

**NATIONAL PROCESSED RASPBERRY COUNCIL
Industry Relations Committee Conference Call
February 26, 2018; 9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members Participating:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Bierlink | <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Schedeen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antonio Dominguez |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loren Kimura | <input type="checkbox"/> Rolf Haugen | <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Rader |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Rubin | <input type="checkbox"/> Jonny Paris | |

Others Participating:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Krugman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hakim Fobia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Skilton |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allison Beadle | | |

x = present o = absent

A. Call to Order; Establish Quorum

The call was called to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was not on the call. A general discussion on data reporting and the establishment of additional HTS codes ensued.

There was a suggestion that pack and supply data be collected on a quarterly basis from domestic first handlers to allow tracking of movement and measure program performance. Hakim said that USDA would prefer for pack data to be collected as part of the first handler's report, with changes made to the form for that purpose. He did note that some industries contract an independent third party to collect and aggregate stock data for reporting to the industry, and this would be possible.

Tom S presented information regarding the establishment of additional HTS codes. He began by reminding the committee that the Committee on Annotation that receives petitions to do so April 1 and August 1 of each year. He discussed a petition for additional information on mixed berry blends, stating that the Council can make a compelling argument for this data. What is needed is industry information on formulation of berry blends. He went on to say that a review of other mixed fruit items indicated only "mixes" and not the percentages of component products.

He next discussed the potential for adding container sizes to fresh raspberry imports, noting reports that fresh raspberries were entering the U.S. from Mexico and/or Canada in drums and being block frozen in the United States. Question was raised as the ability of the Council to collect assessments on this product if the data was available. Discussion noted that the primary reason to collect the data was for informational purposes. Tom S said that it was his opinion in reading the

Order that if raspberries were being frozen in large containers, the cold storage facility was acting as a first handler and owed the Council assessments. He said that there are two separate issues of interest: first, collecting the data on either mixed berry blends or fresh raspberries entering the U.S. in containers too large to be considered as a consumer product, and second, the Council's ability to collect assessments. He concluded by noting that there is precedent to establish separate HTS codes by container size.

Henry responded that this type of data was of keen interest to gain a better sense of the size of the U.S. market, and both represented areas where the data is needed. Antonio agreed, that the data would help answer basic questions about the market.

Hakim was asked if the Council could be a petitioner to the ITC. He said that he would find out and report back. A suggestion was made that the petition be developed and submitted by a group of growers.

B. Adjourn; next meeting

Further discussion be postponed until April 12 during a meeting of the committee in conjunction with the spring Council meeting. With there being no further business, the call concluded at 9:50 a.m.