

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

SUBJECT: Fee for Fruit and Vegetable Audit, Survey and Verification Services

This is a notification to the food industry and other interested parties of the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intent to create one fee for all audit, survey and verification services performed for the fresh and processed fruit and vegetable and related industries.

The fee, effective October 1, 2008, will be \$92.00 per hour for each audit, survey and verification performed within the Continental United States, unless a different fee has been established by special agreement. This fee will ensure that the costs for delivering these services are recovered, as required. The fee will apply to services performed under the Qualified Through Verification Program, Plant Systems Audit Program, Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Programs, Food Defense Surveys, Plant Surveys, and others administered by AMS.

The \$92.00 per hour fee covers all travel time, preparation time, and audit time for each auditor. For services performed outside the Continental United States, the fee will be the standard hourly fee plus all associated costs, including travel and per diem, sufficient to recover the costs for delivering these services.

This action is in accordance with Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 51.42 and 52.51, as amended.

If you have any questions, please call the AMS' Fruit and Vegetable Programs at (202) 720-4722 or fax (202) 720-0016. Additional Information on these services is available on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov.



Bruce Summers
Associate Deputy Administrator

Date

8/8/08