

BANANA (PROTECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL) REGULATIONS

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BANANA (PROTECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL) REGULATIONS

[Section 13(3).]

[16th August, 1985.]

1. Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the Banana (Protection and Quality Control) Regulations.

2. Definitions

In these Regulations—

“Banana Standards Manual” means the book issued by the Authority, as amended from time to time, containing the stipulations of the Authority concerning boxing plant and field packing operations, and the standards of quality of bananas;

“bruise” means actively deteriorating tissue of a banana;

“bunch” means a stem of bananas complete with stalk and hands;

“carton” means the box into which bananas are packed for export;

“cluster” means a portion of a hand comprising no fewer than four nor more than twelve contiguous fingers;

“crown” means the tissue connecting a hand to the stalk;

“damage” means the breaking, rupturing or bruising of any finger or pedicel;

defective” means bruised, scarred, cut, damaged, stained by latex, or afflicted by finger end rot;

“Field Pack Manual” means the book issued by the Authority, as amended from time to time, containing the stipulations of the Authority concerning the field packing of bananas;

“finger” means one banana fruit complete with its skin and pedicel;

“hand” means the total natural complement of fingers attached to and supported by the same crown;

“scar” means a cured bruise with or without callus tissue;

“scar” means a cured bruise with or without callus tissue;

“stalk” means that portion of a banana plant terminating at, and supporting, the main axis of a bunch.

3. Boxing plants

(1) In exercising its discretion to grant or refuse a licence to erect and operate a boxing plant, the Authority shall have regard to the factors and circumstances specified in the Banana Standards Manual, and may have regard to such other factors and circumstances as it considers relevant, in particular—

(a)

the quality of the banana production of the holding concerned;

(b)

the distance of the site proposed for the erection of the boxing plant from the nearest road and its accessibility by traffic;

(c)

the availability of a supply of water sufficient and suitable for boxing operations.

(2) The roof of a boxing plant shall be so constructed as to give adequate protection to all cartons stored within, whether packed or unpacked, against the sun and rain.

4. Boxing plant operations

(1) All exportable bananas shall be selected, processed and packed in the manner stipulated in the Banana Standards Manual and shall be delivered to a reception depot within thirty-six hours after harvesting.

(2) Before bananas are packed for export at a boxing plant—

(a)

the bunches must be selected and dehanded;

(b)

the hands or clusters must be deflowered and washed;

(c)

the bananas must be treated in a manner approved by the Authority with a fungicide formulation similarly approved; and

(d)

finally the bananas must be selected for quality.

(3) Exportable bananas must be packed in a carton or some other container of a type approved by the Authority.

(4) Exportable bananas packed and awaiting transport to a reception depot must be stored in a dry and well-ventilated place in a manner approved by the Authority.

(5) Every boxing plant must be maintained in a sanitary condition; after each shipment all trash, stalks and rejected bananas must be removed from the boxing plant and its vicinity.

(6) Every boxing plant must be treated against pests in a manner approved by the Authority.

5. Field packing operations

(1) A person who applies to the Authority to be licensed to engage in field packing shall not be granted a licence unless the Authority is satisfied that he or she is acquainted with and, in conducting his or her operations, he or she intends to comply with the applicable provisions of these Regulations and with the stipulations contained in the Field Pack Manual.

(2) Every grower who engages in field packing must—

(a)

maintain a high standard of field sanitation by ensuring the removal of dead or dying leaves, proper drainage, the control of weeds, and the recommended density of plant cultivation;

(b)

carry out deflowering, and the application of sleeves, whenever and wheresoever required by the Authority;

(c)

provide, for the storage of empty and packed cartons, a shed constructed so as to prevent the wetting of all such cartons by rain and so as to give sufficient ventilation by the free circulation of air as to prevent the overheating of any fruit packed within;

(d)

ensure that the dehanding and packing of bananas is carried out in a manner approved by the Authority;

(e)

select for packing exportable bananas only;

(f)

prevent, by means approved by the Authority, the staining of bananas by latex;

(g)

treat, in a manner approved by the Authority, the cut surface of crowns;

(h)

protect cartons at all times from rain and direct sunlight and ensure their adequate ventilation;

(i)

comply with the stipulations of the Authority concerning the protection of boxed bananas against infestation by pests;

(j)

maintain every field packing shed in a sanitary condition and, in particular, remove therefrom, and from the vicinity thereof, all trash, stalks and rejected bananas, at the conclusion of each field packing operation;

(k)

apply, in a manner approved by the Authority, treatment against the infestation by pests of all sheds where field packing operations are carried out.

6. Inland buying depots

(1) The following rules must be observed by persons engaged in the inspection and handling of cartons at an inland buying depot—

(a)

fruit must be handled carefully during each inspection;

(b)

the diothene lining of every carton must be replaced correctly after each inspection;

(c)

packed cartons must be handled carefully while being stacked and loaded;

(d)

pallets must be used in the stacking of cartons;

(e)

packed cartons must not be carried or stacked on their ends, sides, or upside down.

(2) Every inland buying depot and its vicinity must be maintained in a sanitary condition, and protected against pests by the application of treatment in a manner approved by the Authority.

