



May 5, 2016

Mandatory Cantaloupe Food Safety Program Continues in Effect

TO ALL CALIFORNIA CANTALOUPE HANDLERS:

The California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) has issued this notice to remind all handlers of California cantaloupes that the mandatory cantaloupe food safety program of the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board (Board) continues in effect. Under this program, California handlers are subject to mandatory government inspection/audits to ensure that their operations are in compliance with the *Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Production, Harvest, Cooling, Packing, Storage, and Transporting of Cantaloupes and Other Netted Melons*.

(This guidance document is accessible at <http://www.californiacantaloupes.com/industry/food-safety-program>)

CDFA inspectors will continue to conduct mandatory on-site inspections/audits to verify handler compliance with the cantaloupe food safety program. Inspections/audits will be conducted on an announced and an unannounced basis. In conducting their inspections/audits, inspectors will be checking handler compliance against safety checkpoints outlined in four audit checklists developed for the food safety program.

(The audit checklists are accessible at <http://www.californiacantaloupes.com/industry/food-safety-program>)

Handlers found to be operating in compliance with the cantaloupe food safety program will be deemed to be “certified” handlers and will be listed as such on the Board’s website. Handlers found to be out of compliance will be instructed on how to come back into compliance, and depending upon the seriousness of their violation, may lose their certified status. In such instances, handlers will be afforded the opportunity to contest their decertification should they wish to do so.

If you have questions about the cantaloupe food safety program, please call any of the following:

- John Gilstrap, Manager of the Cantaloupe Advisory Board: (559) 591-5715
- Kevin Batchelor, CDFA Inspection Services Division: (559) 595-8000
- Dennis Manderfield, CDFA Marketing Branch: (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

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