

Date: January 12, 2010
To: Handlers
From: Julie Adams, Vice President
Cc: GTRA Sub-Committee, International Committee, Richard Waycott
Subject: Guidelines for changes to requirements for shipments to the EU

As of January 1, 2010, California Almonds shipped to the EU with a VASP certificate are to be randomly inspected (rather than the mandatory 5%). In addition to the move to random controls, a Common Entry Document (CED) is required for the importation of almonds from the U.S. into the EU as of January 1. Please note that importers or the person responsible for the consignment are required to complete the CED and submit it to the appropriate authorities at the first point of entry into the EU no less than one business day before arrival of the consignment. If handlers receive questions regarding the CED from their European importers, the importers should be directed to the EU Web site: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/index_en.htm or to FRUCOM in Brussels, Belgium (info@frucom.eu).

Handlers may also receive questions from importers regarding documents required from almond suppliers. This is because the revised legislation Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1152/2009 (a copy is available from ABC) indicates that a VASP certificate and a health certificate are required for the importation of almonds. The EU accepts the VASP certificate as a health certificate and has done so since the VASP program's inception.

ABC will notify industry once the effective date for the new aflatoxin levels is known. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Stringer at cstringer@almondboard.com or 1.209.343.3256 or Julie Adams at jadams@almondboard.com or 1.209.343.3237.