ANNEX VIII: specimen of health certificate (general and if appropriate country specific)

A) GENERAL

ANNEX I

Health Certificate for the importation into the European Union of

Consignment Code .......................................................... Certificate Number ..........................................................

According to the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) 1152/2009 imposing special conditions governing the import of certain foodstuffs from certain third countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins and repealing Decision 2006/504/EC, the ..........................................................

..........................................................(competent authority referred to in Article 4 (1))

CERTIFIES that the ..........................................................

..........................................................(insert foodstuffs referred to in Article 1)

of this consignment composed of: ..........................................................

..........................................................(description of consignment, product, number and type of packages, gross or net weight)

embarked at ..........................................................(embarkation place)

by ..........................................................(identification of transporter)

going to ..........................................................(place and country of destination)

which comes from the establishment ..........................................................

..........................................................(name and address of establishment)

have been produced, sorted, handled, processed, packaged and transported in line with good hygiene practices.

From this consignment, samples were taken in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 on ..........................................................(date), subjected to laboratory analysis on ..........................................................

(date) in the ..........................................................

(name of laboratory), to determine the level of aflatoxin B1 and level of total aflatoxin contamination. The details of sampling, methods of analysis used and all results are attached.

This certificate is valid until ..........................................................

Done at .......................................................... on ..........................................................

Stamp and signature of

authorised representative of competent authority referred to in Article 4 (1)

* Product and country of origin.

B) SPECIFIC – IMPORT OF ALMONDS FROM US

EXPLANATORY NOTE AS REGARDS THE VASP CERTIFICATE

* Consignments of almonds and derived products which are accompanied by a health certificate are to be sampled and analysed at a random (<5%) frequency at import. A specimen of the health certificate is provided hereafter. Although this VASP/health certificate has an deviating appearance to the health certificate as provided for in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) 1152/2009, it was agreed that this is acceptable as it contains all elements which the health certificate has to contain (with the exception of the stamp).

* the USDA, being the competent authority as referred to in Article 4(1)(f) has confirmed that the list of laboratories listed in Annex X to this guidance document are the laboratories (USDA Approved) authorised to do the analysis in view of official certification.

* the USDA, being the competent authority as referred to in Article 4(1)(f) has confirmed that the signatories mentioned in Annex XI to this guidance document are authorised to sign the health certificates on behalf of the USDA, being the competent authority.

* The certificate foresees for the possibility of a 3 x 5 kg sample (instead of the 3 x 10 kg sample as foreseen in Regulation (EC) 401/2006) for the control on the aflatoxins content in view of obtaining the VASP certificate. The 3 x 5 kg sample with a rejection limit of 2 ppb aflatoxin total, i.e. half of the EU maximum level, has been accepted to be comparable with the 3 x 10 kg sample as provided for in Regulation (EC) 401/2006 for the issuing of the certificate. This equivalence was acknowledged by the FVO during their inspection mission (see mission report DG SANCO 8300/2006, p.14) and underpinned by scientific research (see the Article: Sampling Almonds for Aflatoxins, Part II: Estimating Risks Associated with Various Sampling Plan Designs. Whitaker et al (2007), Journal of AOAC International Vol. 90, No 3, 2007, p 778-785). It goes without saying that for the 5% official control at import the sampling of 3 x 10 kg as provided for in Commission Regulation (EC) 401/2006 has to be carried out.

* However as from 13 March 2010, the sampling under the VASP is performed on the basis of a 2 x 10 kg sampling in accordance with the EU legislation. In the period between 13 March 2010 and 13 July 2010, VASP certificates based on the sampling 3 x 5 kg (see previous bullet) and VASP certificates based on the sampling 2 x 10 kg will be in circulation. Both VASP certificates are acceptable in the period between 13 March 2010 and 13 July 2010. Specimen of both VASP certificates are hereafter provided.

As from 13 July 2010 onwards, only VASP certificates based on the sampling 2 x 10 kg are acceptable.

* Consignments of almonds and derived products which are not accompanied by a health certificate are to be sampled and analysed at a frequency of 100% at import and the costs resulting from sampling, analysis, storage and issuing of accompanying official documents shall be borne by the food business operator responsible for the consignment or its representative. This procedure might also be applied also to consignments which are covered by a non valid certificate (instead of e.g. rejection).

