

**Terms and Conditions for the continuation of Trade in Fresh
Agricultural Produce from Guyana to Barbados (under the
Management of the Ministry of Fisheries Crops and Livestock,
Plant Protection Service) hereinafter referred to as the
“Barbados/ Guyana Guidelines for trade in Agricultural
Produce.”**

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

A. Approved Pack houses and Central Clearing and Cleaning Facility

- Agricultural produce should only be taken from farms, which operate within a 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 packhouses only. All produce must be taken directly to the packhouse where the post harvest treatment and pre-clearance inspections will be done.
- Pack houses must be equipped with facilities for washing, brushing and drying.
- Drying trays should be raised at least 18 inches (45 cm) above the ground and should be made of materials which allow for complete drying of the produce and readily lend themselves to cleaning and disinfecting.
- Plant Protection Staff of the Ministry of Fisheries Crops and Livestock in Guyana will certify all new pack houses. Certified packhouses which actively export will be visited at least

once each month, to ensure that they maintain standards.

- Request for the certification of new packhouses should be made at least three weeks in advance to allow for proper research by the Plant Protection Officials of Guyana.

Training for all new packhouse operators and workers will be coordinated by Guyana Marketing Corporation.

- Plant Protection Officers will be trained to ensure the proper execution of the terms and conditions outlined in the **Barbados/Guyana Guidelines for a trade in Agricultural Produce**. The Ministry of Fisheries Crops and Livestock, Guyana will coordinate this training.
- All agricultural produce must be taken to the Central Packaging Facility (CPF) where the final preparation for inspection and tallying will be done prior to shipping.
- The CPF must be cleaned and disinfected prior to every shipment.

Notifiable Pests (NP)

Packhouses which are characterized with notifiable pests and diseases of importance to Barbados will be decertified by the Plant Protection staff of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, Guyana, and produce from such packhouses will not be allowed to be exported to the Barbados Market.

An updated list for all certified packhouses must be provided to, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MAR) Barbados.

B. Produce Quality and Post Harvest Treatments

The Guyanese authorities appreciate the need for quality in maintaining its presence and market share in Barbados.

The quality shall be one minimum quality standard defined by the Guyana Marketing Corporation, and is as follows:

The product shall be clean, free from damage, free from disease and pest infection / infestation.

Clean - free from soil, foreign material and odours.

Damage - no harvest wounds, bruises or punctures which would lead to quick deterioration and cause rejection by consumers.

Firm - not soft / without soft spots

Disease - any sign of fungal / bacterial growth or the development of dry or soft spots.

Pest - live or dead insects or other arthropods, at any stage of development, present in or on the produce or package.

Quality will be maintained through the following:

The Guyana Marketing Corporation will monitor on an ongoing basis the quality of produce to ensure adherence to minimum quality standards. Produce quality in the Barbados market will be monitored by Barbados Officials. Shortcomings will be addressed 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. The Guyana Marketing Corporation will coordinate this training. The produce will be subjected to any post harvest treatments as may be deemed necessary.

- All produce which lends itself to washing, must be washed in a warm soap solution
- Produce must be allowed to dry before packing.

Product Range

Commodities admissible under the "Old Protocol" will be allowed entry into Barbados.

- Mangoes will be harvest at the mature green stage. They will be subject to **hot water treatment**.
- With respect to cut flowers, the best agricultural management practices, of the crop in the field,

should be enforced to prevent infestation by the attendant pests and diseases.

- Produce that lends itself to washing must be washed in a warm soap solution.
- All others must be free of any pest or disease
- All produce must be grown in Guyana.

C. Packaging

- The packaging used should be similar to the type produced by Caribbean containers Inc. (CCI) of Guyana.
- Where bags or sacs are employed, the fabric will be of jute, polyethylene or be similar to those used for the packaging of onions (netted bags).
- Cartons must retain the conventional size: no telescoping of the cartons will be permitted.
- The contents of the carton should not exceed 20 kg (44 lbs), in weight.
- The weight of produce packed in sacs or bags should not exceed 25 kg (55 lbs).
- Dried Coconuts must be packed no more than 60 to the sac.
- Netted bags must be used for the packing of root crops, e.g. eddoes, tannia, dashen, ginger etc.
- There must be no mixing of the different produce within the package e.g. oranges and grapefruits

Label. The registration code should be prominently displayed on each package.

D. Storage of Produce within the Packhouse

Produce, which has already been cleaned and packaged, must be stored separately from unprepared produce. Field personnel will not be allowed to handle treated produce.

The packages should not be placed directly on the floor of the packhouse but stored on pallets or be similarly elevated.

E. Inspection and Certification of Produce

The Plant Quarantine Department of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock - Guyana, must be responsible for the inspection of all produce for export.

The Min. of FC&L Plant Quarantine Officers must affix their official stamp on all packages.

