

Border lookout for Mexican Peppers, requirements for importers

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The following is excerpted from a broadcast email from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

As of August 1st, there has been a border lookout in place for jalapeno and serrano peppers grown in Mexico. Shipments that contain these items are being released by the CFIA service centres, as per usual.

It should be noted however, that CFIA inspection staff is following up on these shipments and taking samples, in order to ensure that they are not contaminated with Salmonella bacteria. *As such, it is important for customs brokers to be informing relevant importers of the requirement to keep the Mexican peppers aside to await inspection, prior to distribution/ sale on the market.*

When releases are given by the CFIA service centre, they include the following stamp,

"Do not open or sell the product until it has been inspected by an inspector of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program of the CFIA."

Or

"Do not open or sell the product until it has been inspected by an inspector of the CFIA."

Importers are asked to be aware of this requirement.