

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Traceability Pilot Program for Fresh Produce Exports to Hong Kong

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Citrus, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Stone Fruit, Strawberries

Prepared By: Garrett Mcdonald

Approved By: Garrett Mcdonald

Report Highlights:

The International Growers Standards Organization (IGSO), a Hong Kong based private non-profit standards body established in 2018, is seeking third country partners to expand a pilot program on traceability for fresh fruit and vegetable products exported to Hong Kong. This report provides background on the organization and pilot program, which may be of interest to U.S. exporters that seek greater supply chain visibility of fresh fruit and vegetable exports to Hong Kong. Participation is voluntary. ATO Hong Kong is providing this information for exporter awareness only and does not endorse or certify the IGSO, the platform, or the pilot.

Background

The International Growers Standards Organization (IGSO), a Hong Kong non-profit standards body established in 2018, is seeking companies/organizations to volunteer in a pilot traceability program for fresh fruit exports to Hong Kong. IGSO develops evidence requirements for product trust and coordinates limited tests among participating companies to facilitate greater supply chain management of fresh produce entering Hong Kong. IGSO is a separate entity from for-profit technology providers that operate traceability platforms. (Note: ATO Hong Kong is making information on the proposed pilot available to U.S. exporters that may be interested in additional supply chain visibility for fresh produce exports to Hong Kong. ATO Hong Kong does not endorse or certify the IGSO, the platform, or the pilot. Companies considering participation should contact IGSO directly for additional information regarding the program).

Pilot Participation

The proposed IGSO pilot program would cover one exporter, one Hong Kong importer, and ideally two or three downstream receiving partners, and require shipment and delivery of two or three consignments. Each consignment case would receive a unique identity at packing. Participating receiving partners would scan cases on receipt, creating records that could show where and when selected downstream customers received the product and identify gaps or exceptions in the expected distribution chain. Before work begins, participants would agree in writing on scope, costs, data sharing, and consent. Each party would control its own records, while exporters would see information authorized by the importer and movement records associated with their cases.

The pilot program would take place over approximately six to ten weeks, depending on shipment frequency, and would conclude with a joint review of results, operating effort, and cost. Participation would not create an obligation to continue. The platform could record exceptions but would not stop goods, reject deliveries, or determine whether a sale is lawful.

Prior Work and Related Activity

IGSO conducted similar trials involving products shipped from Australia and mainland China for sale in Hong Kong, resulting in greater supply chain oversight and ability to identify suspected counterfeit boxes.

Costs and Operating Considerations

IGSO lists a pilot charge of US\$0.25 per labeled case for the agreed deliveries, with no annual fee during the pilot. The charge would cover case and unit identities, label media, scoping, coordination, staff guidance, support during deliveries, and a closing review. It would not cover freight, customs, insurance, distribution, laboratory testing, printer purchase, or printer integration. Compatible industrial label printers may be used; otherwise, additional equipment may be required.

The proposed pilot may be most relevant for a product with a clear case unit, a steady route to two or three participating Hong Kong receiving sites, and a commercial reason for added traceability, such as a limited freshness window, premium positioning, or a history of imitation.

Contact Information

Interested parties may contact IGSO directly for further information:

International Growers Standards Organization (IGSO)

Mr. Leo Cheung

Email: leo.cheung@igsoworld.org

Ms. Mandy Chan

Email: mandy.chan@igsoworld.org

Attachments:

No Attachments.