

APPENDIX FOUR

USDA REDUCED AUTO DROP SAMPLING TRAIL

Overview

Reduced Sample Trail (RST) sampling of fruit for USDA inspection is an alternative sampling method to the standard USDA sampling method.

General Requirements of USA Reduced Auto Drop Sampling

Management Plan

All facilities sampling USA fruit by RST must be approved by ENZA (and the Independent Verification Authority – IVA) prior to commencement of sampling based on a documented management plan.

The management plan must describe;

- a) The sampling methodology and equipment to meet the specific requirements listed in this section; and
- b) Product security of all fruit from the point of sampling through to delivery to the ENZA approved cool store.

Co-ordinated by USA Service Provider

The USDA RST sampling process must be co-ordinated by the USA service provider who is responsible for building the USDA lot.

The USDA lots specifications must be met for USA samples selected by RST.

Notification to Build and Sample USA Lots by RST

Notification from USA Service Provider

The pack house must not commence RST sampling until a lot specification has been received for each USA lot. The lot specification must detail the following minimum information.

- i) USA device provider;
- ii) lot size (including pack types);
- iii) cool store facility name;

- iv) variety(s);
- v) Pack house facility name;
- vi) Fruit sizes/size ranges;
- vii) USA lot number; and
- viii) Auto drop sampling ratio.

Notifying the Independent Verification Authority (IVA)

The pack house must notify the designated IVA inspector of the anticipated commencement date and timing of each lot sampling prior to commencing RST sampling. Failure to provide this notification will result on the RST sample not being acceptable for USDA inspection.

Sampling Methodology

Computerised Auto Drop Graders

Samples must be collected using computerised graders with an auto drop sampling system.

An auto drop sampling report must be printed off at the end of each day of sampling and when requested by the ENZA verification agent or the IVA.

The computerised auto drop system report must provide the following information on a hardcopy report:

- i) Pack house name*;
- ii) USA lot number*;
- iii) USA lot size*;
- iv) Variety (ies)*;
- v) Date (for each day of sampling);
- vi) Times sampling started and finished (for each day of sampling);
- vii) Quantity of fruit into export bins; and
- viii) Quantity of fruit into USA inspection bins.

Note: * Denotes constant information which may be manually added to the report.

Determining Auto Drop Sampling Requirements

A sample of 3000 individual fruit pieces is required for inspection samples irrespective of the USDA lot size.

The pack house must program their auto drop to sample the required proportion for each of the USA fruit sizes used in the USDA lot.

Note: Pack houses that use auto drops located prior to grading processes will need to adjust their sampling calculations to account for fruit loss due to grading.

Use and Storage of Packaging

Storage of Packaging

All packaging must be stored prior to use in a covered clean area.

Reused Packaging

Reused cartons and Friday trays must not be used in the USDA RST program.

Bins may be reused but they must be cleaned, inspected and audited prior to filling with USA fruit.

Collecting the USDA Inspection Sample

Packages for Collecting the RST Sample

Sampled fruit must be collected into export packaging that is representative of the packaging contained in the USDA lot. This includes those USDA lots made up of multiple pack types.

Handling of the USDA Inspection Sample during Sampling

Fruit, which is being directed to or contained within USA inspection packaging, must not be handled at any stage unless for levelling off or to place a divider between each grower line.

Pack houses must use a levelling off implement (solely dedicated for this purpose) e.g. a clean floor squeegee.

Grower line changes must be segregated in the inspection samples. This may be achieved by collecting each grower inspection sample into a different pack (e.g. carton, bin) or by placing a divider (e.g. bin liner in a bin) after the completion of each grower line.

The grower in each sub sample must be clearly identified (e.g. using a card with the grower number just prior to placing the divider for the next grower change).

USDA inspection packages must be protected against tampering or insect contamination by applying a bin cap immediately following the filling of the carton.

A notice stating “ Do not add or remove fruit from inspection sample” must be placed in front of the USA inspection bins.

USDA Product Identification

Inspection Pack Attachments

USDA sample card

Each consolidated package (e.g. bin containing cartons of USDA sampled grower line) of USDA sampled fruit must have a USA sample card attached. The USA sample card must be identified with:

- i) “USDA sample”;
- ii) USDA lot number;
- iii) variety; and
- iv) a red USDA sticker attached to the sample card.

Note: Bins must have two USDA sample cards per bin attached to the long sides of each bin.

Grower identification

Each grower line must be clearly identified on each individual inspection pack.

Pallet Cards

USDA inspection packages/pallets do not require pallet cards. Pack houses and cool stores should maintain their own system of tracking this product.

USDA Export Packages/Pallets

Export Bins

Pack houses must complete the lot number on the export bin cards and attach them to the USA export bins prior to filling. Further export bin card information can be completed once the bin has been filled.

Export Cartons

No additional identification is required on each individual export carton.

Completion of Pallet Cards

On completion of each export pallets the USDA lot number must be stamped below the large bar code of the pallet card. Pallets without the lot number stamp cannot be built into a USDA lot.

Lot Specification Sign-Off

On completion of RAD sampling for the lot, the pack house manager must sign off the lot specification (received from the USA service provider) to confirm the details of the lot and sampling requirements. The pack house must also detail on the lot specification the number of packages by pack type that make up the inspection sample.

Post Sampling Security

Inspection packages/pallets must be stored with the lot they were drawn from.

Movement and handling of the lot after sampling must be minimised to maintain product security and traceability.

At all times a minimum 1.2 metre gap must be maintained between the sampled USDA lot (including inspection samples) and all other product. This includes product transported from the pack house to the cool store for lot building.

All product (samples and lot packages) must be transported from the pack house to cool store using taut liner transport.