

WORK PLAN FOR THE EXPORTATION OF APPLES FROM THE NORTHWEST OF THE UNITED STATES TO MEXICO

1. PREFACE

1.1 The purpose of this document is to facilitate the exportation of apples from the approved treatment facilities in the United States to Mexico (hereinafter referred as the Program) to ensuring there is procedural uniformity among participants.

1.2.1 The approved growing/exporting areas approved in this work plan are the Northwest states: Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

1.2.2 This work plan does not replace work plans and addenda for other approved states, which will remain in effect.

1.3 All participants are responsible for carrying into effect the procedures agreed to in this work plan and must cooperate in its implementation.

2. OVERVIEW OF QUARANTINE RISK

The work plan procedures are to ensure that apples are free of the following pests:

2.1 Cydia (Grapholita) molesta

Widely distributed in the United States. Infest fruit of apple and stone fruits. Commercial movement of host fruit has been considered as a significant pathway. This pest is reported as having limited distribution and eradication in Mexico is being proposed.

2.2 Rhagoletis pomonella

Widely distributed in the United States, infesting apples fruit (preferred by host) and stone fruit. Restricted distribution in Mexico.

2.3 Conotrachelus nenuphar

Occurs in the United States. Is not present west of the Rocky Mountains with the exception of Utah infests apples and stone fruit. It is considered a high risk pest. Not present in Mexico. This pest is not present in the Pacific Northwest and is not relevant to this work plan.

2.4 Platynota idaeusalis

Is a significant pest in the eastern states in the United States. The main impact of this leaf roller pest is feeding on the fruit causing damage near the stem. This pest is not present in the Pacific Northwest and is not relevant to this work plan.

2.5 Tephritidae (Bactrocera, Ceratitis, Rhagoletis)

The state of California has had continuous detection of exotic species of fruit flies. It is necessary to carry out procedures to ensure that these species do not infest exporting fruit

to Mexico. This pest is not present in the Pacific Northwest and is not relevant to this work plan.

3 PARTICIPANTS

3.1 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA/APHIS)

3.2 State Departments of Agriculture of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

3.3 Direccion General de Sanidad Vegetal of the Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia y Desarrollo Rural of Mexico (SAGAROA/DGSV)

3.4 La Direccion General de Inspeccion Fitozosanitaria en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras de la Secretaria de Agricultura Ganaderia y Desarrollo Rural of Mexico (SAGARPA/DGIF)

3.5 Industry (Industry associations, packers, treatment facilities, post-treatment storage facilities, importers, exporters and transporters).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The program is continuous because of schedule activities purpose, the season starts on October first each year and ends on September 30th of the next year.

All responsibilities described in this section must be carried out to the procedures in this work plan. It is the responsibility of:

4.1 USDA/APHIS

4.1.1 Designating an official representative for SAGARPA/DGSV to act as liaison for the management of the program.

4.1.2 Maintaining a verification program at the place of origin for monitoring the compliance of the work plan procedures for all participants

4.1.3 Verifying through random monitoring the compliance of the required procedures for packing, treatment (including sensor calibration) treatment record certification, shipment certification, post treatment storage and shipping.

4.1.4 A Month prior to the season beginning with the support of State Departments of Agriculture and Industry develop and send a master list of approved treatment facilities, in the program to support monitoring activities of certification at the point of origin.

4.1.5 Provide SAGARPA/DGIF authorized points of entry OISA's the master list of approved treatment facilities. This list will be updated as changes occur.

4.1.6 Providing management and program direction for the implementation of this work plan and sufficient personnel to accomplish this.

4.1.7 USDA/APHIS or USDA/APHIS authorized inspectors will randomly monitor (APHIS defines random monitor to mean no more than five percent of the shipment certifications. Depending on shipment volume this should equate to roughly, on average, seventeen shipment certification per week) on program operation to ensure the identity of the fruit is maintained through out the treatment to the packing operation.

4.1.8 When a live work plan quarantine pest is detected (SECTION II) during shipment certification (including packing line inspection), or at the border points of entry, USDA/APHIS will conduct a complete and expeditious investigation and will inform SAGARPA/DGSV of the results and corrective measures taken.

4.1.9 Carrying out an expeditious investigation in problem cases and applying corrective measures to treatment facilities when there is noncompliance with work plan requirements, and implementing program improvements as needed.

4.1.10 Provide support to Industry participants for clarification for pests or documentations problems detected at packing site and/or Mexican point of entry

4.1.11 Notifying all affected participants of problems impacting the exportation Program and coordinating the resolution of these with SAGARPA/DGSV, the States and Industry.

4.1.12 Not reissuing (superseding) federal phytosanitary certificate when shipments are rejected at the border for phytosanitary reasons except for the reconditioning for foliage and plant debris. Federal Phytosanitary Certificates can be reissued for documentation discrepancies only after consultation to USDA/APHIS.

4.1.13 Verifying that the responsibilities of all participants are carried out.

4.1.14 Inform SAGARPA/DGSV about problems and verification activities when requested.

4.2 State Department of Agriculture:

4.2.1 Designating an official representative for USDA/APHIS to act as a liaison for the implementation of the Program

4.2.2 Sending to USDA/APHIS a master list of treatment facilities which intend to participate in the exportation prior to the initiation of the Program.

4.2.3 Supervising and providing management direction to implement specific procedures in this work plan and sufficient personnel to accomplish this.

