

Plant Protection & Quarantine Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award

Background and Criteria

The PPQ Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award is given in recognition of initiatives and innovations that make significant contributions to furthering the goal of safeguarding American agriculture and plant resources. The Deputy will recognize nominations that (1) establish a new process, operation, procedure, or policy that contributes directly or indirectly to safeguarding or (2) significantly improves an existing process, operation, procedure, or policy that contributes directly or indirectly to safeguarding. The nomination should demonstrate initiative or innovation and show a definable result. Each nomination should contain information linking the action to a specific principle or recommendation in the Safeguarding Review, and it should address one of the four principle areas contained in the Safeguarding Review:

- permits to control the movement of pests
- the collection and use of information about pests throughout the world
- pest detection and response
- exclusion of pests (including offshore mitigation)

Submission of Nominations

Nominations should be submitted on the attached form to Paula Henstridge at 302-E J.L Whitten Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250. They may also be e- mailed to Paula.Henstridge@aphis.usda.gov or faxed to her at (202) 720-8535.

Nominations may also be submitted through your State Plant Health Director. Please submit all nominations by the end of each quarter of the fiscal year (December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30).

Please note that potential nominees are not limited to PPQ employees.

Selection of Award Recipient(s)

Nominations for the Deputy's Safeguarding Award will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Steering Committee, which will forward its ranking to the Deputy for final consideration. The individual or group selected for recognition will receive a trophy and a small medal. The winner's name and achievement will also be inscribed on a plaque to be displayed in the Deputy Administrator's Office as the Deputy's "wall of fame."

Achievements will also be noted on the Safeguarding website and through other appropriate mechanisms.

PPQ Deputy's Safeguarding Award Submission Form

1. Name, Address, Job Title, and Phone Number of Nominee (if a group is being submitted, provide the contact information for the group leader and the names and affiliation of all members of the group)

This nomination is for the Port of Laredo, Texas

Pathway: Southern LandBorder

Port: Laredo, Texas Western Region

Port Director: Jose Uribe

Supervisor: Julio Vila, Cargo Supervisor

State Plant Health Director: Joseph Davidson

2. Describe the action that enhanced safeguarding.

The Port of Laredo, Texas has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a good solid T&E and IT program. Their work has been specific to the safeguarding recommendations and principles and the controlled movement of untreated T&E mangos and untreated IT movement of avocados from Mexico.

3. How did the action enhance safeguarding?

The Port of Laredo was instrumental in providing a systematic approach and methodology for controlling high-risk commodities entering the United States for transit and ensuring that proper safeguards were in place to mitigate any pest risk. The port of Laredo, Texas also provided personnel to assist the Port of Detroit, Michigan, in monitoring these high risk Transit and Exit (T&E) and In-Transit (IT) movements to ensure adequate compliance. The Port of Detroit, Michigan, benefited from Laredo's expertise and employees there have been trained to properly monitor seals, track shipments, and follow-up with Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) and Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) in regards to compliance issues. The Port of Laredo has been an instrumental player in this program for the last 4 years. Over the last several years, the compliance rate for these high risk T&E and IT shipments has been very high. For this year the compliance rate may hit 100%. This goes to show that the procedures, safeguards, pest mitigation activities and the adequate control of transit cargo have truly paid off.

4. How does it demonstrate innovation or initiative?

Laredo, through the direction of Port Director, Jose Uribe and more importantly Supervisor Julio Vila, with guidance from the Western Region office have been instrumental in developing, and implementing various processes that are key to establishing a good sound IT and T&E program for high-risk/prohibited commodities. Also key to the success of this

effort was Andrea Rodriguez, who was regional program manager at the time. She helped develop the current system and assisted various ports in the use of the Green Sheet program. In addition, Sergio Regalado, PPQ Officer in Laredo, has worked with the brokers and carriers to gain a near perfect compliance rate on untreated Mexican T&E mangos. He has supported Julio Vila in maintaining the T&E program in Laredo and has worked with the Northern Border Ports in the whole T&E process. Their work lays the foundation for future control measures as well as safeguarding initiatives that will be set forth in the future. Some of the key process that have been developed through tremendous input and implementation from Laredo have been: the T&E, Treated and Untreated Lotus Notes database, the Green Sheet Document (serves as an in-transit control document that is required to be turned in to a PPQ staff Port, and the IT avocado tracking database. The Port of Laredo together with regional staff has served as a point of contact for the southern land border when it comes to high-risk T&E and IT safeguarding processes. Their innovative work surrounding the high- risk T&E tracking database has served and will serve as a prototype/model for the rest of the PPQ Ports handling restricted and prohibited commodities.

5. Which of the four areas of the Safeguarding Review does the activity support?

Pest Exclusion and Pest mitigation. This area also falls within the safeguarding recommendations under Section 2.16 Transshipment and Limited Distribution found on page 55 of the Safeguarding Review Document. Laredo was also instrumental in developing and updating the Mexican and Canadian Border Transit Guidelines. They also provided personnel support from their Port for 3 years to the Port of Detroit, Michigan, for the purpose of augmenting the monitoring of seals on exiting shipments moving through Detroit. The Laredo TDY personnel trained Detroit employees in the use of the database and establishment of a compliance protocol for monitoring high-risk T&E commodities passing through the Port of Detroit, which in turn has produced a high level of compliance for these T&E shipments.

