



Operating Procedures

Operating Procedures and Agreement

By Using Gro-connect.com you agree to our Terms & Conditions, you will conduct yourself, your intentions, your business, according to Laws governed in the United States & USDA GAP Policies & Procedures.

All Sales are final, Sellers will receive 50% of the proceeds Immediately, they will have 3 business days to produce shipment manifests along with photos of the product, product in packages, product loaded in container, submitted to Gro-connect.com via email to; sales@gro-connect.com. Upon receipt of the manifest Gro-connect.com will release the balance of the payment & provide the Buyer the manifest with pictures so the Buyer can track the shipment.

Gro-connect.com covers standard cargo insurance for all orders to cover costs beyond the liability coverage of the carrier the supplier chooses. Product quality and durability will be the liability of the supplier and in the event the product is misrepresented Gro-connect.com will hold the supplier responsible for all damages and expenses incurred with the deficient product (see terms & conditions for more details). Regardless what country the Buyer or Seller reside in, all governing standards applied to the complete use of Gro-connect.com, is covered under U.S. Law and under USDA GAP Policies & Procedures. Pricing and payments are in U.S. dollars for stability.

Product Requirements

Good Agricultural Practices, or GAPs, are voluntary guidelines for Produce Farmers to reduce the risk of microbial contamination related to food borne illnesses on their farms. The guidelines are based on the Food & Drug Administration (FDA's Guide to Minimizing Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Produce.

Following best practices for reducing microbial contamination ensures that the food that you sell to the public will not cause harm or illness for consumers. Reducing the risk of contamination before it occurs is the best way to minimize the risk of illness in the public.

Lettuces, salad mix, green onions, tomatoes, sprouts, cantaloupes, carrots, raspberries, and herbs are most often associated with foodborne illness outbreaks because of how they are grown and consumed. All growers, regardless of their products, can benefit from implementing a set of SOP to reduce microbial contamination. GAPs focus on post-harvest handling and proper cooling, handling and storing of product. This can reduce spoilage, improve quality and ensure that you have the best quality produce for your customers. After the initial work of developing a food safety plan, many growers report improved efficiency and streamlined inventory control and management of their products. Many produce distributors and supermarkets require, or will soon require all their vendors have a GAP audit. If you wish to sell to this buyer, you must have follow their requirements for certification. GAPs are not intended to sanitize fresh produce or completely eliminate the risk of contamination: this is impossible. GAPs are intended to guide growers to reduce the risk of contamination where possible.

USDA incorporated the two Produce GAPs Harmonized Food Safety Standards for specialty crops into its USDA Harmonized GAP audit program in 2011. The two standards used for Produce GAPs Harmonized Food Safety Standard Audits are the "Field Operations and Harvesting Harmonized Food Safety



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Standard” and the “Post-harvest Operations Harmonized Food Safety Standard.” The official versions of these standards are on the United Fresh Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative website.

Pallet and Label Requirements

Pallets must be IPPC compliant and completely shrink-wrapped for extended transport. Each pallet must indicate the Buyer's name, order number, purchase order number(s), pallet weight and have an inventory affixed. The pallet inventory must list item description, case count; and for produce, meat and seafood also the weight. The date of delivery must be clearly indicated on each package or case. Refrigerated items must be delivered in a refrigerated vehicle.

Deliveries - Direct to Port

The Buyer's representative should sign and stamp each page of a copy of the invoice(s) Invoices are generally signed and stamped after all items have been counted and verified, in the event items cannot be counted and verified, either via photos or video during loading, or the ability to open and inspect the container at delivery, discrepancies must be submitted in writing to info@gro-connect.com with videos or photos of, before, during, and after unloading of container. Gro-connect.com Agent will file the claim with the Supplier. Suppliers delivering direct to Buyers Port must file all details with Port Authorities and Customs as prior arranged with the transaction.

Deliveries - Logistics Center or 3rd Party Consolidator

All deliveries to any Logistic or Distribution Center must be scheduled with proper agency or coordinator as per agreed transaction. The Supplier must coordinate and assume responsibility for deliveries up until signed acceptance at 3rd party facility. Deliveries to a 3rd party must be scheduled directly with the consolidator per delivery instructions. The Logistics Center or consolidator should sign and stamp each page of a copy of the invoice(s) only after all items have been counted and verified. Buyer must notify in writing ASAP to info@gro-connect.com if there are any discrepancies and provide proof via video or photos.

Small Quantity/Package UPS, Etc.

Each package/case must be clearly labeled with the name of the Buyer, order number, the purchase order number(s) and the number of cases per shipment. Example: Fruit of the Farm, LG-0202, PO#2003111, case 1 of 3. A package/case containing multiple purchase orders must be clearly labeled with all the purchase order numbers. Invoices must be attached to the outside of each package. Incompletely labeled packages will result in non-payment and is subject to refusal at supplier expense.

Export Documentation/Hazardous Materials

Suppliers are required to provide and bear the cost of all necessary export certificates/inspections, MSDS (original placards) and any other documentation/packaging required by final destination.