- 4.2.4 Implementing the specific procedures of the work plan to accomplish treatment, treatment certification and shipment certification as required, in cooperation with USDA/APHIS and Industry.
- 4.2.5 Ensure treatment facilities and equipment comply with this work plan.
- 4.2.6 Ensuring that the treatment facility performs each treatment according to the procedures established in this work plan.
- 4.2.7 Certifying treatments according to this work plan, disapproving treatments which do not meet the specified requirements.
- 4.2.8 Providing feedback to the treatment facilities to ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken in situations resulting in treatment not meeting the requirements of the work plan.
- 4.2.9 Certifying shipments according to the work plan and rejecting any shipment presented for certification which do not meet certification requirements and ensuring that rejected shipments due to pest infestations are not reconditioned or relid the cartons nor resubmitted for inspection and certification.
- 4.2.10 Taking immediate corrective action in cases where problems are identified and notifying the USDA/APHIS when such actions are necessary.
- 4.2.11 Coordinating corrective activities with USDA/APHIS and informing all affected participants of actions taken. If necessary, treatments or shipments from the affected participants will not be certified until the problem is resolved to the satisfaction of USDA/APHIS.
- 4.2.12 Providing all the information related to certification of treatment facilities and certification of treatments at USDA/APHIS inspectors request.
- 4.2.13 Issuing Federal Phytosanitary Certificates when all requirements have been met and inspection is complete.
- 4.2.14 Informing the Industry of the procedures and conditions to perform export of apples to Mexico.
- 4.2.15 Verifying that the responsibilities of all participants are met.

4.3 SAGARPA/DGSV

- 4.3.1 Informing the importers of the procedures to carry out the importation.
- 4.3.2 Provide the USDA/APHIS with specimens of quarantine significant pests or infested fruit found in shipments of apples for export to Mexico for consultation.

4.3.3 Supporting SAGARPA/DGIF to resolve problems found in shipments.

4.3.4 DGSV may at its own expense verify the application of corrective measures dictated by USDA/APHIS or the State Departments of Agriculture in matters involving non-compliance with work plan requirements or when a quarantine risk to Mexico is involved.

4.3.5 Soliciting, and supporting it if necessary, to USDA/APHIS to conduct complete investigations of fraudulent official phytosanitary documents and illegal introduction of apples to Mexico if necessary.

4.3.6 At the discretion of DFSV carry out a site visit per year at origin to evaluate the compliance of the work plan requirements with the USDA. The site visit will be coordinated with NFE.

4.4 SAGARPA/DGIF

4.4.1 Designating an official representative for SAGARPA/DGSV and USDA/APHIS to act as liaison for issues regarding this work plan.

4.4.2 Providing to the inspectors at the points of entry all the information and documentation needed to carry out this Program according to the work plan.

4.4.3 Verifying at the point of entry for the proper documentation, packing, conveyance and phytosanitary condition of each shipment in accordance with the work plan.

4.4.4 Releasing for import to Mexico shipments that meet all the requirements, and carrying out specific procedures for holding and rejection of shipments, according to the work plan.

4.4.5 Rejecting for entrance to Mexico any shipment that does not fulfill all the requirements of the work plan.

4.4.6 SAGARPA/DGIF at the point of entry will cooperate with the USDA/APHIS for clarification of shipment rejections.

4.4.7 Informing the SAGARPA/DGSV and USDA/APHIS of any deviation detected in the Program activities which require a corrective action

4.4.8 Send to SAGARPA/DGSV any pests of quarantine significance detected in shipments (dead or alive) for identification, as well as, notifying the USDA/APHIS of any rejections due to deficiencies in documentation, packing and conveyance. In the event of encountering a dead pest the shipment will not be held at the border.

4.5.1 INDUSTRY - NORTHWEST FRUIT EXPORTERS (NFE)

4.5.1.1 INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

4.5.1.2 Designating a representative for USDA/APHIS, State Departments of Agriculture and SAGARPA/DGSV and SAGARPA/DGIF in the development of Program activities.

4.5.1.3 Prior to the beginning of the Program, providing to the State Departments of Agriculture, a list of treatment facilities intending to participants in the Program.

4.5.1.4 Providing to all Industry participants the necessary information and documentation related to the work plan requirements and assigning a TF number to each treatment facility.

4.5.1.5 Distributing operational procedures to satisfy the work plan requirements to the Industry participants

4.5.1.6 At the beginning of each season establish a financial agreement with SAGARPA/DGSV to provide funds to support an official visit each year at origin.

4.5.2 Treatment Facilities:

4.5.2.1 A Treatment facility is defined as a company that operates at least one cold room and is responsible for quarantine treatments and export of apples under its name and TF number, or other names of associate companies. Only TF numbers will be used for inspection purposes.

4.5.2.2 Cooperating with USDA/APHIS and State Departments of Agriculture in the development of Program activities.

4.5.2.3 Designating a representative to interact with USDA/APHIS.

4.5.2.4 Notifying NFE of their intent to participate in the Program before the beginning of the export season.

4.5.2.5 Provide letter of compliance to USDA/APHIS to establish the treatment facility's commitment to fully carry out the requirements of the work plan.

4.5.2.6 Providing to State Departments of Agriculture a list of cold rooms and lot numbers when available for export to Mexico for certification at the beginning of the Program.

4.5.2.7 Using the treatment schedule as specified in the work plan,

4.5.2.8 Using only cold rooms certified by State Departments of Agriculture and approved by USDA/APHIS and maintaining them in good working condition.

4.5.2.9 Notifying USDA/APHIS in advance by fax, of every upcoming treatment or shipment certification according to the work plan.

