states except the Mexican States of Michoacan, Jalisco, Morelos, Puebla, and Nayarit. After 12 months, the avocados may be distributed to all Mexican states.
2. The procedures outlined in this work plan are designed to assure that the shipments of Hass avocados that are destined for exportation to Mexico, and originated in California, United States are free of the following pests: *Argyrotaenia citrana*, *Heilipus lauri*, *Pseudococcus viburni*, *Pseudococcus comstocki*, *Stenoma catenifer* and the Dothiorella rot.
3. The propriety of including *Heilipus lauri* and *Stenoma catenifer*, *Pseudococcus viburni*, *Pseudococcus comstocki*, *Pantomorus cervinus*, *Amorbia cuneana* and the agents responsible for Dothiorella rot among the species of quarantine concern, and the reason

for this protocol, will be evaluated at the end of the first 12 months of operation of this export protocol.

4. APHIS has designated certain counties in the State of California as areas that produce Hass avocado for export to Mexico. Located within these counties are packinghouses that are registered to export under the terms of this work plan. The list of counties and packinghouses will be submitted to Mexico 30 days before the beginning of the export program.

II. Organizations that are Participants of the Work Plan

The work plan for the exportation of Hass avocado from the State of California, United States to Mexico, hereafter referred to as “the work plan”, will be used by the participants listed below:

1. The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, National Service for Health, Safety and Quality of Food (SAGARPA-SENASICA-DGSV) referred to in this work plan as “DGSV”.
2. The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, National Service for Health, Safety and Quality of Food (SAGARPA-SENASICA-DGIF) referred to in this work plan as “DGIF”.
3. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) referred to in this work plan as “APHIS”.
4. The California State Department of Agriculture referred to in this work plan as “CDFA”.
5. Avocado producers hereafter referred to in this work plan as “producers”.
6. Avocado packers/exporters hereafter referred to in this work plan as “packers/exporters”.
7. The California Avocado Commission (CAC)

III. Responsibilities of the Participants

1. DGSV will have the following responsibilities:

- 1.1. Verify that the participants of this work plan are fulfilling their responsibilities.
- 1.2. Establish a CAC financial agreement to fund the expenses of the visit, carried out before the operation of the program, by Mexican inspectors assigned by DGSV.

This financial agreement shall be signed 45 days before the beginning of the program.

- 1.3. During the month before the beginning of the program, DGSV will visit the representative orchards and packinghouses participating in the program. DGSV reserves the right to conduct additional visits if pest presence is found in shipments belonging in the program.
- 1.4. Provide to DGIF this work plan and the master list of registered packers so as to monitor their compliance at the border.
- 1.5. Notify to APHIS of any rejected shipments or problems found in order to take immediate corrective measures.
- 1.6. Conduct investigations jointly with APHIS of the problems found during the activities of the program, apply the corrective measures of this work plan and carryout clarifications for improvement of the program.
- 1.7. Establish precautionary measures or the necessary corrective measures, when there is a detection of quarantine pests or problems with the operation of the program that can put Mexican agriculture at risk.
- 1.8. DGSV shall use the flow chart agreed upon between Mexico and the United States during the harmonization group for the handling of intercepted and identified pests.
- 1.9. Carry out an evaluation at the end of the season and an assessment of the program with the cooperation of APHIS and the industry
- 1.10. When possible, cooperate with APHIS to provide an opportunity to confirm interceptions of pests

2. DGIF will have the following responsibilities:

- 2.1. Verify at the point of entry, the documentation, packing, transportation mean and the phytosanitary conditions of each shipment in accordance with the work plan.
- 2.2. Release for import to Mexico, the shipments that comply with the requirements, and carry out the specific procedures for problem shipments in accordance with the work plan by informing DGSV of any interception of pests, deficiencies in documentation, packing or transport of the shipments, as well as any deviation of the activities of the program.
- ~~2.3. Reject for entry into Mexico, any shipment that does not comply with the requirements of this work plan.~~

3. APHIS will have the following responsibilities:

- 3.1. Administer and supervise this work plan.
- 3.2. Verify that the participants in this work plan are fulfilling their responsibilities.
- 3.3. Register the counties and packers interested in participating in this work plan, which will have to be in condition to produce fruit so that the absence of quarantine pests mentioned in point 2 of this work plan can be certified.
- 3.4. Certify during export inspection the absence of the pests included in point 2 of this work plan.
- 3.5. Provide to DGSV 30 days before the beginning of the program, the list of counties and packers registered to participate in this program.
- 3.6. Ensure that only shipments that meet the requirements of the work plan are certified for export to Mexico.
- 3.7. Verify that packinghouses registered for participating in the program that knowingly accept for export to Mexico, avocados that are not of California origin or that were previously rejected by APHIS or DGSV automatically lose their eligibility to export to Mexico.
- 3.8. Provide the necessary personnel for the registration of counties and packinghouses, as well as for inspection and certification of shipments destined to Mexico.
- 3.9. Verify that avocados are free of stems, leaves and other plant parts and placed in properly marked boxes in accordance with this work plan.
- 3.10. Issue the phytosanitary documentation to export, verifying compliance of the packing and shipping specifications described in this work plan, including placing the lot number under the "distinguishing marks" section of the Phytosanitary certificate.
- 3.11. APHIS shall ensure correct compliance of the responsibilities of each packer.
- 3.12. Ensure that every shipment from a registered packinghouse has a tracing system back to the orchard.

