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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO: 09-020

**TO: ALL INTERNATIONAL SEA CARRIERS, IMPORTERS, CUSTOMHOUSE
BROKERS, FREIGHT FORWARDERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

SUBJECT: Inspection of Cargo Precleared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

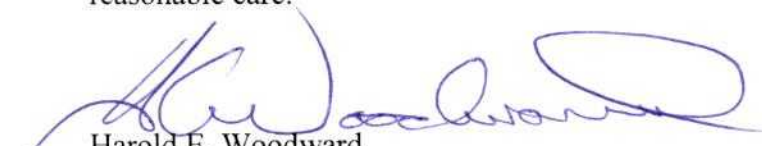
The purpose of this notice is to notify all interested trade partners of the procedures that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) uses in the inspection of USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection (APHIS), Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ) precleared cargo.

The Precleared cargo is inspected by APHIS-PPQ or under APHIS-PPQ work plans that are negotiated with the foreign country's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). Examples of precleared cargo may include the following commodities: fresh fruits and vegetables, bulbs for planting, certain seeds, and military cargo.

Shipments of fruits and vegetables precleared at foreign site locations have to be accompanied by a Foreign Site Certificate of Inspection and/or Treatment, PPQ Form 203, or an APHIS International Services (IS) vessel report indicating the preclearance of the shipment. In general, CBP at the first port of entry in the United States will review PPQ Form 203 or APHIS IS vessel report and/or carrier seals to verify whether APHIS precleared the shipment. Additionally, CBP will compare the PPQ Form 203 to other related documents to confirm that the information and conditions contained on the preclearance form agree with the cargo manifest and/or other CBP entry documents. CBP will release the cargo without further inspection if the seals are intact and documentation has been verified. However, these procedures do not preclude the option at port of entry to monitor or inspect cargo precleared by APHIS-PPQ.

Should you have any questions about this Information Bulletin, please contact Mike Wright, Assistant Director, Trade Operations, at (305) 810-5125 or Linda Cullen, Acting Program Manager, at (305) 810-5293.

DISCLAIMER: This Information Bulletin has been prepared for your convenience and is intended to provide guidance. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care.



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