

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Department of Agriculture

www.ag.state.co.us

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
(303) 239-4100
(303) 239-4125 FAX



Bill Owens, Governor
Don Ament, Commissioner
Sheldon R. Jones, Deputy Commissioner

CDA Guidelines for Certifications of Origin for Spinach

In the latest update from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the food borne E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in spinach, consumers are advised not to purchase or consume fresh spinach if they cannot verify that it was grown in areas other than the three California counties implicated in the outbreak. In order to assist growers in documenting that their spinach was grown in Colorado, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) can provide several forms of certification. These include a certificate of origin, a state phytosanitary certificate or a federal phytosanitary certificate.

The Certificate of Origin is the most readily available and simplest form of documentation. This is strictly a statement on CDA letterhead signed by a phytosanitary official that the spinach was produced in Colorado. This certificate can be used for intrastate or interstate commerce. There is currently no charge for this certificate. A separate certificate will be issued for each load. CDA inspectors will conduct an inspection of the farm to verify the number of acres of spinach and estimated production. An application for a certificate is available on our website at <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/PhytosanitaryCertification/CertofOriginApp.pdf>.

The State Phytosanitary Certificate is a more formal document indicating among other things the origin of the crop. This document is typically used for interstate commerce and has a \$25 fee. A separate certificate must be issued for each load. CDA inspectors would need to conduct an inspection. This certificate documents freedom from significant insects and diseases as well as verifying the number of acres of spinach and estimated production. An application for a certificate is available on our website at <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/PhytosanitaryCertification/PhytoApplication.pdf>

The Federal Phytosanitary Certificate is strictly for international shipments and carries a fee of \$42. This is a USDA form and among other items declares the origin of the load. CDA inspectors would need to conduct an inspection. This inspection would document freedom from significant insects and diseases as well as verify the number of acres of spinach and estimated production.

Depending on the volume of inspections requested we may need to charge a fee for the inspectors time. If this occurs we will work with industry to keep the fee as low as possible. Once the inspection is conducted the certificate can be produced and sent out the same day.

For further information on these certificates please call the Division of Plant Industry at 303.239.4154.