4.5.2.10 Notify the state inspector assigned to the facility when reliding or repacking will occur for Mexican shipments only.

4.5.2.11 Provide the State inspector a letter indicating state of origin, treatment facility, cold room and lot number of fruit for certification of treatment.

4.5.2.12 Reducing to minimum outdoor exposure of treated apple by transporting it from treatment rooms to packing house and back to cold storage in an expeditious manner.

4.5.2.13 Make available to USDA/APHIS all treatment records and documentation indicated in the check list for certification and loading of shipments during business hours. Provide USDA/APHIS all original temperature records upon request.

4.5.3 Packers

4.5.3.1 Cooperating with USDA/APHIS and State Departments of Agriculture in the development of Program activities.

4.5.3.2 Handling only apples which have met the treatment requirements specified in this work plan.

4.5.3.3 Implementing the specific packing procedures as outlined in the work plan.

4.5.3.4 Verifying that cartons are pre-printed with the registered name(s) of the treatment facility or name of associate companies and stamped with the corresponding TF number after the shipment certification or during line certification for Mexico.

4.5.3.5 Printing the cartons with the room numbers where the apples were treated or will be treated.

4.5.4 POST-TREATMENT STORAGE FACILITIES:

4.5.4.1 Storing treated and packed apples in areas clearly identified into a cold room and at least four feet from untreated apples.

4.5.4.2 Protecting apples from being infested or re-infested (due to hitch-hiker pests and to commingling) after treatment and until loaded onto a clean and sealed conveyance.

4.5.5 IMPORTERS:

4.5.5.1 Taking responsibility for rejections when these requirements are not met.

4.5.5.2 Communicating to exporters the requirements for importing apples to Mexico.

4.5.6 EXPORTERS (SEALERS, BROKERS AND FOWARDING AGENTS):

4.5.6.1 Requesting support from USDA/APHIS for clarification of shipment requirements.

4.5.6.2 Inquiring into and being aware of the requirements for importation of apples into Mexico.

4.5.6.3 Verifying that the conditions established in this work plan for shipments are met and informing Industry representatives when the requirements of this work plan are not met.

4.5.6.4 Taking responsibility for rejections when these requirements are not met.

4.5.6.5 Verifying that conveyances are clean of leaves, plant debris or soil prior to loading the apples.

4.5.6.6 Sealing the conveyance with a numbered seal at origin.

4.5.6.7 Verifying that certified shipments of apples stored temporarily at the border are protected against infestation and re-infestation.

4.5.6.8 Notifying the transporters of the procedure requirements of this work plan.

4.5.7 TRANSPORTERS:

4.5.7.1 Inquiring into and being aware of the shipping requirements, and requesting clarification of these to Industry representatives at the place of origin.

4.5.7.2 Verifying that conveyances are clean and free of leaves, plant debris or soil prior to loading of apples.

4.5.7.3 Preventing unauthorized breakage of the seals. SAGARPA/DGIF personnel at the border will abide by the harmonization agreement on broken seals.

5 OPERATING PROCEDURES

5.1 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

5.1.1 NFE provides the work plan to treatment facilities interested in the Program.

5.1.2 Treatment facilities interested in the exportation Program which accept the terms of the work plan requirements, will notify to the Industry associations their intents to

participate in the Program in order to be included in the list to be sent to State Departments of Agriculture.

5.1.3 The treatment facilities provide to the State Departments of Agriculture the list of cold rooms and associate companies that intends to participate in the Program in order to be included in the list to be sent to State Departments of Agriculture.

- a) Name of treatment facility and TF number
- b) Cold room identification
- c) Location of room
- d) Cubic capacity and rough bin count
- e) Manufacture, model and type of temperature recorder equipment

5.1.4 State Departments of Agriculture must register the name(s) of the treatment facilities and associated facilities and corresponding TF numbers, which will be maintained throughout the Program. The register will include the information in point 1.3 above.

5.1.5 The TF number is unique to only one treatment facility and will only be stamped in cartons of fruit treated at its facilities.

5.1.6 State Departments of Agriculture must send the register of treatment facilities to USDA/APHIS with the information provided by treatment facilities.

5.1.7 After closure of rooms, information relative to the owner of the apples and cold room map with lot numbers will be available at treatment facilities during business hours.

5.1.8 Each room cannot be registered by more than one treatment facility.

5.1.9 Cold rooms can be shared by two or more treatment facilities. In this case, one of those treatment facilities must register the room and be responsible for temperature records.

5.2 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE TREATMENT FACILITIES

5.2.1 Temperature recording systems

- a) Accuracy: .55°C in the range of -3°C a 3°C and 1.00°F in the range 25°F a 37°F
- b) Resolution 1°F/1°C
- c) Protection: Adequate protection against environment
- d) Set point of thermostat (for reference only)

5.2.2 Reading Instruments

5.2.2.1 Accuracy Standards

- a) Readings: $\pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ of the true temperature in the range of -3°C to 3°C and $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ of the true temperature in the range of 25°F to 37°F
- b) Repeatability: Capable in the range of -3°C to 3°C and in the range of 25°F to 37°F

5.2.2.2 Display standards for strip chart recorders

- a) Scale deflection: not be less than 0.08 inches for each F degree or not less than 2 mm for each C degree
- b) Graduation: $^{\circ}\text{F}/^{\circ}\text{C}$, with major scale marks at every degree.
- c) Temperature/sensor: once every hour, with identification for each sensor.
- d) Chart length: Continuous

