

Guidance for importing mangoes into the United States from Pakistan

April 12, 2011

This document provides guidance to entities or individuals interested in importing mangos from Pakistan into the United States. Importers must adhere to specific phytosanitary and safeguarding procedures designed to prevent the introduction of harmful pests into the United States. Only *commercial consignments* of mangos are enterable! Mangos are not allowed to be mailed directly from Pakistan, nor hand-carried by passengers. Mangos for personal consumption must be sourced or purchased from U.S. establishments, entities, or individuals that have legally imported mangos from Pakistan in accordance with all USDA and other pertinent import regulations.

Fresh mangos from Pakistan are prohibited entry into the United States unless they are imported commercially under a program that involves the application of irradiation treatment in the United States.

In order to meet USDA APHIS PPQ phytosanitary import requirements, the process for importing mangos from Pakistan requires that commercial consignments of untreated mangos enter the United States via air cargo carrier into Chicago, Illinois, and be transported overland under safeguarded conditions to an APHIS- PPQ Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility in Sioux City, Iowa, for application of quarantine irradiation treatment before they are allowed to be sold or marketed.

It is the sole responsibility of the importer to:

- Read, understand, and adhere to all conditions listed in the Importer's Compliance Agreement and Import Permit particularly those related to safeguarded transit;
- Communicate instructions to anyone who handles or manipulates the commercial shipment of untreated mangoes on the importer's behalf, including but not limited to: Overseas exporters, air cargo carriers, brokers, non-government entities who handle consignments upon arrival in Chicago, trucking companies responsible for transport of consignments, and the irradiation treatment facility.



IMPORTANT! Read and understand Steps 1-3 below before proceeding to the instructions for commercial imports

- Step 1: Query Commodity Specific Import Requirements
- Step 2: Review the Sample Importer's Compliance Agreement
- Step 3: Other Government Agencies

Step 1: Query Commodity Specific Import Requirements

Query the APHIS-PPQ Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) Online Database to confirm that you, as the importer, are willing and able to assume responsibility for compliance with USDA import requirements for untreated mangoes from Pakistan.

The Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) database is a web based interface to the list of APHIS commodity specific import requirements for regulated articles, and can be located at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/favir/>

Step 2: Review the Sample Importer's Compliance Agreement

This agreement details the importer's responsibilities and liability related to the importation of untreated mangos from Pakistan for irradiation in the United States, and the safeguarded movement of untreated mangos from the port of entry in Chicago, Illinois, to the irradiation facility in Sioux City, Iowa.

A sample Importer's Compliance Agreement is available for viewing at the following link: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/irradiation/downloads/ImporterComplianceAgreementSampleForm.pdf

Step 3: Other Government Agencies

Verify that all other United States Government Agency requirements for food importations are fulfilled, including requirements for Prior Notice, packaging for food safety and any associated tariff, duties or quotas.

Federal Agencies other than APHIS with regulatory oversight on importations of food items into the United States:

- Food and Drug Administration: <http://www.fda.gov/>
- Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Agency: <http://www.cbp.gov/>
- Agricultural Marketing Service: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

Proceed with the Application of an Importer's Compliance Agreement and Import Permit ONLY if all of the following are true:

- I am interested in importing *commercial* quantities of untreated mangos from Pakistan.
 - I understand that untreated mangos from Pakistan may ONLY be imported via commercial air cargo carriers arriving in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
 - I understand that I am responsible for compliance with all phytosanitary and safeguarding conditions listed in BOTH the Importer's Compliance Agreement and the Import Permit (FAVIR conditions), including those related to safeguarded overland transport from Chicago, Illinois, to the Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility (Sadex Corporation) in Sioux City, Iowa.
 - I understand that any imported consignments that arrive at the port of entry in Chicago, Illinois, that do not meet import requirements or have any discrepancies, may be refused entry, and must be re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expense.
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Instructions for Commercial Imports:

Step 4: Apply for Importer's Compliance Agreement

Step 5: Contact a Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility in the United States

Step 6: Begin planning logistics for import of consignments

Step 7: Apply for an APHIS Import Permit

Step 4: Apply for Importer's Compliance Agreement

Contact APHIS Customer Support at the telephone number listed on the sample compliance agreement, to request an Importer's Compliance Agreement form. Upon receipt, review the form carefully and fill in all the required fields indicated in yellow. Instructions for how to submit the form to APHIS will be provided.

