

# Audits Digitalisation during Covid time

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food of Spain



# INDEX

- **COVID time**
- **How to prepare an on-line audit?**
- **How to perform an on-line audit?**
- **Some examples**
- **Conclusions**





- **COVID-19** has changed the way we act.
- We have had to **adapt**.
- There are **alternatives** and solutions.
- **Public administrations** also have to make an effort and look for these alternatives.
- Many of these tools are already **in place**.
- With regard to SPS agreements, **online audits** allow us to show that it **is possible to continue negotiating and opening markets**.

# ISPM 20

- **Phytosanitary import regulations** include specific requirements to be done in the country of export
- In certain circumstances, such as a new trade, the requirements may include **an audit** of elements such as:
  - *production systems*
  - *treatments*
  - *inspection procedures*
  - *phytosanitary management*
  - *accreditation procedures*
  - *testing procedures*
  - *surveillance*
- **Scope** of any audit.
- Arrangements for such audits are normally written into a bilateral **agreement**.
- These types of audit procedure should not be applied as a permanent measure and **should be considered satisfied as soon as the procedures in the exporting country have been validated**.
- The **results** of audits should be made available to the NPPO of the exporting country.

# ON-LINE AUDITS/SUPERVISIONS

- **Spain has already undergone several on-line audits** both in the field of plant health and of animal health.
- Some examples of verification and market opening:
  - ❖ *Pork market* with the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of **Thailand** (already carried out)
  - ❖ *Beef market* with the DLD of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of **Thailand** (next summer)
  - ❖ *Peach and plum* with the Department of Inspection and Quarantine of Animals and Plants of the People's Republic of **China**
  - ❖ *Citrus* with the Department of Inspection and Quarantine of Animals and Plants of the People's Republic of **China**
  - ❖ *Citrus* with the National Service of Agrarian Health of **Peru**

# HOW TO PREPARE AN ONLINE AUDIT

1

- **Pest Risk Assessment**

2

- **Information Exchange.** Selection of companies

3

- **Questionnaire** by auditing country. Scope

4

- **Filling in** the questionnaire by audited country

5

- **Recording of videos** in the field and packing facilities + **Audit agenda**

6

- **Connection test** 1-2 days before

# HOW TO PERFORM AN ONLINE AUDIT

**Available** tool now

## Live connection:

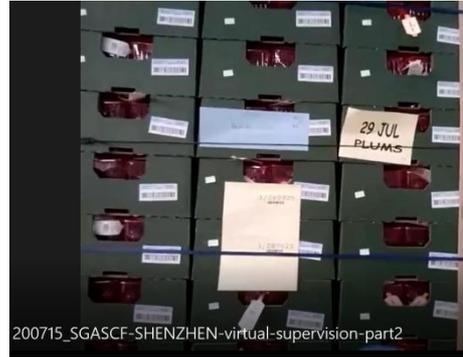
- **NPPO** presentation
- Presentation of participating **companies**.
- **Live connection** with the selected **fields**
- **Live connection** with selected **packing facilities**
- **Questions** by the auditing country
- Audit **conclusions**



# SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ON-LINE AUDITS

## *Peach and plum* AUDIT – GACC People's Republic of China

- Verification audit. Market open in 2016.
- Previous information exchange:
  - Registry of orchards/packing facilities
  - Questionnaire
  - Orchard notebook/Exporting data
- On-line audit
  - Review of general requirement
  - The inspection focused on the control and treatment of harmful organisms in orchards and packing facilities, and the export inspection and quarantine procedure
- Final outcome: SATISFACTORY





# SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ON-LINE AUDITS

- **Citrus AUDIT - GACC People's Republic of China**
  - Verification audit. Market open in 2005.
  - Previous information exchange:
    - Registry of orchards/packing facilities
    - Questionnaire
    - Orchard notebook/Exporting data
  - On-line audit
    - Review of general requirement
    - The inspection focused on the control and treatment of harmful organisms in orchards and packing facilities, and the export inspection and quarantine procedure
  - Final outcome: SATISFACTORY