5.2.2.3 Display standards for data logger.

- a) Sensor recorded temperature printing: once every hour
- b) Sensor identification/location printing: once every hour
- c) Additional information: date/time
- d) Printing records: once every hour or when needed

5.2.2.4 Display standards for circular charts

- a) Scale deflection: No less than 0.08 inches for each $^{\circ}\text{F}$ degree or not less than 2 mm for each $^{\circ}\text{C}$ degree.
- b) Print interval: continuous chart speed as needed for chart length
- c) Graduation: $^{\circ}\text{F}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ with major scale marks for each 2°F or less
- d) Temperature/Sensor Value: once hourly, with color coded sensor symbol
- e) Chart length: 7 days or less

5.2.2.5 Display standards for computer generated graphs.

Computer generated graphs can vary from one hour marks on the horizontal axis and one degree marks on the vertical axis, with a maximum of two degrees on the vertical axis and two hours on the horizontal axis. No more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ days can be included in an 8 inches by 10 inches sheet of paper

5.2.3 Temperature sensors

5.2.3.1 Construction standards

- a) Outer sheath: Outer sheath diameter of the probes may vary as long as the accuracy and sensitivity remains in the established range.

5.2.3.3 Accuracy Standards.

- a) Accuracy $\pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the range of -3°C to 3°C and $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ in the range of 25°F to 37°F

b) Steady: Must show a steady indication of temperatures within 3 minutes when immersed in a mixture of crushed ice and water

5.2.3.3 Identification of the sensors

Each sensor in the cold room will be clearly identified in a manner which permits an independent identification of each one.

5.2.4 Operation Conditions

5.2.4.1 Installation standards

Installation: Permanent. Portable devices are not allowed. Temperature recording devices must be located outside of the chambers. The temperature display panels may be inside conventional cold rooms.

5.2.4.2 Temperature recording

Temperatures must be recorded at least hourly.

a) Graph: Records can be shown in circular or continuous charts. Must indicate TF number, room number and date and time of initiation. Continuous chart is preferred. For 90 days treatment the graph can be built with the average of three sensors. If mechanic reading system can not calculate an average, temperature recorded by each sensor must be verified. Temperature records over specification of work plan will not be accepted.

b) Data: Temperatures of each sensor must be displayed and in the case of electronic or computerized devices an average can also be provided for 90 days treatment. Temperature records over specification of work plan will not be approved.

c) In the case of data loss due to power failure, printing jams or other causes beyond the control of the treatment facility and when the failure is corrected and the air temperature is less or equal to the treatment temperature when the record is restarted, the treatment will be allowed to be continuous, only when cumulative or continuous data failure time is no more than 50 hours for a single treatment. If data failure is over 50 hours, the case will be reviewed by USDA/APHIS Coordination.

5.2.4.3 Location of sensors:

Temperatures shall be monitored at a minimum of three locations within each cold room. A sensor will be located near the cold unit. One will be near the far wall from the cold unit and one will be at the top of the room in between the other two sensors.

5.2.4.4 Calibration: The sensors must be calibrated once a year before the treatment facility certification, with a written statement. The calibration can be done by the state

officials, the supplier, or manufacturer representative. Calibration shall be approved by USDA/APHIS.

5.2.4.5 Only when technical characteristics of a treatment facility do not fit the terms stated in this section, USA/APHIS must determine whether to certify the treatment facility.

5.2.5 Computers, equipment and software.

5.2.5.1 The treatment facilities shall notify APHIS in writing of any change of temperature recording software. USDA/APHIS will approve changes in writing.

5.3 TREATMENT FACILITY CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

5.3.1 USDA/APHIS or State Departments of Agriculture will assure the treatment facilities participating in this Program are aware of certification requirements to be included in the Program to Mexico under the terms of this work plan

5.3.2 State Department of Agriculture must be responsible for carrying out the certification of treatment facility, in compliance of requirements in point 2, by mean of State of USDA/APHIS authorized inspectors.

5.3.3 All treatment facilities must calibrate their temperature recording equipment once a year before certification by the state.

5.3.4 For those facilities that were certified the previous season and did not make any structural or equipment changes the only requirement for being certified is to send to the state an affidavit stating their name(s), cold rooms identification and that no changes were made to the equipment or the room.

5.3.5 Treatment facilities making any structural or equipment changes have to comply with the minimum requirements for temperature record equipment and with USDA certification procedures.

5.3.6 The State will issue a certificate for those treatment facilities that meet described requirements each certificate has to have attached the supporting information.

5.3.7 USDA/APHIS will randomly monitor the certification process. Treatment facilities do not necessarily have to be visited by USDA/APHIS to be certified.

5.3.8 A treatment facility may initiate treatment if facilities and equipment were previously certified and approved by USDA/APHIS and did not undergo any problems, changes or structural modifications of equipment or temperature recording software.

5.3.9 Those treatment facilities that presented problem the previous season must be approved by USDA/APHIS.

5.3.10 New treatment facilities, new rooms and rooms that need to be recertified due to structural changes, or equipment will be approved by USDA/APHIS.

5.4 APPROVAL PROCEDURES

5.4.1 The state Department of Agriculture develops the list of certified treatment facilities and provides this list to USDA/APHIS. The list includes the registered name(s) for the treatment facility, TF number and the date of certification.

5.4.2 USDA/APHIS randomly verifies the certified treatment facilities and will develop the master list of approved treatment facilities.