4. CDFA will have the following responsibilities:

- 4.1 Provide to APHIS a proposed list of counties and packinghouses interested in exporting to Mexico and ensure the absence of pests listed in point 2.

4.2 Cooperate and offer assistance to APHIS and DGSV for compliance with all the requirements and specifications of this work plan.

4.3 Ensure that the participants are in compliance with the requirements specific to origin, transportation to the packing company, selection, packing, inspection, certification and transportation to point of entry in Mexico.

5. The producers will have the following responsibilities:

5.1. Comply with the requirements described in this work plan regarding orchard and traceability to the packinghouse.

5.2. Provide the packinghouses with information regarding the location of avocado orchards for exportation to Mexico, to enable traceability to the producer.

5.3. Send avocado to Mexico only through a packinghouse that is registered with APHIS.

6. The packinghouses and exporters will have the following responsibilities:

6.1. Comply with the requirements specific to packing, identification, transportation and security of the shipments of Hass avocado for exportation to Mexico as described by this work plan.

6.2. Provide CDFA with information regarding the avocado packinghouse for exportation to Mexico, for its registration with APHIS.

6.3. As long as the packinghouse is used for packing avocado for export to Mexico, the packing areas must be free of fruit and plant residues.

7. The California Avocado Commission (CAC) will have the following responsibility:

The CAC shall sign a financial agreement with DGSV 45 days before the beginning of the program to fund the expenses of the visit at origin by a Mexican inspector and shall be the official liaison with DGSV in financial matters.

IV. Operational procedures

1. Counties

California is recognized as free of Moscardid (*Ceratitis capitata*); however, a preventive trapping is required, as established by the United States National Trapping Program.

1.1. Any detection of Mediterranean fruit fly shall be immediately reported to DGSV.

2. Orchards

2.1. All orchards interested in participating shall carry out any integrated pest management action considered appropriate by the producers to ensure that shipments that are part of this work plan comply with the additional declaration stated in point IV.5.5.4.

3. Transportation of harvested avocado from the orchard to the packinghouse

3.1. Traceability records of avocado lots must be kept, during the route from the orchard to the registered packinghouse.

4. Packinghouses

4.1. CDFA shall provide APHIS the list of the candidate packing houses 2 months before the beginning of exports.

4.2. A month before the beginning of the program, APHIS shall provide DGSV the list of registered packing houses.

4.3. The APHIS inspector shall randomly take and set apart a sample of 30 avocados to be examined at the port of entry. The avocados shall be packed in a sack, or box, labeled and secured with the shipment.

4.4. All avocados will be traceable to the packing house and orchard of origin.

4.5. Prior to being packed, the fruits shall be brushed or washed free of stems, leaves and any other plant parts.

4.6. Each box shall have the packinghouse name and lot number.

4.7. Avocados shall be packed in new, clean boxes, or reusable plastic crates. The boxes shall be labeled clearly and legibly with the identity of the packinghouse and the producer lot number, and have the statement **“Not for distribution to the Mexican States of Michoacan, Nayarit, Jalisco, Morelos and Puebla”**. This information shall be legible and with font Arial 20, using capital letters and in red color.

4.8. Boxes shall be loaded inside a refrigerated truck or refrigerated container and shall remain there while transiting the United States to the port of first arrival in Mexico. Prior to leaving the packinghouse, the truck or container shall be sealed

by facility personnel with a seal that may not be broken until reaching the port of first arrival in Mexico.

- 4.9. All the avocados that have not been packed or placed in refrigerated trucks or refrigerated containers by the end of the work day shall be safeguarded inside the cold rooms of the packing house.
- 4.10. If the fruit cannot be shipped immediately to the point of entry in Mexico, it shall be safeguarded inside the secure areas of the packinghouse.
- 4.11. The areas adjacent to the packinghouse shall be free of culled and cut fruit. Containers with culled and cut fruit shall be emptied on a daily basis.
- 4.12. APHIS shall notify DGSV of any incident violating the procedures of the packinghouse.
- 4.13. Willful noncompliance with the regulations specified in this work plan shall result in the suspension of the packinghouse's export eligibility for the remainder of the shipping season.

