



Terms and conditions for the Trade in Fresh Agricultural Produce From Guyana to St. Lucia



(under the management of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock – Guyana).

The terms and conditions set out below shall relate only to commercial shipments and are not meant to accommodate individual travelers. Individual travelers shall be subject to existing quarantine regulations at Ports of entry.

A) Origin of Produce:

- All produce shall be grown in Guyana.
- Personnel of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Services of Guyana shall allow fresh agricultural produce for export to St. Lucia from approved farms.
- Fresh agricultural produce shall only taken from farms that operate within pest free areas. A pest free area being defined as an area encompassing all of a country or part of the country, all or parts of several countries as identified by competent authorities, in which a specific pest does not occur. A pest free area maybe surrounded by, or adjacent to an area in which a specific pest is known to occur but is subject to official control measures.

B) Processing:

- Produce shall be washed and packed at approved pack houses only. All post- harvest treatments shall be done at the facility prior to inspection.
- **For pineapples, the growing point of the crown shall be trimmed in ALL fruit intended for shipment to St. Lucia.**
- Pack houses shall be equipped with facilities for washing, brushing and drying.

C) Certification of Pack houses and for other Cleaning Facility:

- The Plant Protection staff of the Ministry of Agriculture – Guyana will certify all pack houses following detailed inspections for:
- Construction type – concrete, wood, wood & concrete.
- Ventilation
- Pipe borne water.

- Toilet facilities.
- Tables/Benches for cleaning, handling and drying of produce.
- Pallets to be used for stacking cartons after produce have been cleaned and packaged.
- Ability to secure the integrity of the produce after inspection
- Sanitation practices.
- Certified pack houses from which produce is exported frequently, shall be visited by the Plant Protection Personnel to ensure compliance with established guidelines for trade in agricultural produce.
- The Plant Protection personnel shall de-certify pack houses should they fail to comply with operational guidelines.
- All agricultural produce intended for export to St. Lucia shall be taken to the certified pack houses for cleaning, washing, drying and packing. Final inspection will be done by authorized personnel of the Plant Protection Service of Guyana prior to shipping.

Notifiable pests and Diseases:

Plant Protection Office of Guyana shall notify the Crop Protection Unit – St. Lucia of any pests and diseases of economic importance to St. Lucia found on certified farms, or within the vicinity of pack houses.

Produce from such farms and pack houses will not be accepted until such time as these are certified to be free from such pests and diseases.

D) Produce Quality:

- The produce shall be:
- clean, free from physical damage, free from diseases and pests.
- Free from soil
- Free from extraneous material e.g. leaves, twigs and other unassociated matter.

E) Packaging:

- Where cartons are used, they shall be new and sturdy.
- Contents of cartons shall not exceed 20kg.
- No used cartons will be permitted.
- Where bags or sacks are used, netted ones would be preferred.
- No soiled packaging will be accepted. Further, contents of soiled packages shall be considered prohibited.
- The weight of produce packed in sacks or bags shall not exceed (50lbs) 22.7 kg.

F) Storage of produce within the pack house:

- Produce which has already been cleaned and packaged, shall not be placed directly on the floor of the pack house, but stored on pallets or similarly constructed structures.
- Cleaned and packaged produce shall be stored separately from unprepared produce.
- Measures shall be instituted to avoid cross contamination.
- Field Personnel should not be allowed to handle treated produce.

G) Inspection and Certification of Produce:

- Plant Quarantine staff – Guyana shall be responsible for all inspections of produce for export to St. Lucia.
- No inspections shall be performed unless a valid Import Permit or copy of the original is presented.
- After the produce has been inspected and approved for export to St. Lucia, quarantine personnel shall issue a phytosanitary certificate in accordance with the amount of produce approved for export.
- All produce shall be confiscated and destroyed at the expense of the exporter/importer when found to be in excess of what is certified on the phytosanitary certificate.
- In the event that a notifiable pest(s)/disease(s) is discerned, such produce shall not be certified as fit for export.

H) **Exporter's Responsibilities:**

- Exporters shall not prepare produce for export until and unless a valid Import Permit is presented.
- Import Permits shall be presented to quarantine officials prior to inspections.
- The exporter shall be responsible for security of the produce after it has been inspected and approved for export to St. Lucia.
- Any produce that arrives in St. Lucia without inspection and certification shall be confiscated and destroyed, or returned to Guyana at the expense of the exporter/importer.
- Vehicles transporting produce shall be enclosed or covered with tarpaulins.
- Both vehicles and tarpaulins shall be cleaned and disinfected/disinfested prior transporting produce from the farms to the pack houses and after pack house operations, before transportation to the ports (or containers), to prevent contamination.

I) **Importers in St. Lucia:**

- All importers of produce from Guyana shall acquire an Import Permit from Crop Protection Unit, St. Lucia prior to importation.
- Produce arriving without Import Permits issued in advance of importation shall be confiscated and destroyed.
- Phytosanitary certificates shall also contain the import permit number.

J) **Inspection in St. Lucia:**

All produce shall be subject to inspection at the point of entry. Any breaches of the guidelines for trade in agricultural produce will result in either:

1. Confiscation and destruction of consignment or;
2. Return of consignment to Guyana at the expense of exporter/importer.

Note: No liability shall attach to the Ministry of Agriculture, St. Lucia or to any Officer or Representative of the Ministry in the execution of his duties under the Plant Protection Act No.21 of 1988 and its Regulations.

No liability shall be attached to any officer within the Government of Guyana in the execution of his duties.

K) Visit by St. Lucia Officials:

St. Lucia quarantine officials will make one (1) visit to verify the initial shipment of produce under this agreement and thereafter, one (1) scheduled visit per year to evaluate the status of the guidelines for trade in Agricultural Produce between the contracting parties.

The cost of the visit(s) must be borne by the Guyana Government or the exporter(s).

There may be other visits scheduled under circumstances agreed upon by the Plant Protection Service of Guyana and Saint Lucia, if the situation warrants such a visit.

L) Pesticide Management

Farmers' shall be required to maintain records of all pesticides applied on each crop. This record will include: trade names, active ingredients, percentage active ingredient, application rates, date(s) of application and pre-harvest intervals for common pesticides used in growing these crops.

These records shall be made available to St. Lucia quarantine officials on request.

Pesticides, which are not approved for use in St. Lucia, shall not be used on crops for export to St. Lucia.

M) Breaches

Any Exporter or Importer, who, after being warned in writing of any breaches in these "Guidelines" for Trade in Agricultural Produce and continues to do so, shall be denied Import Permits to facilitate the trade.

Import Permits shall be issued only when Importers or Exporters indicate willingness to, and can demonstrate compliance with the terms and conditions of these Guidelines for Trade in Agricultural Produce.

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