



# Ministry of Agriculture

## Permanent Secretary

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December 29, 2009

Ms. P. Hypolite  
Permanent Secretary (ag)  
Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Marine Resources  
St. Clair Circle, Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Tel: 868-622-5481  
Email: [psmalmr@tstt.net.tt](mailto:psmalmr@tstt.net.tt)

Dear Ms. Hypolite,

**Re: Guyana/Trinidad and Tobago Fresh Agricultural Produce and  
Forest Products Trade Protocol**

I wish to acknowledge your letter of December 16, 2009 on the subject at caption which was received today via DHL.

In this regard, please find attached a signed electronic copy of the Trade Protocol. A hard copy of this document will be forwarded to your office by courier shortly.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dindyal Permaul  
Permanent Secretary

*'Trinidad and Tobago/ Guyana Fresh Agricultural Produce and Forest  
Products Trade Protocol'*

**Terms and Conditions for Trade in Fresh Agricultural Produce and Forest Products from Guyana to Trinidad and Tobago (under the Management of the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana) hereinafter referred to as the 'Trinidad and Tobago/Guyana Agricultural Produce and Forest Products Trade Protocol'**

The terms and conditions set out below will relate **only** to commercial shipments and are not meant to accommodate individual travellers.

Individual travellers will be subject to normal quarantine regulations at ports of entry.

All produce must be grown in Guyana. Farmers must be registered and certified as growing commodities for export to Trinidad and Tobago and they must keep records of all crop production related activities.

**A. Approved Pack houses and Registered Farmers**

- Where required, fresh agricultural produce shall be taken only from farms within pest free areas. A Pest Free Area being defined as an area within all of the country or part of the country, or all parts of several countries as identified by competent authorities in which a specific pest does not occur. A pest free area may be surrounded by or adjacent to an area in which a specific pest is known to occur but is subject to control measures.
- Produce must be prepared and packed at approved pack houses. All produce must be taken directly to the pack house where the post harvest treatments and pre-clearance inspections will be done.
- Guyana authorities shall recruit adequately trained Field Officers to assist in preparation of farms for certification and for farm and pack house monitoring.
- Appropriate staff of the Plant Health Services Division, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana will certify farms and pack houses subsequent to the initial certification done by the Plant Health Inspectors of Trinidad and Tobago. Certified farms which actively supply exporters shall be subject to visits by field officers at least once each month.
- Plant Protection Officers will be trained to ensure the proper execution of the Terms and Conditions outlined in the Trinidad and Tobago/Guyana Agricultural produce and Forest Products Trade Protocol. This training will be coordinated by Guyana Marketing Corporation with technical assistance provided by Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana.

## **B Produce Quality and Post Harvest Treatments**

Guyana authorities must appreciate the need for exporting quality produce and maintaining its presence and market share in Trinidad and Tobago.

Minimum quality standards are defined as follows:

The produce shall be:

- Clean (free from soil, foreign material and foul odours).
- Free of injury (absence of harvest wounds, bruises or punctures)
- Firm (neither soft nor having soft spots)
- Free from disease (no sign of fungal/bacteria growth or the development of dry or soft spots)
- Free from pests (no signs of live or dead insects or other arthropods at any stage of development in or on the produce or package)

Produce quality will be maintained through the following:

- Field Officers shall monitor on an ongoing basis the quality of produce to ensure adherence to minimum quality standards
- The National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) officials through market surveys shall monitor produce quality in the Trinidad and Tobago market. Shortcomings will be reported promptly to the Guyana authorities who shall address them in a timely and appropriate manner
- Training will be provided to farmers, exporters, and pack house operators on Quality Assurance, Good Agricultural Management Practices and Export Marketing. This training shall be coordinated by Guyana Marketing Corporation.
- The produce shall be subject to any post harvest treatments as may be deemed necessary
- Produce must be allowed to dry before packing

### **B. Packaging**

- Where cartons are used, the Guyana Marketing Corporation must ensure that they are new, sturdy and free of contamination and where otherwise an agreed procedure shall be followed for use of alternative packaging
- Where bags or sacks are employed, the fabric will be of crocus, jute or synthetic net, new and free of contamination and where otherwise, an agreed procedure shall be followed for use of alternative packaging
- Cartons must retain the conventional size: no telescoping of the cartons will be permitted
- The contents of the carton should not exceed 40 lbs (18.2kg)
- The weight of produce packed in sacks or bags should not exceed 50 lbs (22.7 kg). Where the weight of the produce is in excess, the packaging must be clearly labelled and identified as exceeding the standard weight
- There must be no mixing of different produce within the package
- The name and address of consignee, consignee number, exporter name, pack house number, name of produce, farmer number, country of origin and weight of package should all be legibly recorded on the label of each package



