

7.0 Equipment and Containers (Answers 2-1, 2-6 - 2-14, 2-16 - 2-20)

Purpose:

To ensure that proper harvesting, handling, and transportation procedures will be employed to reduce risk of contamination, including proper cleaning, sanitation, and maintenance of all equipment and containers.

Concern:

Field packing, harvesting and transportation activities all present opportunities to introduce pathogens that contaminate production areas and compromise workers' health.

Contaminants Introduction

- Harvesting vehicles and equipment can serve as a potential vehicle for introduction and cross-contamination of pathogens.

Policies and Procedures:

List what you are doing to maintain equipment and containers during harvesting. These are some sample policies.

Proper harvesting, handling, and transporting procedures will be employed to minimize the risk of introducing human pathogens to workers, harvesting equipment, and tools.

1. A pre-harvest assessment of crop production areas is completed noting risk and possible sources of contamination (Appendix 3.3 - Field Supervisor's Daily Checklist)
2. All equipment and harvesting containers that come into contact with produce are cleaned and sanitized on a scheduled basis. Describe this procedure. Records of these actions are kept in Appendix 7.1 - Cleaning and Sanitizing.
3. Damaged harvesting equipment is promptly repaired or disposed of
4. Harvesting equipment/machinery is properly maintained and kept in good repair
5. Glass/plastic/other physical contamination is recorded in Appendix 7.2 - Contamination During Harvest log, and the contaminated produce is disposed of.
6. Chemical, petroleum, pesticide, or other contamination is recorded in the Notice of Unusual Events log (Appendix 1.3) and contaminated produce is disposed of
7. Harvesting containers are used only for produce items
8. Produce is covered during transportation from field to other areas

If field packing:

1. Only new or sanitized containers are used for packing
2. Containers are properly stored and protected from contamination