

Produce Inspection

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One of the services provided by D.A.S.F. is quality control of agricultural products exported from this country. This function is performed by the Produce Inspection section of the Department.

There was a produce inspection service in this country prior to World War II, but this was discontinued during hostilities. In 1952 legislation was brought down to provide for the reintroduction of copra inspection, but it was not until a year or two later that a full scale inspection service at the major ports began functioning.

In 1959 cocoa inspection was introduced, and by this time recruitment of inspectors with plantation experience in both copra and cocoa had provided adequate personnel for the section to inspect both of these products in all major ports.

Copra and cocoa are both inspected under the provisions of their respective ordinances. These ordinances specify standards which must be met. However producers are safeguarded by the right of appeal, in the event of their disagreeing with an inspector's decision. Such appeals are uncommon, especially in latter years. This would seem to reflect acceptance by producers of the service provided.

Complaints by both producers and buyers are always investigated, and every effort is made to ensure harmony amongst all concerned.



(Photo: C. A. Fowler)

Plate 1.—Produce Inspector Eiasi Saoia examines a shipment of copra



(Photo: D.I.E.S.)

Plate II.—No, he is not playing draughts! Part of the procedure for inspecting cocoa is to place 100 beans (selected at random) on the board and count the number showing evidence of defects such as mould or insect attack

COPRA

Copra from this country is classified into three grades at the time of inspection and copra which does not meet any of these grades is rejected. Where possible, rejected copra is reconditioned so that it then meets one of the required standards.

The qualities taken into consideration in copra grading include moisture content, insect infestation, free fatty acid content, foreign matter, cleanliness and colour. Objectionable moulds are not allowed in any of the three grades. Top quality copra must have a moisture content not exceeding 6 per cent and must be dried by hot air, or Ceylon type driers. Smoke-cured or smoke-permeated copra meets only lowest grade's requirements.

COCOA

At present this country's cocoa is classified into two classes only: *Export Quality* and *Non-Export Quality*. Cocoa beans must meet a

fairly high standard of quality to be accepted as *Export Quality*. They must have been processed in an approved manner. They must be free of foul, foreign or hammy odours, and must meet fairly stringent requirements regarding mould, insects and foreign matter. Of course they must be sufficiently dried.

It is most important that it should be known that bags of cocoa beans which meet the standards of *Export Quality* are branded with a red triangle at the mouth of the bag and sealed by attaching a metal seal to the twine sewing the bag.

Cocoa beans which do not meet the standard of *Export Quality* can still be exported, but bags containing such cocoa are not branded with the red triangle, nor are they sealed.

This off-grade cocoa is usually sold on sample, because, whilst buyers should be aware that it has not conformed to the accepted standard of *Export Quality* they would not know

to what extent the defect occurred or on what grounds the cocoa was not accepted for the top grade.

WORK OF INSPECTORS

Functions of the produce inspectors, in addition to carrying out inspections aimed at quality control of both products, include surveillance of storage sheds used for holding copra or cocoa, to ensure that no deterioration is brought about by weather or insect infestation. Certain standards of construction and hygiene are stipulated for sheds used for storing inspected cocoa or copra.

Produce inspectors are well versed in production methods of the products they inspect. They are therefore able to offer advice particularly to indigenous producers, aimed at rectifying faults noted in the finished product.

The training of new inspectors is continuous. Local officers are being trained by experienced inspectors, and this should ensure that the service they provide will continue to maintain an acceptable standard of quality of this country's important agricultural exports.

Now Your Dog Can "Go Finish" With You

Following an announcement by the Commonwealth Minister for Health on 13th February, 1973, dog and cat owners will be permitted to export their animals from Papua New Guinea to Australia, provided they fulfil these conditions:—

1. The animal must have been in Papua New Guinea continuously during the six months preceeding export and must not, during that time, have been in premises used for quarantine.
2. Permission in writing must be obtained from the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) in Brisbane.
3. A health certificate for each animal must be signed by the Government Veterinary Officer at the port of export.
4. The animal must spend 9 months in quarantine in Brisbane.

Owners intending to export their pets to Australia should take the following steps:—

1. Write to the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) Department of Primary Industries, William Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, seeking his permission to import the dog or cat and a booking for the necessary nine months quarantine. He will need to know the species, breed, sex, age and number of animals to be sent, together with the proposed date of import and the flight number. The permit will be issued accordingly with a latitude of five

days' validity. Permits will not normally be issued for export on aircraft which will arrive in Australia at weekends or holiday periods.

2. On receipt of permission from Australia, collect a declaration form from the nearest office of the D.A.S.F. and fill in the first part. This declaration must be signed by the owner and handed to a Livestock or Veterinary Officer for his counter-signature.
3. Make an appointment with the Regional Veterinary Officer, D.A.S.F., Kila Kila, Port Moresby, for examination and treatment of the animal and the issue of a health certificate. This appointment must be made at least 14 days before the animal is to depart. Appointments will only be made when a firm booking on a specified flight is held. This examination will only be done at the Regional Veterinary Centre, Kila Kila, Port Moresby.
4. The animal must be delivered to the Regional Veterinary Centre, Kila Kila, Port Moresby together with a suitable cage. The Regional Veterinary Officer will examine the animal, and sign the necessary papers. The owner (or agent) will then deliver the animal to the Airport Quarantine Officer, who will place the animal on board the aircraft. A fee of \$5.00 per animal will be charged. Further information on suitable cages may be obtained from the airline companies.