

**WORK PLAN FOR THE EXPORT
OF AVOCADO (*Persea americana* P. Mill.) FRUITS VARIETY 'Hass'
FROM BRAZIL TO JAPAN**

1. OBJECTIVE

This work plan aims at clarifying operations and procedures to prevent the entry of *Ceratitis capitata* and other quarantine pests regulated by MAFF (Annex 1) into Japan associated with the export of 'Hass' avocado fruits from Brazil to Japan.

2. PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil (MAPA)
- Places of production and packing houses which are registered by MAPA, and exporters engaged in the export to Japan
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 MAPA

- 3.1.1 To coordinate, perform or supervise all the activities specified in this work plan. To report to MAFF without delay and discuss the matter, in the case of detecting a serious problem related to the activities of participating organizations in Brazil.
- 3.1.2 To register and report to MAFF all the places of production and packing houses that comply with this work plan and that are eligible to export to Japan.
- 3.1.3 To ensure that MAPA officers who work in the export program are properly trained and supervised.
- 3.1.4 Before the start of export season, or if there is any change, to provide MAFF with the information on the registered places of production and packing houses, including their registration codes.
- 3.1.5 To inspect whether the registered places of production and packing houses comply with this work plan.
- 3.1.6 To suspend or cancel the registration of any place of production or packing house which does not comply with this work plan until MAPA conducts an investigation and corrective measures are taken.
- 3.1.7 To conduct export inspections and verify labeling and packing condition.
- 3.1.8 To keep records of the activities conducted in the registered places of production and packing houses based on this work plan and of the export inspection, and to report the records to MAFF as requested until at least the end of the next export season.
- 3.1.9 To request MAFF to dispatch its plant protection officer who audit export inspection and other activities of participating organizations in Brazil based on this work plan.

3.2 MAFF

To verify whether the export of 'Hass' avocados to Japan complies with the work plan through the report from MAPA, the inspection by its plant protection officer, and import inspection. If any problem is detected, corrective measures are taken in accordance with this work plan, Plant Protection Act and relevant regulations.

3.3 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN NPPOs

To comply with this work plan and the guidance and directions of MAPA and to properly perform the activities related to the export of Hass avocados from Brazil to Japan and to keep the persons engaged in the export operations informed about this work plan.

4. REGISTRATION

4.1 In order to ensure the 'Hass' avocado fresh fruits destined for Japan (hereinafter referred to as the 'fresh fruits') are free from the presence of *Ceratitidis capitata*, the fresh fruits need to be harvested at registered places of production, transferred under the conditions described below, and sorted and packed at registered packing houses. The main purpose of registering places of production is to ensure only fresh fruits are harvested while they are still unripe, whereas that of registering packing houses is to surely exclude fresh fruits other than unripe (hard green) ones.

4.2 All places of production and packing houses for the fresh fruits should be registered by MAPA at least a month before the start of annual export season.

4.3 The registered places of productions and the packing houses should be in states other than the ones with the presence of *Bactrocera carambolae*. MAPA should implement legal-based movement restrictions of its host plants to prevent the introduction of the pest and conduct the detection survey in non-infested states. In case the introduction is confirmed, MAPA should immediately inform MAFF of the fact and discuss corrective measures with MAFF.

4.4 MAPA should provide training to responsible personnel for both and should register responsible personnel who have sufficient knowledge to comply with this work plan, before the registration of places of production and packing houses. The registered responsible personnel should supervise workers in the places of production and packing houses to ensure that they are performing their duties properly.

4.5 For certification of the places of production or packing house, MAPA should keep places of production and packing houses informed about the contents of the work plan. Also MAPA should make packing house to submit drawings of the facility before examine. MAPA cancel the registration of the place of production and the packing houses, if it is found that they do not comply with this word plan.

4.6 MAPA should provide a link to an official website where the list of registered places of production and packing houses can be accessed by MAFF at any time. These lists should adhere to the format outlined in ANNEX 2 and 3, and the link should be available at least a

month before the start of annual export season. If MAPA registers a new place of production or packing house, MAPA should immediately update its website. If MAPA cancel registration of the place of production and the packing houses during the export season, MAPA should inform MAFF and update its website immediately.