After the produce has been inspected and approved for export, the Guyana Plant Quarantine Officials will issue the Phytosanitary Certificate in accordance with the amount of produce approved for export. In the event that HMB or other notifiable pest/disease is discerned, such produce will not be certified as fit for export.

Sanitizing procedures will be monitored to ensure compliance with these **Guidelines for trade in Agricultural Produce**.

Pack house management systems will be developed to eliminate cross contamination.

The Guyanese Plant Protection Officials reserve the right to visit packhouses and examine packing operations.

F. Exporters' Responsibilities

The exporter and the Packhouse Operator must keep written records of all produce taken into the packhouse, identifying the farmer and his/her address, type of produce taken. These records must be accessible to the Plant Quarantine Officials from both countries.

The GMC will be responsible for the security of the produce after it has been inspected and approved for export to Barbados, provided that it remains within the confines of the Central Packaging Facility (CPF).

Should excess produce not inspected and approved be found in consignment, the whole consignment will be rendered unacceptable for export to Barbados.

The exporter should only ship to importers in Barbados who are registered with Plant Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Barbados.

The registration code of the importer must be affixed to all packages for the respective importer. These codes will consist of - (Country of Export, Importers #, Exporters #, Pack house #, and the Farmer's #).

G. Importers in Barbados

All importers of agricultural produce from Guyana must be registered with the Plant Quarantine Unit of the MAR. These importers will be issued with a registration code and will only be allowed to import produce from registered pack houses in Guyana.

Inspection in Barbados

All produce will be subject to a thorough inspection at the point of entry into Barbados. Any breaches of the **Guideline for trade in Agricultural Produce** will result in either:

- i.* Confiscation and destruction of consignment
Or
- ii.* Return of consignment to Guyana at the expense of the importer / exporter.

The Plant Protection Division of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, Guyana, must be notified.

No liability shall be attached to any officer of the MAR of Barbados

H. Transport of Produce from CPF to Port of Exit

Vehicles transporting produce must be enclosed or covered with tarpaulins. Both vehicles and tarpaulins must be cleaned and disinfected/deinfested to prevent contamination. Produce for export must not be transported simultaneously on the same vehicle with produce for the local market.

I. Visit by Barbados Officials

Barbados official reserved the right to make two (2) scheduled visits per year (with the option of additional visits should the need arise), to ensure the terms and conditions of the **Guidelines for trade in Agricultural Produce** are maintained.

The cost of the two scheduled visits must be borne by the Government of Guyana.

The cost of the additional visit(s) will be borne by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Barbados).

J. Guideline for Farmers

Produce while in the field, must be free from infestations by Hibiscus Mealy Bug. Other important pest and disease problems should be kept at a minimum level.

Production fields and area around the packhouse should not have Hibiscus Mealy Bug, host plants in the immediate vicinity. These plants include:

Sorrel - Hibiscus sabdariffa
Hibiscus - Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
Broomweed - Sidu spp.

K. Certification and De-certification of Pack houses

New pack houses will be certified or decertified only after being visited by the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, Plant Protection Staff and there is proof of compliance or non-compliance with the **Guidelines for trade in Agricultural Produce**.

Decertified pack houses will be re-certified only upon compliance with the **Guidelines for trade in Agricultural Produce**. Such re-certification would depend on factors which led to the de-certification in the first instance, as well as the type of crop. Such re-certification will only be under taken at the request of the packhouse operator or company. The cost of re-certification will be borne by the person or company requesting the re-certification.

A list of new pack houses, which have been certified by Guyanese Officials, must be forwarded to Barbados officials prior to the commencement of trade from the said pack houses.

Any changes to the initial list of packhouses must be forwarded to the MAR, Barbados.

L. Deregistration of traders / importers

Any exporter or importer who after being warned in writing of any breeches in this **Guideline for trade in Agricultural Produce** continues to do so may be taken off the list of registered exporters or importers and be disqualified from trading in agricultural produce between the two (2) countries. Any exporter or importer so being de-listed will only be reregistered after a period of six months by showing a willingness to abide with the terms and conditions of this "**Guideline of trade in Agricultural Produce**".

On ratification of these **Guidelines for trade in Agricultural Produce** each registered trader will be given a copy of this document.

M. Pesticide Management

All stakeholders will be provided with information on pesticides not approved for use on crops destined for the Barbados Market. Active ingredients and trade names of pesticides not recommended for use in crops will be listed.

Farmers will be advised on the recommended pre-harvest intervals for common pesticides used in growing these crops. Farmers will be advised to supply information to exporters and Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and livestock, Plant Protection Staff on all pesticides applied on all produce supplied for export to Barbados. This record will include: trade names, application rate and frequency. This will be made available to MAR, Barbados.

Samples of produce from farms destined for the Barbados market will be tested for pesticide residue.

**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development- Barbados
Ministry of Fisheries Crops and Livestock - Guyana
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