5.4.3 All treatment facilities not covered in Section 5.3.9 will initiate the treatments only after approval by the USDA/APHIS.

5.4.4 USDA/APHIS will develop a list of approved treatment facilities. This list will be updated as changes occur and sent to State Departments of Agriculture, SAGARPA/DGSV, SAGARPA/DGIF and the authorized points of entry.

5.5 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

5.5.1 The treatment facility will notify the USDA/APHIS of each upcoming regular storage treatment initiation, treatment certification, shipment certification, and the location of the records.

5.5.2 The notifications of treatments and shipments certifications must be made by facsimile within 24 hours and no less than 4 hours in advance as a minimum. Treatment facility can move inspection time up to two hours earlier (by phone) than scheduled, with the agreement of USDA/APHIS authorized inspector.

5.5.3 The treatment facility will notify the state agriculture inspector assigned to the shed of any repacking or reliding for apple shipments destined to Mexico.

5.5.4 The treatment initiation notification for regular storage must include:

- a) The name of the treatment facility
- b) The cold room identification
- c) A cold room map with lot numbers
- d) The date of entrance of the last lot in the cold storage room
- e) The date of the notification of treatment initiation

Notification of the initiation of the treatment is not necessary for controlled atmosphere rooms.

5.5.5 Notification of treatment certification must include:

- a) Name and address of the treatment facility
- b) Location and identification of cold room to be certified
- c) Anticipated date and time of treatment certification.

5.5.6 Notifications of shipment certification must include:

- a) Name and address of the treatment facility
- b) Cold room where the fruit was treated (lot numbers are optional)
- c) Anticipated date, time, and location where shipment certification will take place

5.6 TREATMENT PROCEDURES

5.6.1 GENERAL

5.6.1.1 The treatment will be performed according to the procedures in this work plan.

5.6.1.2 Treatment for apples can be applied to fruit in bulk field bins or packed in commercial cartons. Cartons shall be identified with the number of the room in which the apples are treated. Bins must be linked to the treatment room by maintaining documentation or through accounting systems.

5.6.1.3 Pears will be allowed to be in cold rooms for treatment of apples for export to Mexico.

5.6.1.4 USDA/APHIS will randomly monitor the treatment activities

5.6.2 COLD ROOMS

5.6.2.1 Only certified and approved cold rooms will be used to treat apples for export to Mexico.

5.6.2.2 The northwest states will use: Regular and/or Controlled Atmosphere cold rooms. (The use of any CA is not part of any quarantine treatment for pests but a post harvest program for quality enhancement.)

5.6.2.3 The treatment facility will complete the Lot ID Code Registration/Treatment Initiation Notification Form for each cold room, with the following information:

- a) Name of treatment facility
- b) Unique Room identification (no repeat numbers) and location
- c) Map or list of fruit lots in the room
- d) Date of closure
- e) Date of opening
- f) The designated representative's name and signature
- g) Apples origin (State)

5.6.2.4 Closure date is the date of entry of last fruit lot to the cold room to start the treatment, and opening date means the date of beginning to take off fruit lots after completion of treatments.

5.6.2.5 More than one treatment simultaneously can be carried out in regular cold rooms but there must be specific control for establishing the initiation treatment date and only if there is a clear identification of the lot numbers under treatment.

5.6.2.7 One controlled atmosphere room can carry more than one treatment during the season, but the treatment periods must not overlap

5.6.2.8 At the end of treatment, the USDA/APHIS authorized inspector will certify the following information:

- a) The date of conclusion of the treatment and days passed
- b) The maximum temperature recorded during the treatment (excluding defrost cycles)

5.6.3 TREATMENT SCHEDULE

5.6.3.1 Treatment will begin the day and hour when the three sensors register the required temperature or less

5.6.3.2 The temperature for the three sensors shall be maintained at or below:

- a) 0.0°C (32.0°F) for at least 40 continuous days (individual sensor readings required), or
- b) 3.3°C (37.9°F) for at least 90 continuous days (sensor readings may be averaged)

5.6.3.3 Maximum air temperature can be exceeded during the defrost cycle. The defrost cycle should last not more than 60 minutes and may occur as many as four times a day. During this period, the air temperature must not exceed a maximum temperature of 12.7°C (55°F)

5.6.3.4 The State inspector will identify defrost cycles frequency according to refrigeration unit type. Temperatures during defrost will not be averaged with treatment temperatures.

5.6.5 TEMPERATURE RECORDS (OUTPUTS)

5.6.5.1 Temperature shall be continuous, automatic graphic or data logger. This could be a paper printout or electronic file. If a treatment facility uses an E file then it shall provide the necessary computer equipment to the authorized official.

5.6.5.2 After initiating the treatment, all sensors shall record required temperature or less.

5.6.5.3 All temperature data for the corresponding treatment period must be available during business hours for verification and copies will be provided to the USDA/APHIS at request. Failure to have data available when requested will cause a delay in the approval of treatment or shipment.

5.7 TREATMENT CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

5.7.1 Only treatments which meet the requirements of this work plan will be accepted for treatment certification. Set point of the treatment thermostat will be considered for reference only and will not be considered for certification.

5.7.2 USDA/APHIS authorized inspector must not initiate treatment certification without verifying that the USDA/APHIS has been notified according to this work plan.