# FIELD WORKERS



## COVID-19 PREVENTIVE MEASURES



**COLLECTOR:**  
VEST,  
GLASSES,  
GLOVES,  
MASK,  
DISTANCE,  
HYDROALCOH  
OLIC GEL

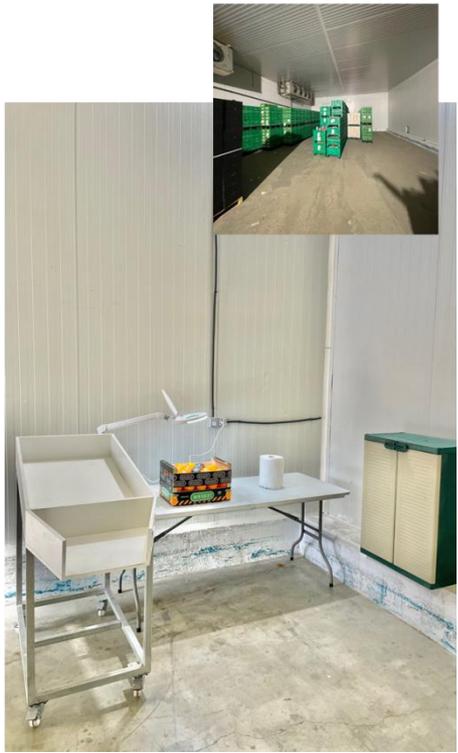
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**WAREHOUSE WORKERS:**  
WORK CLOTHING,  
CAP,  
MASK,  
DISTANCE,  
HYDROALCOHOLIC GEL



# SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ON-LINE AUDITS

- **Citrus AUDIT - SENASA Peru**
  - OPENING MARKET AUDIT
  - Previous exchange of information:
    - Registry of orchards/packing facilities
    - Pre-recorded videos
  - On-line audit
    - One-day audit. Only 3 packing facilities.
    - 3 orchards audit
    - In line with ISPM 20. Audit of procedures in the exporting country
  - Final outcome: SATISFACTORY





## Other examples

- Russia during the COVID period has stopped making physical inspection visits and has enabled exports during 2020.
- The situation generated by COVID cannot de facto entail the paralysis of the public administration.
- There are many companies that depend on the work of the administrations of all countries and in this time of crisis, more than ever, the administration has to keep working and look for tools so as not to hamper work.
- **Maintaining and improving trade flows of agricultural products** is key and beneficial for the economy of all countries

# ON-LINE AUDITS/SUPERVISIONS

- Only long-term perspectives can develop on the basis of **mutual trust**.
- In the case of Spain, the **Department of Agriculture (DOA) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Thailand visited us in 2018** to be familiar with the certification and control procedures carried out by the plant health inspection service for the opening of the fresh fruit of cherries.
- Therefore there is a **knowledge base**.
- Continuing to work on the negotiations with the launch of this **online auditing tool is a reality**.
- Spain would like to offer to carry out a pilot project with DOA on this modality



# ON-LINE AUDITS/SUPERVISIONS

- Just as Thailand ensures that its exports are correctly produced based on all those measures necessary to mitigate risk, so do the countries of the **European Union**.
- It should be taken into account that, in addition, **before** carrying out the on-line audit, **phytosanitary requirements have been completed**. The exporting country has evaluated and committed to comply with them.
- These controls are detailed in the campaign and the entire **inspection procedure** can be checked.
- As in physical visits, **the auditing country will be able to verify all those matters it deems pertinent**. And all the necessary additional information can be provided.

# ON-LINE AUDITS/SUPERVISIONS

- Spain is one of the **main exporters** of fruits and vegetables in the world and like Thailand, thanks to the **control system of the entire food chain** we have security in our shipments
- Tomorrow ES will present the specifications of our **official phytosanitary controls**



## ON-LINE AUDITS – CONCLUSIONS

- Therefore, **we look forward for DOA to consider implementing this tool** as a reliable alternative during COVID-19 crisis.
- DOA and MAPA had committed to take all necessary steps to arrange an inspection visit for the re-opening of exports of **table grapes and pears** in July 2021.
- We would like to see efforts made to use the tools already available **to keep our commitments and avoid undue delays in our bilateral negotiations.**



# Thanks

*Do you have any questions?*

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