

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Mexico

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SENASICA Announces New Risk-Reduction Certification Program

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety
Tomatoes and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Secretariat of Agriculture announced through the National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality on July 22, 2013 a certification program in Contamination Risk Reduction Systems, for reducing the risk of contamination for export vegetables and fruits, starting with tomatoes.

This report summarizes an announcement by the National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) from the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) implementing a certification program in Contamination Risk Reduction Systems, on July 22, 2013. (Sistemas de Reducción de Riesgos de Contaminación (SRRC))

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Executive Summary:

The National Service of Health, Food Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA) announced a program on July 22, for Mexican produce growers to be certified under the Contamination Risk Reduction Systems (SRRC) program. SENASICA will require certification by tomato exporters that are signatories to the Tomato Antidumping Suspension Agreement signed with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

This program was announced by SAGARPA as an effort to support the tomato industry so that it could continue exporting to the United States under the terms of the Suspension Agreement. This program was designed to allow exporters to obtain the Automatic Export Notice issued by the Secretariat of Economy (SE), which is a requirement for export.

SAGARPA hopes the implementation of the SRRC and Good Management and Use of Agrochemicals program in the primary production of vegetables will decrease the risk of plant products being affected by chemical, physical or microbiological contaminants. Measures and procedures are already established by various voluntary SAGARPA guidelines and other applicable legal provisions to ensure that produce benefits from optimal sanitary and phytosanitary conditions through the application of Good Agricultural Practices.

According to the General Directorate of Agro-Food Safety, Aquaculture and Fisheries, this program contains three steps:

- 1. Registration** - To register in an electronic system all producers and packers of food products of agricultural origin.
- 2. Self Assessment** - In a computer program, a self-assessment questionnaire will be available that will allow producers and packers to know their percentage of progress in the implementation of the SRRC. This tool should be used at least every six months showing an advance of at least 25 percent in each assessment until reaching 100 percent.
- 3. Certification** - The companies that implement 100 percent of the SRRC may aim to hold the Certification issued by SENASICA on the subject.

In the future, SENASICA expects this program to be mandatory for other exported products such as avocado, cucumber and mango, to strengthen food safety nationally and to avoid problems that could affect marketing in other countries.

Additional Information

Requirements to export tomatoes to the United States:

To export tomatoes, growers/traders/exporters must obtain a Certificate of Adherence to the Anti-dumping agreement that are issued nationwide by signatories, including the Confederation of Agricultural Associations of Sinaloa (CAADES), the Mexican Association of Protected Horticulture AC (AMHPAC), the Agricultural Council of Baja California (CABC) and the National Federation of Producers of Vegetables and Fruits (CNPH).

With the implementation of this program, growers must also have the certification of the SRRC, issued by the SENASICA, in order to obtain an Automatic Export Notice. Before any commercial transaction, this Export Notice should be submitted to the SE through a digital counter.

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

FAS/Mexico YouTube Channel: Catch the latest videos of FAS Mexico at work
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ATOMexicoCity>

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, the equivalent of the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx, and the equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the reader's convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.