5. Phytosanitary Inspection Procedures

- 5.1. APHIS personnel shall verify that the boxes containing avocado for export are identified with all the information requested in the packinghouse section of this work plan.
- 5.2. Avocado shipments may be palletized under the supervision of APHIS for future movements, if those shipments were cleared by way of inspection as free of quarantine pests.
- 5.3. Before shipment, facility personnel shall verify that the vehicle in which the avocados will be transported is refrigerated, clean and closed upon arrival at the packinghouse.
- 5.4 All avocado shipments shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by APHIS, with the following additional declaration: "The avocados of this shipment meet all the requirements of the work plan signed between SENASICA and APHIS, and originate from the county of (county) and packinghouse registered in the program, and as a result are free of: *Argyrotaenia citrana*, *Pseudococcus viburni*, *Pseudococcus comstocki*, Dothiorella rot and the request of Mexico are certified free of *Stenoma catenifer* and *Heilipus lauri*".

The lot number shall be placed under the "distinguishing marks" section of the Phytosanitary certificate

5.5. Noncompliance with the additional declaration conditions shall result in rejection of the shipment for export.

6. Transportation to the Border

6.1. APHIS shall monitor that the packinghouses place a seal on the conveyance. This seal may not be broken before the vehicle reaches the port of entry in Mexico. If the seal is broken in route for official reasons, it should be noted on the driver's documentation by the U.S. official breaking the seal.

6.2. The shipment may enter Mexico only through the following borders: San Luis, Rio Colorado, Tijuana and Mexicali, B.C., Nogales, Sonora, and Cd. Juarez Chih, Reynosa, Matamoros, Nuevo Laredo, Tamps., Manzanillo, Col., Guadalajara Jal., Monterrey, N.L., Puerto de Veracruz, Ver., and Mexico City Airport. Addition of other ports of entry shall be previously requested to DGSV.

7. Plant Quarantine Inspections in Mexico

7.1. Avocados are subject to inspection by DGIF inspector at the port of entry. DGIF may inspect avocados at any stop in Mexico while in route and upon arrival at final destination. At the port of entry the inspector shall sample avocados from each shipment to detect presence of quarantine pests.

7.2. DGIF inspectors shall verify that the documentation is correct, that avocados originated from counties and packinghouses registered to export to Mexico and that the packing and labeling requirements are met.

7.3. DGIF officers shall examine all 30 avocados previously selected by the APHIS inspector at the packinghouse. First, the exterior of each fruit shall be examined, sliced and inspected for any pest. After this inspection, the cut fruit shall be disposed.

7.4. If the shipment complies with the requirements of this work plan, it will be released by the DGIF inspector, who will seal the vehicle for its shipment to its final destination. If the avocados are transferred to another vehicle or conveyance in Mexico, this must be done in presence of a DGIF inspector, who shall supervise the transfer and apply a new numbered seal.

7.5. If pests of quarantine significance are found during inspection in Mexico, the shipment shall be rejected. DGSV shall notify APHIS of this fact and provide the necessary information regarding that particular shipment. A complete investigation shall be initiated and corrective measures shall be taken.

8. Pest Identification

8.1. All pests found in California during the operational process of this work plan shall be identified by APHIS in California and specimens shall be provided to DGSV for

confirmation, if requested. If APHIS identifies the pests as a non-quarantine pest, the orchard or packinghouse may continue to export. In cases where DGSV identifies that same pest as a quarantine pest, exports shall be addressed in accordance with this work plan.

9. Corrective measures

9.1. In case of a first interception of quarantine pest included in this work plan, for each packinghouse of the program, in origin or at border, will result in the rejection of the shipment.

9.2. In case of a second interception of quarantine pest at the border from the same packinghouse, eligibility of the packing house will be lost, until APHIS provides DGSV with a description of the corrective actions that were applied and these be accepted by DGSV.

9.3. The detection of a 3 or more quarantine pest at the border will result in the reevaluation of the program by APHIS and DGSV to determine the necessary adjustments and the possibility for continuing with the operation of the program.

9.4. Willful noncompliance with the regulations specified in this work plan will result in the suspension of the packinghouse's eligibility to export for the remainder of the shipping season.

V. General Conditions

1. Annual Inspection of the Operations

1.1. Actions carried out under this work plan shall be reviewed and evaluated every year by APHIS and DGSV to ensure that relevant aspects of the operation are carried out effectively and efficiently, and in accordance with all the procedures and applicable regulations.

2. Work Plan

2.1. Procedures established in this work plan may be amended if agreed to mutually in writing by APHIS and DGSV.

2.2. When adding a new packinghouse, APHIS will provide notice of the same to DGSV 30 days before beginning exportations in order to conduct the required activities in this work plan.