5.7.3 The USDA/APHIS authorized inspector will verify at the time of the treatment certification:

- a) the origin of the apples (State)
- b) the lot numbers in the treatment
- c) that treatment schedule was met
- d) for treatment certification, the inspector will review the temperature records and will determine compliance of any continuous 40 or 90 day period of treatment at the required temperatures.
- e) temperature probe calibration certification

5.7.4 After the verification of treatment, USDA/APHIS authorized inspector will fill a Cold Treatment which must include:

- a) room identification
- b) date and time of initiation of treatment
- c) date and time of conclusion of treatment
- d) days elapsed
- e) treatment temperatures
- f) date and time of treatment certification
- g) the inspector's printed name and signature
- h) set point of the thermostat for reference only

5.7.5 The USDA/APHIS authorized inspector must reject any treatment failing to comply with any of the requirements of the work plan.

5.7.6 When one of the three probes fail, the situation will be at local office of USDA/APHIS to decide if treatment can be approved based on the two remaining probes records.

The facility will replace any probe failures as expeditiously as possible.

5.7.7 Treatments must be certified from the original temperature records. Certification of spreadsheets derived from the original files must be approved by USDA/APHIS.

5.8 POST-TREATMENT TRANSPORTING PROCEDURES

5.8.1 Treated apples shall be transported from the treatment facility directly to the packaging house in an expeditious manner, minimizing the exposure of treated apples to the outdoors.

5.8.2 If the packaging area is located outside of the treatment facility apples must be transported in an expeditious manner.

5.8.3 Pallets of treated apples shall not be exposed to the outdoors any longer than absolutely necessary.

5.9 PACKING PROCEDURES

5.9.1 Only apples that meet the packing requirements will be exported to Mexico.

5.9.2 Fruit packing requirements:

5.9.2.1 New clean cartons which are pre-printed with the registered name(s) of the treatment facility or associated company.

5.9.2.2 After shipment certification all cartons must be stamped with the corresponding TF number. This TF number is to be used only by the treatment facility or its associated companies. Stamping cartons at the border or out of the treatment facility is specifically prohibited.

5.9.2.3 Identity of the cartons must be maintained throughout the exportation process, including repack and the cartons reliding. It is prohibited to repack or relid cartons from shipments rejected at the border except for reconditioning of shipments for foliage or plant debris.

5.9.2.4 Apples must be free of plant debris and soil. There is a maximum average tolerance of two leaves per box. This tolerance will be calculated by the number of leaves detected in the shipment sample divided by the number of carton sampled. All references regarding leaf tolerance will use this criteria.

5.9.2.5 Apples can be packed loose, in bags or trays into the cartons.

5.10 STORAGE PROCEDURES

5.10.1 Apples that have been treated or packed must be stored in cold rooms, both at origin and at the border.

5.10.2 Treated apples must not come into physical contact with untreated fruit in bins, cartons and on pallets in or outdoors. There must be at least 4 feet separation from untreated fruit.

5.10.3 Certified apples must be protected properly from infestation or re-infestation during storage.

5.11 SHIPMENT CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

5.11.1 The treatment facility notifies to the USDA/USDA of the upcoming shipment certification by the USDA/APHIS authorized inspector. This notification shall include the information indicated in Notifications Section. Certification cannot initiate without verifying that USDA/APHIS has been properly notified.

5.11.2 The treatment facility provides the USDA/APHIS authorized inspector with copies of:

- a) The notification to the USDA/APHIS
- b) A document stating state of origin and registered cold room where the apples were treated.
- c) Treatment certification documents.

5.11.3 The USDA/APHIS-authorized inspector verifies the above requirements and rejects any requests for shipment certification that does not meet the conditions as follows:

5.11.4.1 Inspections must be performed only on individual shipments. On-line inspections will be allowed only when USDA/APHIS verify that the appropriate number of apples will be inspected.

5.11.4.2 A minimum of 1 carton per pallet must be sampled, 40 fruit from that box must be inspected for external and internal damage or stings and 1 fruit will be cut for internal feeders. The carton bags and trays must be inspected for freedom for plant debris and soil. It will be verified for compliance of maximum average tolerance of 2 leaves per carton.

5.11.4.3 A quarantine inspection report must be completed for each shipment certification. This format must contain the following information.

QUARANTINE INSPECTION REPORT

- a) Name of treatment facility
- b) TF number
- c) Date of shipment certification
- d) Date of notification to SAGARPA/DGSV
- e) Fruit origin (State)

- f) Cold room number where fruit was treated
- g) Total number of pallets sampled
- h) Number of cartons sampled
- i) Number of apples sampled per carton
- j) Number of apples cut per carton

RESULTS OF INSPECTION

- k) Presence of quarantine pest (Y/N)
- l) Presence of non-quarantine pest (Y/N)
- m) Shipment qualifies for certification (Y/N)
- n) Phytosanitary certificate number
- ñ) Inspector name and license number
- o) State lot number assigned to the shipment only if the exporting state issues lot numbers

5.11.4.4 The inspection record must be available and copies must be provided to USDA/APHIS when requested.

5.11.5 The USDA/APHIS will randomly monitor the inspection process described above.

5.11.6 Plant debris are defined as those parts of plants; except: pieces of peel, and dried flowers or part of flowers of apple trees.

5.11.7 If any live quarantine pest or more than 5% non-quarantine pests, except mite eggs, more than the average two leaves per carton or plant debris or soil are detected, the shipment will be rejected. It can be only reconditioned for exceeding leaf tolerance in cartons, plant debris or soil.

5.11.8 Rejections due to leaves, plant debris or soil will be taken only to a grower lot or a packing subplot, with the possibility of replacing or repacked the grower lot of subplot rejected from the shipment.

