

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

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Guatemala

Post: Guatemala

Guatemala drops individual state phytosanitary requirements

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Country Strategy Statement

Country/Regional FTA's

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Wood Products

Vegetables

Strawberries

Stone Fruit

Potatoes and Potato Products

Citrus

Planting Seeds

Grain and Feed

Fresh Fruit

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

On July 12, 2018, Guatemala announced new phytosanitary requirements for U.S. non-processed agricultural goods that will allow many more U.S. agricultural products to enter the market. Previously,

Guatemala approved non-processed agricultural products from individual states. The new phytosanitary requirements apply to the entire United States except where specific restrictions exist. At least 70 percent of the products in the list do not need additional attestations in the APHIS Phytosanitary Export Certificate. For the other 30 percent of the products, please double check potential new or modified requirements in the present annex.

Executive Summary:

As of July 12, 2018, most U.S. non-processed agricultural products from the United States may be exported to Guatemala without limitations to the sourcing state or states. This eliminates previous specific state-by-state plant health requirements for U.S. non-processed agricultural products. In addition, many phytosanitary requirements were eliminated. Interested parties should check the attached list to verify the new requirements to export. APHIS provides attestations for pests on commercial food crops not intended for planting. Requirements to declare the shipment free of certain quarantine fungi must come from a commercial laboratory at origin to avoid unnecessary delays at the Guatemalan port of entry. A 30-day transition will be in place where Guatemala will continue accepting previous requirements and new requirements. As of August 12, 2018, all APHIS Phytosanitary Export Certificates must comply with the new requirements.

General Information:

For the past ten years, Guatemala imposed state-by-state phytosanitary requirements. Export could only come from approved states for many non-processed food products. Adding states to the products export list was difficult and slow. The list of phytosanitary requirements was not readily available, and importers in Guatemala constantly found themselves consulting the Ministry of Agriculture's database on a product-by-product and state-by-state basis.

Following the implementation of the Guatemala and Honduras Customs Union, the two countries harmonized regulations. As a result, the new phytosanitary requirements apply to both Guatemala and Honduras. Going forward, modifying requirements or generating requirements for products not appearing in the attached list will require a pest-risk assessment (PRA), which may take up to 6-8 months. If you are planning to export a product that is not in the list, please contact Jorge Gómez, jgomez@maga.gob.gt, Plant Health Director at Ministry of Agriculture to start a PRA.