

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

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Tegucigalpa, Honduras

July 20, 1998

DGIEPC 276-98

Mr. Omar González
Agricultural Specialist
Department of Agriculture
U.S. Embassy
Tegucigalpa, D.C.

Dear Mr. González:

I am hereby sending you the comments received from the Honduran Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock on the Guide to Minimize the Threat of Microorganisms in Food Products, which was published in the Federal Register of the United States on April 13, 1998.

1. The guide contains a series of measures to further ensure the innocuousness of fruits and vegetables which enter the United States; these measures are very important and some of them are already being applied in Honduras mainly for export products going to the United States.
2. So that all countries exporting produce to the United States may comply with all the requirements set forth in this guide, it is necessary to establish a promotional, educational and supervisory campaign mainly with producers, packers, trade associations and other interested parties in order for the guide to be able to be applied and be practical
3. The adoption of some of the recommendations proposed in the guide is possible, although it may involve a higher cost or investment for the person(s) involved. Values should be established in the guide in order to evaluate the risk.
4. All arguments presented by farmers should be considered. The industry's participation is also key.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Reinaldo Osorio Espinoza
Director General of Economic Integration and Trade Policy
Honduran Ministry of Industry and Trade

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*Secretaría de Industria y Comercio
República de Honduras*

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., 20 de Julio de 1998

Fax: 236-8342

Por este medio tengo a bien remitir a Usted los comentarios recibidos de la Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería a la Guía para Minimizar los Peligros de Microorganismos en Alimentos, que fue publicada en el *Journal of Federal Register* de los Estados Unidos el 13 de abril del corriente año y que a continuación le

1. La guía contempla una serie de medidas para asegurar aún mas la inocuidad de las frutas y hortalizas que ingresan a U.S.A.; estas medidas son muy importantes y consideramos que algunas de ellas ya están aplicando en Honduras principalmente para productos de exportación al Mercado de los Estados Unidos.

Para que los países exportadores de frutas y hortalizas a U.S.A. puedan cumplir con todos los requisitos establecidos en la guía, es necesario establecer una campaña de promoción, información y capacitación principalmente con los productores, empaques, asociaciones de la industria y otras interesadas de manera que pueda haber una aplicabilidad y practicabilidad.

En pos de la adopción de algunas de las recomendaciones propuestas en la guía, quizás con un apoyo financiero o de inversión mas alto para el operario, se debe establecer valores en la guía para evaluar el riesgo.



*Secretaría de Industria y Comercio
República de Honduras*

...er todos los argumentos presentados por los agricultores, así mismo la
...industria.

...suyo de Usted, Atentamente.



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