5. MEASURES RELATED TO REGISTERED PLACES OF PRODUCTION

- 5.1** Fruits fallen from trees should be removed by the producer at least once a week from at least a week before the start of export season to Japan. The fallen fruits removed should not be exported to Japan.
- 5.2** The other varieties of avocado should not be harvested and managed at the same time when harvesting the fresh fruit.
- 5.3** Workers should harvest only fresh fruits of the Hass variety while fruits are still unripe. The ripen fruits, which have started to turn black and soften, should be excluded from the consignment for Japan before transportation.
- 5.4** Harvested fresh fruits of a registered place of production should be managed not to be mixed with fresh fruit harvested at different places of production by attaching a registration code of the place of production. When it is found they are mixed, MAPA should reject them and suspend the registration of the place of production for the rest of export season.
- 5.5** The record of fallen fruits being removed, the starting date of harvest, and the amount of harvest, and the departure time of transportation should be kept by the producer of the registered place of production.
- 5.6** MAPA should examine the registered place of production at least once during the harvest period to verify the removal of fallen fruits and the record kept by the producer. MAPA should record and maintain the result of the examination using the checksheet of ANNEX 4. If any of the requirements are not satisfied, the fresh fruits produced in the registered place of production in question should not be exported to Japan.

6. MEASURES RELATED TO REGISTERED PACKING HOUSES

- 6.1** The registered packing house should be cleaned if any operation related to any other kind of fruits is conducted before the operations for the fresh fruits, and should not receive any other kind of fruits while packing the fresh fruits.
- 6.2** All plant residuals should be removed from the fresh fruits before the packing operation of the fresh fruits. The fresh fruits harvested from different registered places of production should not be mixed.
- 6.3** The fresh fruits should be packed in new packing materials that are verified by MAPA before the start of packing operation.
- 6.4** The fruits suspected to be non-Hass variety should be carefully excluded by workers instructed by the responsible person of the packing house. The fruits suspected to be ripe should be carefully excluded by sorting machines or by workers instructed by the responsible

person of the packing house. The excluded fruits should be removed from the registered packing house daily at the end of the process.

- 6.5 MAPA should verify each operation related to the fresh fruits conducted at the registered packing house every time, and ensure there is no fresh fruit other than immature Hass variety by using the checksheet of Annex 5. If any of the items in the checksheet does not meet the requirements, the fresh fruits packed in the packing house in question cannot be exported to Japan.
- 6.6 The packing operation of the fresh fruits should be completed within 24 hours after the start of their harvest.
- 6.7 To prevent new additions or replacements, the MAPA should seal boxes used for the packing or bundled boxes or containers containing the boxes, or give responsible personnel of registered packing house official permission to seal under the supervision of MAPA. Boxes used for the packing or bundled boxes or containers containing the boxes should be bear a label with the texts of “EXPORTED HASS AVOCADO FOR JAPAN.” The label should be made in a recognizable size and placed where it can be easily seen.
- 6.8 The boxes, bundled boxes or the containers should also bear another label with the information on the registration codes of the registered place of production and the registered packing house which dealt with the packed fresh fruits with the aim of ensuring traceability.

7. EXPORT INSPECTION

- 7.1 MAPA should verify that following conditions have been satisfied before or during the export inspection.
 - the place for export inspection is equipped with lights and inspection tables.
 - the consignments of the fresh fruits are stored separately from the other fruits.
 - the inspected consignments are stored separately from those not yet inspected in a visible manner.
- 7.2 MAPA should pick out 5% or more of the number of the boxes in the consignments, and visually confirm that all fresh fruits in the picked-out boxes Hass variety (their hardness should be checked by grasping as necessary) and are not contaminated by any quarantine pest.
- 7.3 When MAPA find a live or dead larva or a egg suspected to be *C. capitata*, MAPA should report it to MAFF, suspend subsequent export inspections of all consignments of the fresh fruits, and start to identify the detected pest.
- 7.4 If the detected pest is found to be *C. capitata* (except dead eggs), MAPA should report the fact to MAFF, examine the route/reason of the contamination, and discuss corrective measures with MAFF. MAPA should suspend all export inspections and the issue of phytosanitary certificates of the fresh fruits until MAFF reaches an agreement on corrective measures and the measures are implemented.
- 7.5 If the detected pest is found not to be *C. capitata*, MAPA reports the fact to MAFF, and

resumes export inspections and the issue of phytosanitary certificates.