By signing the form, you are acknowledging your understanding and acceptance of all the terms and conditions.

Step 5: Contact a Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility in the United States

All imported consignments of untreated mangos from Pakistan require irradiation treatment. Importers are required to contact the APHIS PPQ Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility prior to shipping, to make all necessary arrangements for irradiation treatment services.

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A list of contact information for APHIS PPQ Certified Irradiation Treatment Facilities in the United States may be found on the internet at:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/ir_facility_list.pdf

For the 2011 shipping season there is only one Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility, Sadex Corporation, located in Sioux City, Iowa.

PLEASE NOTE: Business agreements with private irradiation facilities are outside the scope of APHIS' regulatory authority; however, consignments of untreated mangoes from Pakistan must be treated with irradiation in order to meet APHIS phytosanitary import requirements.

Step 6: Begin planning logistics for import of consignments

Consider hiring a Customs Broker familiar with the processes and requirements for handling and clearing perishable commodities at U.S. Ports of Arrival. A licensed customs broker will be able to guide and facilitate the import process.

A list of potential brokers is available from Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This information can be found under "Contacts; Locate the port of entry (Chicago, IL) at the following CBP website: <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/contacts/ports/>

Step 7: Apply for an APHIS Import Permit

Apply on-line for a USDA-APHIS-PPQ Import Permit after signing and submitting your Importers Compliance Agreement to APHIS. The link to information about securing Plant Import Permits can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq_epermits.shtml

PLEASE NOTE: An APHIS Import Permit may take up to 30 days (after the date of receipt of the application) to review and process. The Importer's Compliance Agreement you sign must be on file with APHIS in order to receive the Import Permit. The two documents are in effect ONLY when used in conjunction with one another.

Provide copies **of all documents** to your broker or representative.

Failure to adhere to the conditions of the Importer's Compliance Agreement and/or the Import Permit can result in the cancellation of said documents and possible issuance of civil penalties.

Additional Key Points:

- All consignments require a Foreign Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the country of origin.
- All articles must originate from NPPO approved registered orchards and packinghouses
- A [sample pallet](#) of the product must accompany each shipment. If the exporter fails to designate a Sample Pallet, the entire shipment will be refused entry into the United States and will be re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expense.
- DHS CBP will make the final determination on authorization for overland movement to the USDA APHIS-PPQ Certified Treatment Irradiation Facility. [Overland Movement Transit Safeguards](#)
- Each shipment that contains any solid wood packing materials (WPM) must comply with ISPM 15.
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/wood_packaging_materials.shtml

*As mentioned above, irradiation at US facilities, in locations outside the port of arrival environs, is a new program. Since domestic irradiation is a new program, prior to exporting the first shipment, the broker may consider contacting local CBP Agriculture (CBP-AS) at the arrival port to ensure that all port of arrival and entry procedures will be met. Port of arrival concerns and questions should be directed to the broker or the local CBP office in Chicago.

List of Useful Website Links for Importing Fresh Fruits and Vegetables:

United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) pertaining to Imports, specifically: US CFR Title 7, Agriculture, Part 305.31 (Irradiation Treatments), Part 319.56 (Fruits and vegetables), and Part 352 (Plant Quarantine Safeguarding): <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>

APHIS, PPQ FAVIR Database: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/favir/>

USDA-APHIS-PPQ Permit unit: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/permits/

APHIS PPQ Plant Health Directors' Offices in each State:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml

Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders: <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/contacts/ports/>

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- Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Agency:
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