

NOTICE

CRITERIA FOR PRIVATE RICE EXPORTER

CRITERIA FOR (A) LICENSING PRIVATE EXPORTERS;
(B) APPROVING SPECIFIC EXPORT TRANSACTIONS;
(C) AND
(C) CERTIFYING COMMODITIES ACTUALLY EXPORTED.

INTRODUCTION

The purposes of the procedures being introduced for the licensing of private exporters, for the approving of specific export transactions, and for the certification of commodities actually exported are as follows:

- (i) To facilitate the growth of export markets for rice and rice products from Guyana, with particular attention being paid to the matters of quality, pricing and other commercial terms, and reliability of supply; and
- (ii) To ensure the prompt receipt by and return to Guyana, of the foreign exchange earned from the exports of rice and rice products through a systematic monitoring of all export transactions

Accordingly, the following sections outline the criteria which will be used to inform the procedures and practices to be implemented.

(A) **Criteria for Licensing Private Exporters of Rice and Rice Products**

These criteria are to be considered as eligibility criteria which are to be applied by the relevant three agencies, i.e. GREB, GRMMA, NPRGC.

The intention is that they should be applied annually with a view to issuing annual licences to private exporters. The criteria are as follows:

- (i) The potential exporter shall be a person, co-operative, or registered company which operates a rice mill, or is a bona fide grower of rice.
- (ii) The rice mill referred to in (i) should have an actual milled rice capacity of at least one long ton of milled rice per hour, and be associated with equipment for the extraction of bran, broken rice, chips, husks, and other extraneous matter. Where applicable, equipment for the production of parboiled rice must be in good working condition.

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(iii) The potential exporter should have adequate facilities for drying, cleaning, storing and packing padi, milled rice, and, where applicable parboiled rice.

(iv) All premises and equipment used for milling, storing, and generally preparing rice and rice products for export should be maintained at a standard satisfactory to the Public Health Authorities and to the National Padi and Rice Grading Centre.

(v) Potential exporters should be persons or entities of sound financial standing and of known integrity, not having been involved in illegal trade in commodities, particularly rice, or in a violation of repayments to established lending institutions, particularly those related to the rice industry.

(B) Criteria for Approving specific Export Transactions

The main principles which inform these criteria are as follows:

(a) The preservation of orderly competition among producers of rice and rice products in the various export markets, with a view to deriving the optimum return to Guyana for exports of rice products in an on-going manner. This implies, inter alia, market segmentation in accord with preferential arrangements arising out of inter-governmental agreements

(b) The fostering and maintenance of an international reputation for Guyana as a reliable supplier of good quality rice and rice products.

(c) The achievement, taking into account prevailing market conditions, of reasonable prices, payment and other commercial terms, for exports of rice and rice products from Guyana.

The criteria are as follows:

(i) The geographical territories to which private exporters rice and rice products may export are, with the exception of Caricom, all countries of the world with whom the Government of Guyana does not prohibit trading relations.

(ii) In the case of Caricom countries, extraordinary specific permission would be required in the context of existing inter-Governmental arrangements.

(iii) Prior to the conclusion of any export arrangement, the potential exporter must provide contract documentation for inspection and approval with respect to:

(a) the adequacy of prices;

(b) the appropriateness of payment terms, and arrangements;

(B) Criteria (Cont'd)

(c) the quality of product to be exported.

(iv) With respect to the quality of product to be exported, the exporter must be deemed to be a bona fide producer of that quality product in quantity and timing of production terms adequate to meet the contractual obligations being contemplated.

(v) Where deliveries are to be other than f.o.b., the exporter must demonstrate that adequate freight and other arrangements can be established.

The authority which shall be responsible for applying the criteria listed as (i) through (v) above, shall be the Guyana Rice Export Board, (GREB), and it shall be GREB'S responsibility to assist private exporters in seizing useful export opportunities and concluding appropriate export contracts.

The regime of charges which GREB will apply for the provision of these services shall be published and reviewed from time to time.

(C) Criteria for Certifying commodities actually exported

The purposes of establishing procedures for the certification of commodities actually exported are:

(a) Providing protection of Guyana's reputation as a reliable exporter of rice and rice products by ensuring that contractual quality and quantity obligations are being adequately met; and

(b) Ensuring through careful monitoring that Guyana receives the contemplated contractual benefits from the exports of its rice and rice products.

In these respects, GREB, GRMMA, and NPRGC will liaise closely, with GREB being responsible for undertaking the co-ordinating role. The certification which results is intended for internal purposes only, and is not intended to imply the assumption of any legal liability in the context of the contractual relationships between private exporters and overseas importers.

The results of the certification procedures will form a part of the information flow which relates to the licensing of private exporters of rice and rice products.

Accordingly, the criteria used will be:

(i) **Quality (in comparison with contractual specifications)**, including phytosanitary condition and packaging;

(ii) **Quantity (in comparison with contractual specifications)**; and

(iii) **Cleanliness of the carrier**, and such other considerations as may relate to the delivery of the product in good condition to the importer.

**By Order of the
Guyana Rice Export Board**