- 7.6** In case any living quarantine pest other than *C. capitata* is detected, MAPA should not approve the export of the consignment in question to Japan.
- 7.7** If it is found that the consignment for Japan is contaminated by mature fruits or non-Hass variety, MAPA should report the fact to MAFF, and examine the reasons of the contamination, and discuss corrective measures with MAFF. MAPA should suspend the responsible packing house and places of production that supplied contaminated fruit to that packing house until MAFF reach an agreement on corrective measures and the measures are implemented.
- 7.8** Regarding the consignments that passed export inspection, MAPA should label the boxes, bundled boxes or containers containing the boxes to show the text of “INSPECTED BY MAPA” to state that the export inspection is completed, or give exporters official permission to label the boxes with the same text under the supervision of MAPA. The label should be made in a recognizable size and placed where it can be easily seen.
- In addition, MAPA should reseal the unsealed boxes, bundled boxes, or containers containing the boxes for export inspection.
- 7.9** The containers to transport the boxes should be verified by MAPA before the loading of the boxes as cleaned without any plant residues and pests. The loading should be conducted under the oversight of MAPA.
- 7.10** MAPA should issue phytosanitary certificate with the following additional declaration to each consignment that is verified, as the result of the export inspection, to be free from *C. capitata*, and other quarantine pests regulated by MAFF.

" This consignment is free from *Ceratitidis capitata*, since it is composed of immature ‘Hass’ avocados that were produced in the registered place of production (the registration code of the registered place of production) and sorted and packed at the registered packing house (the registration code of the registered packing house)."

8. RECORD KEEPING

MAPA should keep any record regarding the registered places of production, registered packing house and export inspection together with other relevant documents at least until the end of the next export season.

9. IMPORT INSPECTION

- 9.1** When MAFF find a live or dead larva or an egg suspected to be *C. capitata* as the result of import inspection, MAFF should report it to MAPA, and should suspend subsequent import inspection of all consignments of the fresh fruits, and start to identify the detected pest.
- 9.2** If the detected pest is found to be *C. capitata* (except dead eggs), MAFF should report the fact to MAPA and suspend import inspection of the fresh fruits. MAPA should examine the reasons of the presence, discuss corrective measures with MAFF, and suspend export inspections and the issue of phytosanitary certificates of the fresh fruits until MAFF reaches

an agreement regarding corrective measures and the measures are implemented. If it is not *C. capitata*, MAFF should report the fact to MAPA and resume import inspections related to the fresh fruits.

- 9.3** If it is found that the fresh fruits are contaminated by mature fruits or non-Hass variety, MAFF should report the fact to MAPA and request MAPA to examine the reasons and to propose corrective measures, after suspending the import inspection related to the responsible registered packing house and place of production that supply the fresh fruits to the packing house. MAPA should then suspend export inspections and issue of phytosanitary certificate of the fresh fruits originated from the packing house and the places of production related to the consignment in question. Suspension should be continued until MAFF reach an agreement regarding corrective measures and the measures are implemented.
- 9.4** MAFF should order the person who owns or handles the consignment to dispose of or return the consignment, if:
- the phytosanitary certificate is not attached.
 - it is not adequately sealed by MAPA or the seal is broken.
 - it is not labeled with the statement of its destination of Japan and the completion of export inspection.
 - living or dead *C. capitata* (except dead eggs) is detected.
 - it is contaminated with a fruit other than immature Hass variety.
- 9.5** In case any quarantine pest regulated by MAFF(Annex 1) other than *C. capitata* is detected in a consignment, the consignment is sterilized, disposed of, or returned based on the Plant Protection Act and other relevant regulations.

10. AUDIT

10.1 DISPATCH OF MAFF OFFICER

- 10.1.1 MAPA should request MAFF every year for the dispatch of its plant protection officer in writing at least a month before the start of export season of the fresh fruits. Brazillian side should bear the cost of the dispatch.
- 10.1.2 MAPA should draft a tentative schedule of the audit. The schedule should be approved by MAFF prior to the dispatch of its officer. MAFF decides the schedule of the audit, in consultation with MAPA if necessary.
- 10.1.3 In principle, MAFF officer should be dispatched at least once a year when the first fresh fruits are harvested after the start of export season. The number and location of visits should be determined by MAFF officer taking into consideration the number and status of the registered places of production and the registered packing houses that export avocados to Japan.
- 10.1.4 MAPA should ensure for MAFF officer that it takes responsibility for preparing a proper working environment, including his/her safety and means of transportation and communication. MAPA should also ensure that the stakeholders engaged in the export

operations cooperates with MAFF officer for smooth implementation of audit.