* The certificate might refer to the control on aflatoxins of whole almonds, while the consignment concerns sliced almonds (or otherwise processed such chopped, blanched). As slicing (and chopping, blanching, …) does not generate aflatoxins, this is an acceptable procedure only on the condition that there is a clear correspondence of the consignment of sliced almonds with the sampled consignment of sliced almonds.
ANNEX X: list of USDA approved laboratories performing the aflatoxin analysis in almonds in the frame of VASP

USDA Approved Labs
Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Program (VASP) Certificate Labs

Advance Mycotoxin Lab
16070 Wildwood Road
Wasco, CA 93280
Dona Stanfield
Phone: 661-758-7790 ext. 807
Email: aflalab@primexfarms.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Dona Stanfield
Blanca Rios
Adriana Gonzalez
Tiffany Welden
Mayra Castelo

AmCal Analytical Laboratories, 6914 Road 160
Earlimart, CA 93219
Lizzette Medina
Phone: 559-757-1085
Email: amcal@uol.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Lizzette A. Medina
Natalia Fleming
Claudia Rivas

American Council for Food Safety & Quality / DFA of California
1855 South Van Ness
Fresno, CA 93721
J. Michael Hurley
Phone: 559-233-0604
Email: mikehurley@dfaofca.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: J. Michael Hurley
Thomas Jones
Joni Bunnell
Kasey Harper-Ferreria

BSK Analytical Laboratories
1414 Stanislaus Street
Fresno, CA 93706
Alicia Del Carlo
Phone: 559-497-2888
Email: adelcaro@bskinc.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Maria Manuel
Jeff Koelewyn
Juli Adams
Alicia Del Carlo
Jason Botwright

Certified Laboratories, Inc.
240 Riggs Avenue
Merced, CA 95340
Gordon Brock
Phone: 800-911-5223
Email: gbrock@certlab.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Martin Mitchell
Gordon Brock
Jaspreeet Wafa
Tina Carrasco
Shankar Bhattacharyya
Deshree Lopez
Steven Mitchell

Denele Analytical Inc.
1232 South Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380
Scott Foster
Phone: 209-634-9055
Email: deneleanalytical@yahoo.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Scott Foster
Brenda Hayes
Joe Mulhix

IEH Laboratories and Consulting Group
13646 Highway 33
Lost Hills, CA 93249-8719
Jorge Reprieto
Phone: 661-797-6482
Email: jorge@iehinc.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Nora Enriquez
Jorge Reprieto
Michael Wolf
Paul Sleikoff III

Food Safety & Process Technology
5043 North Montpelier Road
Denair, CA 95316-9608
Rick Falkenberg
Phone: 209-874-1971
Email: rick@tpt.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Rick Falkenberg
Humberto Vega
William Hawes
Donna Yadron
Richard Vliegas
Peyman Fatemi

Food Safety Net Services (FSNS)
186 S. West Ave., Suite 104
Fresno, CA 93706
Paul Browning
Phone: 559-443-1046
Email: pmbrowning@Food-SafetyNet.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Paul Browning
Mayra Gomez

Blue Diamond Growers
P.O. Box 1768
Sacramento, CA 95812
Steven Phillips
Phone: 916-329-3354
Email: sphilps@bdgrowers.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Steven Phillips
Donna Dean-Zavala
Jeffrey Vidanes
Linda Quan
Margaret Smith
Adriana Moyo

IEH Laboratories and Consulting Group
13646 Highway 33
Lost Hills, CA 93249-8719
Jorge Reprieto
Phone: 661-797-6482
Email: jorge@iehinc.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Nora Enriquez
Jorge Reprieto
Michael Wolf
Paul Sleikoff III

Kerman Almond Lab / American Council for Food Safety & Quality / DFA of California
1221 S. Madera Avenue
Kerman, CA 93630
Kevin Willet
Phone: 559-842-8803
Email: kwillett@agfoodsafety.org
Status: Approved
Signatories: J. Michael Hurley
Thomas Jones
Joni Bunnell
Kasey Harper-Ferreria
USDA Approved Labs
Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Program
(VASP) Certificate Labs

Aflatoxin in Almonds Approved Laboratory Program

Ntegra
1795 Cortina School Road
Arbuckle, CA 95912
Saul Aguilar
Phone: 530-473-2446
Email: ntegra@jlaglobal.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Mike Jackson
Pam Smith
Saul Aguilar
Guadalupe Ibarra
John Waters

Silliker, Inc.
5262 Pirrone Court
Salida, CA 95368
Matt DeWitt
Phone: 209-549-7508
Email: Matt.DeWitt@silliker.com
Status: Approved
Signatories: Matt DeWitt
Terry Buchanan
Heather Fullmer