5.11.9 In the case that a live pest is detected, and identification of the pest is not available, the shipment will be held until an official determination can be made of the identity of the pest.

5.11.10 The USDA/APHIS authorized inspector will reject for certification any shipment that does not meet the conditions in this work plan.

5.11.11 USDA/APHIS authorized inspector will issue a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate to those shipments that meet the work plan requirements.

5.11.12 Due to the existence of internal procedures and agreements between USDA/APHIS, Agricultural Marketing Service and State Departments of Agriculture, the work plan will allow a variation of certification procedures between regions and States.

The work plan will not require a change in the current procedures that the USDA/APHIS kept with other local government authorities or agencies.

5.11.13 Copy of the phytosanitary certificate must be available during business hours for verification by the USDA/APHIS when requested.

5.11.14 The Federal Phytosanitary Certificate will include the following information:

5.11.14.1 In the DISINFESTATION AND/OR SISINFECTION TREATMENT section:

a) DATE: The precise dates of the treatments: from the initiation date to the ending date, stating how many days have elapsed. The initiation date is defined as the first full calendar day when probes detect that required temperature was reached.

b) TREATMENT: "Cold Treatment"

c) DURATION AND TEMPERATURE:

0.0°C (32.0°F) or less for 40 days or more or 3.3°C (37.9°F) or less for 90 days or more

d) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Registered name and TF number of the approved treatment facility and conveyance seal number as assigned by company.

e) DISTINGUISHING MARKS: The label brands and lot number(s) in the shipment.

f) PLACE OF ORIGIN: State of origin of the apples

g) ADDITIONAL DECLARATION:

"Apples in this shipment were treated and inspected under the procedures of the work plan agreed between SAGARPA and USDA and were found free from quarantine pests."

5.12 SHIPPING PROCEDURES

5.12.1 Shipments destined for export to Mexico must contain only apples meeting the work plan requirements. Shipments of apples with any other commodities will not be accepted for entry to Mexico (except cherries and apricots).

5.12.2 Exporters shall carry out a complete shipping verification to ensure that:

a) Shipments are clean (no leaves, plant debris or soil), refrigerated conveyances.

b) All cartons are pre-printed with the registered name(s) of the treatment facility or its associate company.

c) All cartons are stamped with the corresponding treatment facility (TF) number.

5.12.3 Conveyances will be sealed at the point of origin by the treatment facility or shipper with a numbered seal and remain sealed until SAGARP/DGIF breaks the seal at the border. The seal number will be written on the phytosanitary certificate by the

USDA/APHIS authorized inspector. In the event of a conveyance arriving at the border with a broken seal, SAGARPA/DGIF will abide by the harmonization agreement on broken seals. The harmonization agreement states the following:

If the shipment arrives at the port of entry with an intact seal, a normal inspection and sampling will be conducted.

If the shipment arrives with a broken seal, but it is accompanied by an affidavit, and the integrity of the shipment has not been violated, a normal inspection and sampling will be conducted.

If the integrity of the shipment is in question because of a broken pallet, open or missing boxes, the inspection level will be increased according to the importing country's requirements.

If the shipment arrives without a seal and without an affidavit, the shipment may be rejected for entry.

6. ADMISSION CRITERIA

6.1 GENERAL CRITERIA

6.1.1 Only shipments meeting all of the requirements of this work plan will be presented to SAGARPA/DGIF at the point of entry.

6.1.2 Shipments will be allowed to enter Mexico only at: Mexicali and Tijuana B.C.; Reynosa, Nuevo Laredo and Tuxpan, Tamps; Cd. Juárez. Chih.; Nogales and San Luis Rio Colorado, Son.; Manzanillo, Col.; Veracruz, Ver.

6.2 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

6.2.1 The only documents required by SAGARPA/DGIF at the point of entry are:

- a) Import phytosanitary requirements document from SAGARPA/DGSV, at least until its publication in a Mexican Official Norm.
- b) USDA/APHIS Federal Phytosanitary Certificate.

6.3 CONVEYANCE INSPECTION

6.3.1 Only shipments meeting the documentation and shipping requirements of this work plan will be presented to SAGARPA/DGIF.

6.3.2 SAGARPA/DGIF will inspect:

- a) Inspect for live quarantine pests.
- b) Inspect for live non quarantine pests.

c) Inspect for presence of leaves, plant debris and soil

6.4 SHIPMENT INSPECTION

6.4.1 SAGARPA/DGIF will verify that the packing requirements are met.

6.4.2 SAGARPA/DGIF will inspect up to 2 percent of the cartons in the shipment for live quarantine and non quarantine pests, in packed fruit and in conveyances.

6.4.3 A live pest suspected of quarantine concern in shipments will be sent to SAGARPA/DGIF for its official identification.

6.4.4 A 2% tolerance of boxes missing the TF is allowed. The lot number will be used as a reference to identify the shipment and a federal Phytosanitary Certificate (Block 12), in case of discrepancies the USDA/APHIS will provide clarification.

6.5 ADMISSION

6.5.1 Only shipments in compliance with documentation, packaging and conveyance requirements will be allowed for entry to Mexico and only when there is no detection of:

- a) Live quarantine pests.
- b) Live non-quarantine pest in over 5% infestation except mite eggs.
- c) More than an average of two leaves per carton or plant debris or soil in packed cartons or in the conveyance.

6.5.2 No quarantine action will be taken in the case of any dead pests.

6.5.3 SAGARPA/DGIF at the point of entry will notify SAGARPA/DGIF in a timely manner of any pests (dead or alive) detected in shipments and anomalies in documentation and packing and conveyance deficiencies as well as what action was taken (admission, holding or rejection).

