

The United States notifies Mexico about a temporary suspension of avocado shipments from Michoacán

During the past six weeks, Michoacán producers exported over 135,000 metric tons of avocados to the United States.



The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (APHIS-USDA) decided to stop, until further notice, their avocado inspection activities in Michoacán.

The U.S. Health authority notified the National Agro-alimentary health, safety and quality service (Senasica) of their decision after one of their officers, who carried out inspection works in Uruapan, Michoacán, received a threatening call in his official cellphone.

The APHIS-USDA informed that currently is carrying out an investigation to assess the threat and determine the necessary mitigation measures to guarantee the physical safety of all their personnel working in Michoacán.

The agency also reported that currently there are meetings between the APHIS personnel and representatives of the APEAM (Association of Mexican Avocado Producers and Packagers for Export), and the local and state police in order to address the issue.

It is worth noting that, according to the Work Plan to export Hass avocados from Mexico to the United States, personnel from the U.S. Health agency inspect the avocados for export which, upon their authorization, are mobilized to packaging to be conditioned.

Avocado producers export over 135,000 tons.

During the past six weeks, avocado producers from Michoacán have exported over 135,000 tons of avocados (through over 5,000 fresh fruit shipments) to the United States, as reported by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development.

For that purpose, the SENASICA has certified 49,005 orchards that cover 152,712 hectares to export avocados from Michoacán to the U.S. over the season that goes from October 15, 2021 to April 14, 2022.

The 72 avocado packaging facilities in Michoacán that meet the requirements set forth in the amended NOM-066-FITO-1995 standard and the Work Plan to export Hass avocados from Mexico to the U.S. were likewise certified.

The Secretariat of Agriculture recalled that on December 6, 2021, health authorities from both countries executed Work Plan focused on systems for the export of fresh Hass avocados from Mexico to the U.S.

Consequently, the SENASICA has work meetings with producers and packagers from the state of Jalisco to inform about and implement the safety and quality phytosanitary requirements of said Work Plan.

The agency stated that the visits to the avocado production units to verify their phytosanitary status in order to get certified by the APHIS-USDA, in coordination with the SENASICA, will start soon. The first avocado exports from Jalisco are expected before the end of 2022.