6. What recommendation or safeguarding principle does the action support?

These actions support heavily the concerns regarding **Section 2.16** Transshipment and limited distribution in the Safeguarding Review. The recommendations and safeguarding principles that Laredo has supported falls within **E-57**, review and update its transit guidelines. Laredo has served as a subject matter expert when safeguarding transit team began the review of the current transit guidelines. Laredo's actions have also supported **E-58**- develop a risk assessment process to evaluate transit permit requests—and **E55** –prohibit the T&E entry of plants and plant products not in compliance with U.S. entry requirements until and

unless the following recommendations have adequately mitigated the invasive plant pest risk associated with this pathway. Laredo, because they were instrumental in developing the T&E tracking database, has been able to capture pest risk data relating to high-risk transiting commodities (e.g., mangos). This information, which will become a standard data capture field with the T&E / IT national tracking database currently under development, has proved to be a valuable data element for support of **E-55**.

7. Provide any information that demonstrates the outcome/success of the activity.

The attached information demonstrates the ongoing success of this program. The data is for FY'02 and covers T&E shipments of untreated mangoes. The southern border T&E and IT program has been in existence for approximately 4 years and as we approach each new year, vast improvements have taken place to ensure that the pest exclusion and pest mitigation processes are achieved at a high level. The Port of Laredo has been instrumental in accomplishing this mission. The following shows some screen shots of the TE and IT database as well as important actionable interceptions at the first port of entry. Keep in mind that the shipments are transloaded before moving T&E and IT. Stuart Kuehn will forward Paula Henstridge a link to this database to provide additional information regarding the tracking efforts.

This is a screenshot from the 2002 T&E tracking database that also provides detailed info relating to Treated Commodities as well. Overland movement of untreated mangos is considered to be the highest risk in the Transit arena. Notice the actionable interceptions found at the Port of Laredo before these shipments move forward on a T&E movement. Each line depicts a separate interception by shipment, and in some cases shows multiple interceptions.



Treated/T&E 2002 - PestFound - Lotus Notes

File Edit View Create Actions Help

Welcome WR WADS - Inbox New Memo Stuart W Ku... Re: Cut Flo... Old email 3-... Treated... X USDA's Address...

T & E TREATED

RECORDS

Create New Record

QUERIES

Exited

Exit\Seal Monitored

Pest Found

Port of Exit

Port of Entry

Referred to IES

Green Sheet

Commodity

T & E Number

Pest Found	T & E Number	Commodity	Remarks
▶ No			
▼ Yes			
	652,582,486	Mango	SCARABAEIDAE LIGYRUS SP FOUND INSIDE TRAILER
	652,582,910	Mango	ANASTREPHA FOUND LAR#059180
	541,039,660	Mango	Scarabaeidae Phyllophaga sp.
	669,530,901	Mango	ANASTREPHA SP. LAR#059494 (SCARABAEIDAE) PHYLL
	669,530,831	Mango	ANASTREPHA SP.
	512,923,574	Mango	SCARABAEIDAE PHYLLOPHAGA SP.
	541,039,903	Mango	SCARABAEIDAE, PHYLLOPHAGA SP.
	512,923,725	Mango	Scarabaeidae Phyllophaga sp.
	652,588,193	Mango	SCARABAEIDAE DILOTAXIS SP.
	652,588,370	Mango	SCARABAEIDAE CYCLOCEPHALA SP.
	552,101,421	Mango	SCARABAEIDAE CYCLOCEPHALA SP.
	652,588,915	Mango	Scarabidae / Phyllophaga
	512,923,784	Mango	Anastrepha sp.
	652,589,475	Mango	Scarabaeidae Cyclocephala sp. and Phyllophaga sp.
	652,589,906	Mango	Scarabaeidae Cyclocephala sp.
	652,589,770	Mango	Scarabaeidae Cyclocephala sp.
	669,532,205	Mango	Scarabidae Phyllophaga Sp / Chrysomelidae Colaspis Sp.
	512,924,333	Mango	Anastrepha sp.
	669,534,213	Mango	CURCULIONIDAE SP
	652,596,210	Mango	ANASTREPHA SP
▶ (Not Categorized)			

Office

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This is an example of what is being used as the Green Sheet document. It is serving as a control document to insure compliance for the exiting of T&E shipments.

**THIS SHEET MUST BE
PLACED IN THE USDA
PPQ “DROP BOX”
(LOCATED IN CUSTOMS)
OR HANDED TO
CUSTOMS AT PORT OF
EXIT***

*Failure to surrender this sheet will result in violation of the permit. Penalty will be that the trailer will be tracked and held for PPQ inspection, regardless of cargo contained herein, for a 1-year period from the date below.

**U.S.D.A. PPQ
VERIFICATION SHEET**

**NOTICE TO DRIVER: YOU HAVE SEVEN (7) DAYS TO EXPORT THIS
SHIPMENT TO CANADA. IN THE EVENT
OF WEATHER DELAY OR MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN, YOU MUST
NOTIFY USDA PPQ AT THE FOLLOWING 24-HOUR NUMBER 1-
956-729-9911 EXT 2103 TO REPORT T&E NUMBER, NEW
ROUTING, AND NEW EXPORT DATE**

Date of Entry _____ Date of Exit (To be completed at port of Exit) _____

T&E Number _____

Port of Exit _____