7. HOLDING AND REJECTION PROCEDURES

7.1 HOLDING OF SHIPMENTS

7.1.1 In cases where live pests are detected, the shipment will be held until its quarantine status of the pest is determined. The exporter may elect to wait for results or return the shipment to the USA. SAGARPA/DGIF will provide USDA/APHIS with the intercepted specimen or digital image for review and confirmation.

7.2 REJECTION OF SHIPMENTS

7.2.1 Shipments which do not meet the work plan requirements for documentation, packing or conveyance will be rejected. Also those shipments that exceed the tolerance

of 2% of boxes without TF number stamped or without the State lot number that identify the shipment.

7.2.2 Shipments detected with live quarantine pests, live non-quarantine pests over 5%, except mite eggs, or exceeding leaves tolerance and with plant debris and soil, will be rejected for entry to Mexico.

7.2.3 Conveyances found to contain leaves; plant debris or soil will be rejected.

7.2.4 Any shipments rejected at the point of entrance can not be reconditioned, repacked or relid, and resubmitted for importation into Mexico except for foliage and plant debris as per the work plan.

7.2.5 In the case of documentation deficiencies, documents will be re-issued only after consultation to USDA/APHIS.

7.2.6 A follow-up investigation of rejected shipments by USDA/APHIS should be carried out in order to determine participant responsibilities and identify weak points in the Program. USDA/APHIS will inform SAGARPA/DGSV of its findings and applied corrective measures.

8. SUSPENSION, REINITIATION AND REINSTALLATION PROCEDURES

8.1 SUSPENSION

8.1.1 SAGARPA/DGSV may temporarily suspend the program or USDA/APHIS may refuse to issue a phytosanitary certificate if:

8.1.1.1 Reached agreements by participants in this work plan are not met at the satisfaction of SAGRPA/DGSV and USDA/APHIS.

8.1.1.2 There is not security nor guarantees for the cooperation needed form the Industry or participants in the program or states

8.1.1.3 The existence of critical failure in general procedures applied to one or all participants in the Program and this failure represents a quarantine risk to Mexico.

8.1.1.4 USDA/APHIS will inform to SAGARPA/DGSV in expeditious manner any suspension. In all cases, USDA/APHIS will conduct a comprehensive investigation, and will inform the results to SAGARPA/DGSV.

8.2 PROGRAM INITIATION

8.2.1 The re-initiation of activities for one participant or the whole Program will occur only when there is the assurance that all agreements are fulfilled to the satisfaction of USDA/APHIS and SAGARPA/DGSV

8.3 PARTICIPANT REINSTALLATION

8.3.1 The reinstallation of a state, county or treatment facility will take place only when the following have been satisfied:

8.3.1.1 A complete investigation is carried out by USDA/APHIS and findings and corrective measures are taken.

8.3.1.2 USDA/APHIS must inform SAGRPA/DGSV of the results and recommendations of the investigation.

8.3.1.3 The treatment of facility or facilities will not be permitted to ship until corrective actions have been taken and verified by USDA/APHIS and/or the ACOs.

8.3.1.4 USDA/APHIS determines that a quarantine risk no long exists and notifies the SAGARPA/DGSV and other participants.

9 LATE ENTRY PARTICIPANTS

9.1 The USDA/APHIS requires 30 days to evaluate a new application for entry of a treatment facility or a cold room into the Program. Approval will be subject to procedures as described in this work plan.

9.2 A Program late entry treatment facility can initiate their cold treatments only after being approved by the USDA/APHIS.

10 COOPERATIVE ACTIONS

10.1 POINT OF ORIGIN

10.1.1 In cases where USDA/APHIS detects problems at the point of origin with the operational activities of the work plan, USDA/APHIS and state representatives will issue corrective actions

10.2 POINT OF ENTRY

10.2.1 Cooperative action and communication will take place among SAGARPA/DGIF and USDA/APHIS when pest identification is needed to expedite action on shipments.

10.2.2 Participants will provide information needed to carry out a full investigation of any incident.

10.3 SUPERIVISION AND CONTROL


10.3.1 Personnel from SAGARPA/DGSV and USDA/APHIS headquarters or the region will visit participant states to evaluate the program activities and provide directions in establishing corrective actions whenever they are needed

11 GENERAL AGREEMENTS

11.1 The work plan will be in effect and remain in place indefinitely upon the agreement by USDA/APHIS and SAGARPA/DGSV.

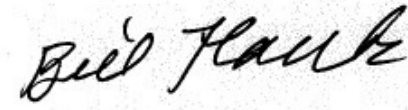
11.2 This work plan was jointly developed by the USDA/APHIS and SAGARPA/DGSV to be used as a guide for the certification and exportation of apples from the States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho to Mexico. No deviations from the work plan are allowed unless they are protected by specific conditions regarding importation conditions established by SAGARPA/DGSV. All modifications must be under mutual agreement and done in writing.

11.3 In the event of a discrepancy SAGARPA/DGSV and USDA/APHIS will come to an agreement and clarify the issue before any modification to the work plan is incorporated. Clarification of any discrepancy will be mutually agreed upon.



Dr. Javier Trujillo Arriaga
Director
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad,
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Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia,
Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación

Date: May 24, 2009



Mr. William Hawks
Undersecretary
Marketing and Regulatory
Programs
United States Department
of Agriculture

Date: 5-29-09