

**Date: September 19, 2011**  
**To: California Kiwifruit Handlers**  
**From: Chris Zanobini, Manager, Kiwifruit Administrative Committee**

Here is your California Kiwifruit 2011/2012 season Handlers Packet. Enclosed you will find:

- *2011/2012 Assessment Rates and Inspection Fees*
- A supply of the required reporting forms along with a *Kiwifruit Report Descriptions and Summary of Reporting Requirements*
- *2011/2012 Season California Kiwifruit Packing Regulations Bulletin*
- *Restyle Verification Forms*

## **ASSESSMENTS**

The assessment rate for the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee (KAC) is the same as last season. KAC assessments are invoiced based on shipment information reported in the weekly KISS Price-Shipment Report, or the monthly Shipment Report by destination – dependent upon the handler size category in which you fall.

Invoices are mailed at the end of each month, with payment due within 30 days of the invoice date. Payments not received within this 30 day period will be charged interest on a daily basis at the rate of 18%, beginning with the first day of delinquency. If payment is more than 30 days delinquent (60 days past invoice date), a 10% late charge will be assessed. Interest and late payment charges are applied only to the overdue assessment.

## **PACKING AND INSPECTION REGULATIONS**

- **Packing Regulations** - There are no packing regulation changes from last season.
- **Mandatory Inspection** - All fresh kiwifruit shipments, wherever marketed, must be inspected and are required to be stamped with a valid SPI-USDA, Positive Lot Identification (PLI) stamp, authorized Waiver number or authorized restyle verification number. A list of Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) offices can be found on page 11 of the *Bulletin*.
- **Restyled Product** – Previously inspected kiwifruit that is restyled must either be reinspected or receive prior authorization from SPI to ship fruit under the restyle verification option. There are specific conditions under which the restyle verification option may be used and these are listed on pages 4 and 5 of the *Packing Regulations Bulletin* as well as on the back of the *Kiwifruit Restyle Verification Form*.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Handler reporting requirements are determined by the volume of kiwifruit handled per season. The three categories are:

- EZ Handler – 10,000 tray equivalents or less per season.
- Organic and medium size handlers – Conventional handlers with less than 100,000 tray equivalents (but over 10,000), and all organic handlers.
- Large handlers – Conventional handlers with over 100,000 tray equivalents per season.

To find your specific reporting requirements, please refer to the enclosed “*Summary of reporting requirements and reporting frequency*”. You may make additional copies of any of the blank reporting forms as needed. Forms are also available in Excel format and will be emailed to you upon request.

- **Compliance** – The enclosed “*Kiwifruit Report Descriptions*” shows the due dates for the reports. Failure to submit reports required by the KAC by the prescribed due dates is a violation of the federal marketing order.
- **New Look to Reporting Forms** – Please note that the *KISS reports (Add, Deduct, Shipments)* and the monthly *Shipment Report* by destination forms have a slightly different look. The preprinted pack style column headings have been omitted. Handlers will now fill in the headings according to the pack styles used. Instructions are printed on the back of each reporting form.
  - ❖ **Special Note Regarding the Shipment Report by Destination** – After this form was submitted to OMB for approval we noticed that the reference to the “Other” column found on the bottom third of the form referencing other pounds shipped, should have been deleted. There is no longer an “Other” column so that section of the form does not require any information to be entered. A revised form will need to be resubmitted to OMB for approval for next season.
- **Organic Handlers** – Certified organic California kiwifruit must be reported separately from conventional kiwifruit.
- **Year End Sales Report and Final Packout Report** – KAC is still awaiting final approval of these forms by OMB and they are not included in the packet. They will be distributed as soon as they are approved.

## **EXEMPTIONS**

Kiwifruit may be handled without regard to the certification, assessment, regulatory and reporting provisions of the Marketing Order under certain conditions. These conditions are listed on pages 5 and 6 of the *Bulletin* under the headings “Minimum Quantities” and “Special Purpose Shipments”. If you intend to donate fruit to a charitable institution or sell it for commercial processing into products please contact the KAC office. Charitable organizations and processors need to have appropriate paperwork on file with the KAC.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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