



28 March 2018

(18-1949)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

HONEY AND APICULTURE PRODUCTS

PHASE-IN OF COMPUTERIZED TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA

The following communication, dated 27 March 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

1 INTRODUCTION

1. The National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) hereby advises that the phase-in of a traceability system for apiculture products has begun. The aim is to streamline formalities and improve real-time tracking of marketing-related processes and events, from the apiary through to the honey export certification stage.

2. SENASA Resolution E-5/2018, which addresses metal-container (drum) standardization, quality improvement, and labelling with SENASA-approved security tags, has been in effect since 5 January 2018:

<http://www.senasa.gob.ar/normativas/resolucion-05-2018-senasa-servicio-nacional-de-sanidad-y-calidad-agroalimentaria>

http://www.senasa.gob.ar/sites/default/files/ARBOL_SENASA/INFORMACION/NORMATIVA/RESOL_Y_ANEXOS/2018/r_senasa_5-2018_anexo_i_b.o.pdf

http://www.senasa.gob.ar/sites/default/files/ARBOL_SENASA/INFORMACION/NORMATIVA/RESOL_Y_ANEXOS/2018/r_senasa_5-2018_anexo_ii_b.o.pdf

http://www.senasa.gob.ar/sites/default/files/ARBOL_SENASA/INFORMACION/NORMATIVA/RESOL_Y_ANEXOS/2018/r_senasa_5-2018_anexo_iii_b.o.pdf

2 HONEY TRACEABILITY AND METAL-DRUM IDENTIFICATION TAGS

3. The computerized traceability system was developed taking into account the operations of all stakeholders identified at the extraction, homogenization, sales and marketing stages.

4. The traceability of honey begins with a declaration of the origin of and the processes undergone by the food product, which is packaged in a SENASA-approved drum labelled with a security tag containing bar and number codes. The numeric designation carried by the security tag consists of a series of digits (two digits identifying the drum manufacturer, eight digits randomly generated by the system, and one check digit). Tag manufacturers and printing works must themselves meet technical printing requirements and must be authorized by SENASA.

5. All stages (transfer, homogenization, sales) carried out with the product held in labelled, approved drums are declared through an online system administered and monitored by SENASA.

3 ENTRY INTO FORCE

6. Prior to the full implementation of the resolution, the product will continue to be traced using paper documents, and exported drums of honey may have either a security tag, as described in paragraph 4, or a white, stamped area where information on the extraction facility, batch number and year of harvest is provided.

7. From the beginning of 2019, drums of Argentine honey will bear only the security tag and the exporter's label.
