



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Washington, DC
20250

June 9, 2005

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Required Good Handling Practices (GHP)

The purpose of this notice is to clarify the requirements of GHP certification. Effective February 1, 2004, GHP certification must be completed within the previous 12 months or within 10 business days after award of the contract. Failure to obtain GHP certification within the prescribed timeframe will result in the bidder being deemed non-responsive, and the contract terminated for default.

Plans to require GAP certification are still pending. Updates will be provided as they occur.

(For more information about the GHP Guidelines check www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm or, for information and/or to request GHP verification services, contact Kathy Staley, Head, of the Fresh Products Branch's Field Operations Section, on 1-800-811-2373.)

Sincerely,

Dave Tuckwiller, Chief
Commodity Procurement Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
202-720-4517
David.Tuckwiller@usda.gov