7. Wharf and ship loading operations

(1) The following rules must be observed by persons engaged in the inspection and handling of packed cartons on a wharf, and during the loading of any ship—

(a)

fruit shall be handled carefully throughout inspection;

(b)

the diothene lining of every carton must be replaced correctly after each inspection;

(c)

packed cartons must be handled carefully while being stacked and must not be carried or stacked on their ends, sides, or upside down;

(d)

cartons shall not be left uncovered in the rain;

(e)

where facilities allow, bananas must be loaded aboard ship by means of pallets;

(f)

all persons involved in transferring packed cartons, whether or not on pallets, from the wharf to a ship must take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent such cartons from being dropped;

(g)

wherever practicable, packed cartons must be stacked on pallets within the ship and, when such cartons are being brought aboard singly, pallets must be made up as the cartons are stowed;

(h)

packed cartons must not be stepped upon, and, where necessary, sheets of hardboard shall first be laid atop the cartons to protect the fruit contained therein;

(i)

packed cartons must be made secure aboard ship in a manner approved by the Authority.

(2) Every wharf shall be in a sanitary condition whilst being used for the handling of exportable bananas, including stacking or loading packed cartons whether or not on pallets.

(3) Every wharf and ship used in connection with the shipment of exportable bananas must be protected against pests by the application of treatment in a manner and at intervals approved by the Authority.

8. Rejectable bananas

(1) A cluster is rejectable if it contains fewer than four contiguous fingers of exportable quality.

(2) A hand or cluster is rejectable if—

(a)

it contains defective fingers;

(b)

it is marked with unsightly spots;

(c)

it is marked by colorations, such as those caused by rust thrips, unless the blemish to be seen on the outside of the fingers is only faint and diffuse;

(d)

it is affected by leaf spot or other disease so as to cause malformation of any fingers or softness of the pulp;

(e)

the crown is cut so as to be appreciably smaller than its original size or still adhering to a piece of stalk;

(f)

the fingers are misshapen, or excessively curved, so as to make packing difficult, or if it contains any twin fingers;

(g)

the fingers of the outer whorl are shorter than the minimum length stipulated by the Authority when measured on the outside curve from the tip of the fruit to the bottom of the pedicel where it joins the finger;

(h)

it has been reaped or harvested before the commencement of a cutting period or taken from a banana plant that has been uprooted, or broken at the pseudostem or the stalk;

(i)

it is scorched, or has been damaged, or any of its fruit is noticeably soft or ripening; or

(j)

it is rejectable for any reason stipulated in the Banana Standards Manual.

(3) A hand is rejectable unless it is capable of being cut to form one or more clusters after the removal of all defective fingers.

9. Rejectable cartons

A carton is rejectable if, upon inspection at a boxing plant or at a reception depot, it is found that—

(a)

the divider has been placed, or the carton has been packed, incorrectly so as to have caused or to be likely to cause damage to the fruit;

(b)

the lining or packing material is absent, insufficient, dirty, discoloured, excessive, incorrectly placed, or of a type that has not been approved by the Authority;

(c)

its contents weigh less than the amount stipulated by the Authority;

(d)

it contains any soft or ripening fingers;

(e)

it is crushed, significantly misshapen, or wet;

(f)

any hand or cluster contained therein is defective;

(g)

the ventilation of the fruit within has been substantially impaired;

(h)

it is rejectable for any reason stipulated in the Banana Standards Manual.

10. Transportation of bananas generally

(1) Where unpacked bananas are carried on the head to a boxing plant or to any other place where they are to be boxed, they shall be carried by means of a padded container of a design approved by the Authority.

(2) Exportable bananas shall not be loaded upon a vehicle unless provisions have been made for their protection against bruising during transit.

(3) The provisions to be made for the purposes of subregulation (2) are that—

(a)

the vehicle shall be equipped with a flat and rigid load-carrying platform enclosed by smooth and rigid sides, without internal projections, and there shall be installed and used, if necessary, tie-beams to hold opposite sides firmly together; and

(b)

sufficient padding in good condition of a type approved by the Authority must be installed and kept in position at all times whilst such vehicle is in use so as to—

(i)

separate each of the hands on every bunch, and

(ii)

prevent any direct contact between the load being transported and the vehicle, its accessories or any article (other than covering material) being carried thereon.

(4) Bananas must not be stacked upon any vehicle to a height exceeding eight tiers without the approval of the Authority.

(5) The driver of a vehicle shall at all times drive with proper regard to the avoidance of damage, and no person shall at any time sit, stand, or lean on any part of the load.

(6) It is the duty of the person in charge of a vehicle to ensure that every part of the load is protected from direct sunlight and from rain by means of a covering of a type approved by the Authority, and that the vehicle is not, without reasonable cause, left stationary in direct sunlight.

(7) Bananas intended for field packing shall not be transported by motor vehicle.

(8) No article other than a covering used for protection shall be placed upon bananas being transported.

11. Transportation of hands

(1) Hands may be transported in field boxes and in any other manner approved by the Authority.

(2) Field boxes being loaded upon or carried by a vehicle must be stacked in the manner stipulated in the Banana Standards Manual and shall not be permitted to be in direct contact with any underlying fruit.

12. Stacking and transportation of packed cartons

(1) During loading and unloading, packed cartons (whether palletised or not) shall not be caused to slide, or be dropped or thrown, nor stacked nor carried on end, or side, or upside down, nor stacked above a height of ten tiers.

(2) Packed cartons must be stacked closely and evenly so that no fruit in any carton bears the whole or any part of the weight of any other carton, and so that no carton protrudes beyond the outer edge of the platform of a vehicle.

(3) Packed cartons and any pallets loaded upon a vehicle must be stacked or secured in such a manner as to ensure that they will be transported safely and without damage.

(4) No person shall stand or sit, and no heavy object shall be placed, upon a packed carton at any time during stacking or transportation.