10.2 POINTS TO BE VERIFIED

- 10.2.1 MAFF officer verifies the relevant documents kept by MAPA, and also verifies whether the export process of the fresh fruits is properly implemented in accordance with this work plan, through conducting interviews of MAPA officers who verified registered places of production, registered packing houses, and export inspections.
- 10.2.2 MAFF officer visits the registered places of production and the registered packing houses respectively in order to verify the cultivation management, harvest practices, transportation of harvested fresh fruits, and sorting and packing operations. MAFF officer also verifies the export inspection practices conducted by MAPA.
- 10.2.3 After MAFF officer's arrival in Brazil, MAFF officer and MAPA officer should have a meeting to discuss the details of the schedule and, as necessary, arrange the schedule with business operators, exporters and other stakeholders.
- 10.2.4 When the audit is completed, MAFF officer should explain the result to MAPA before leaving Brazil.
- 10.2.5 In case MAFF considers that the operations or procedures related to the fresh fruits need to be improved after receiving a report from its officer dispatched, MAFF should report the fact to MAPA and discuss corrective measures with MAPA.

10.3 CORRECTIVE MEASURES IN CASE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARE DETECTED

If MAFF officer finds any serious problems during the audit (e.g. MAPA does not have records of its examination of the activities of registered places of production), He/She should immediately report the fact to MAPA and MAFF.

In such cases, MAPA should immediately suspend the export of all fresh fruits and discuss corrective measures with MAFF through the MAFF officer being dispatched.

11. MEASURES FOR ANY OTHER PROBLEMS

If MAPA finds any problems in the operations of the registered places of production or registered packing houses, or export inspections, MAPA should order the stakeholders to take corrective actions, record the problem and countermeasures, and report the record to MAFF. If MAPA deems the problem found is serious. MAPA should immediately suspend the export of all fresh fruits and report the problem to MAFF to discuss corrective measures.

12. REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN

MAPA and MAFF may propose an amendment to this work plan to the other party by an official letter.

ANNEX1 QUARANTINE PESTS REGULATED BY MAFF

Scientific name
<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>
<i>Bactrocera carambolae</i>
<i>Tegolophus perseiflorae</i>
<i>Acutaspis albopicta</i>
<i>Deuterollyta majuscula</i>
<i>Heilipus catagraphus</i>
<i>Stenoma catenifer</i>
<i>Rhynchophorus palmarum</i>
<i>Cerataphis lataniae</i>
<i>Ceroplastes rusci</i>
<i>Selenaspidus articulatus</i>
<i>Nipaecoccus nipae</i>
<i>Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi</i>
<i>Chrysodeixis includens</i>
<i>Spodoptera eridania</i>
<i>Cryptoblabes gnidiella</i>
<i>Frankliniella schultzei</i>
<i>Albonectria rigidiuscula</i>
<i>Phytophthora heveae</i>

ANNEX2 LIST OF REGISTERED OF PLACES OF PRODUCTION

Registration Code	Adress	Whether the place grows avocado other than 'Hass' variety	Name of Producer	Registration Date (DD/MM/YY)	Remarks

Note: MAPA should receive and keep the drawing that shows the planting (the avocado varieties other than Hass, to be specific) on the ground at the place of production.

**ANNEX5 CHECK SHEET FOR SORTING AND PACKING AT THE REGISTERED
PACKING HOUSES**

Name of the registered packing house:

Registration code of the registered packing house:

Name of the registered place of production:

Registration code of the registered place of production:

Starting date and time of harvest in the registered place of production:

Date and time the fruits leave for the registered packing house:

Completion date and time of packing:

Point to Be Checked	Result of Verification	Remarks
The operation related to fruits of 'Hass' avocado to be exported to Japan at the registered packing house, MAPA officials verify the following items.		
1 Verification related to the measures taken by the registered packing house		
① The registered packing house should be cleaned if any operation related to any other kind of fruits is conducted before the operations for the fresh fruits.		
② The registered packing house should not receive any other kind of fruits while packing the fresh fruits.		
③ All plant residuals should be removed from the fresh fruits before the packing operation of the fresh fruits.		
④ The fresh fruits harvested from different registered places of production should not be mixed.		
⑤ The fresh fruits should be packed in new packing materials that are verified by MAPA before the start of packing operation.		
⑥ The fruits suspected to be non-Hass variety should be carefully excluded by workers instructed by the responsible person of the packing house. The fruits suspected to be ripe should be carefully excluded by sorting machines or by workers instructed by the responsible person of the packing house.		
⑦ The excluded fruits should be removed from the registered packing house daily at the end of the process.		
⑧ The packing operation of the fresh fruits should be completed within 24 hours after the start of their harvest.		
⑨ The boxes, bundled boxes or the containers should also bear another label with the information on the registration codes of the registered place of production and the registered packing house which dealt with the packed fresh fruits with the aim of ensuring traceability.		