**D. Storage of Produce within the Pack house**

- Produce which has already been cleaned and packaged must be stored separately from unprepared produce
- Field personnel shall not be allowed to handle treated produce
- The packages should not be placed directly on the floor of the pack house but stored on pallets or be similarly elevated

**E. Inspection and Certification of Produce**

- Staff of the Plant Health Services of Guyana shall be responsible for the inspection of all produce for export to Trinidad and Tobago
- After the produce has been inspected and approved for export, the Guyana Plant Health Services officials will issue the Phytosanitary Certificate in accordance with the import permit requirements
- In the event that a notifiable pest/disease is discerned, such produce will not be certified as fit for export
- Sanitising procedures will be monitored to ensure compliance with recommended measures by Plant Quarantine Services of Trinidad and Tobago
- Guyana Marketing Corporation Officials reserve the right to visit pack houses and examine packing operations

**F. Exporter's Responsibilities**

- Exporters shall not prepare produce for export until a valid import permit is presented
- The exporter or Pack house manager must keep records of all produce taken from certified farms
- The exporter of forest products and the Guyana Forestry Commission must keep records of all exports of forest products and their associated treatments
- These records must be accessible to the Guyana Marketing Corporation and Plant Quarantine Officials of both countries
- Exporters shall be responsible for the security of their produce after it has been inspected and approved for export to Trinidad and Tobago
- Any produce that arrives in Trinidad and Tobago not accompanied by relevant documentation from Plant Health Officials of Guyana shall be confiscated and destroyed, or returned to Guyana at the expense of the exporter/importer

**G. Importers in Trinidad and Tobago**

- All importers of fresh agricultural produce and forest products from Guyana must acquire an import permit from the Plant Quarantine Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources of Trinidad and Tobago.
  - Importers of fresh agricultural produce will only be allowed to import produce from certified farms in Guyana through approved pack houses. Importers of forest products will only be allowed to import products from exporters registered with the Guyana Forestry Commission.

**H. Inspection in Trinidad and Tobago**

- All produce will be subject to a thorough inspection at the point of entry into Trinidad and Tobago.

Any breaches of the protocol will result in either:

- a) confiscation and destruction of consignment or
- b) return of consignment to Guyana at the expense of the exporter/importer.

- No liability shall be attached to any officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources of Trinidad and Tobago.

**I. Visit by Trinidad and Tobago Officials**

- Trinidad and Tobago's Plant Health Officials reserve the right to make one (1) scheduled visit per year to ensure the terms and conditions of the trade protocol are maintained.
- The duration of each official visit will be limited to a maximum of four (4) persons for a maximum period of five (5) days
- The cost of return ticket(s), hotel accommodation, meals and ground transportation will be borne by the Government of Guyana. All other costs will be borne by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago
- Where there is need for additional visits the cost shall be borne by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago

**J. Pesticide Management**

- Farmers shall be required to maintain records of all pesticides applied on each crop. These records will include: trade names, active ingredients, percentage active ingredient, application rates, date(s) of application and pre-harvest intervals for pesticides used in growing these crops.
- These records shall be made available to the Plant Health Officials of Trinidad and Tobago on request.

**K. Breaches by Importer**

- Any importer who after being warned in writing of any breach of this protocol and continues the breach shall be denied import permits to facilitate the trade.
- Import permits shall be issued only when importers indicate willingness to, and can demonstrate compliance with the terms and conditions of this protocol.

**L. Breaches by Farmers, Exporters and or Packing houses**

- Any farmer, exporter or packing house operator who after being warned in writing of any breach of this protocol and continues the breach shall be decertified until the breach(es) has/have been corrected.

*Hargaret Rick*

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Ministry of Agriculture, Land and  
Marine Resources, Trinidad and Tobago.

PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND  
AND MARINE RESOURCES

Date.....7/12/09.....

*[Signature]*

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Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture

Date.....29/12/09.....