



Paid QSP Grant Opportunity for Frozen Blueberries

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) currently has funding through USDA’s Quality Samples Program (QSP) to purchase samples of frozen blueberries to develop new U.S. blueberry products in Israel. Through USHBC’s in-market partner, USHBC intends to distribute the samples to leading food manufacturers of baked goods, dairy products, jams and more. USHBC will then follow up with the manufacturers to ensure the samples are being used, receive their feedback on the product and see if additional training is needed.

For the QSP project, USHBC is requesting the following frozen blueberry volumes. You may quote on the entire volume listed or a portion of the product.

Frozen Blueberry Product Solicitation	
Fruit Size	Volume (kg)
Small <9mm	6,500
Large >14 mm	32,500

USHBC will pay for the cost of samples and shipping expenses from the point of departure in the U.S. to the port of entry in Israel through the QSP grant program. USHBC will coordinate the shipment of samples to Israel with the supplier(s), including making arrangements for pickup with the international freight forwarder and assisting with documentation. USHBC anticipates the shipment of samples to Israel will occur the week of September 5.

Product Specifications and Import Requirements

USHBC has partnered with Ron Fisher, an Israeli frozen fruit importer and distributor, to coordinate the product shipment and distribution. Ron will help ensure that selected suppliers meet both the product phytosanitary and shipping documentation requirements. He has shared a list of the required frozen blueberry product specifications, included below. Before submitting a bid, please ensure your product complies.

Frozen Blueberry Product Specifications	
Product Description	IQF Blueberries (conventionally cultivated).
General Description	Properly ripened blueberry fruits (Duke or Bluecrop varieties preferred), destemmed and sorted optically/manually for all foreign material/colors/size/character.
Irradiations	No irradiations. Cultivated in non-radiological zone.
Insect Pests and Diseases	Free from insect pests, larvae, eggs, etc.
Brix (°Bx)	11-14

pH	3.0-3.5
Grade	Grade A
Packaging Material	Packed in 30lb corrugated IQF boxes with food-grade liners.
Labeling	Customer-provided labels can be used.
Storage	The IQF product is stored at/below -18°C (-0.5 F).
Shelf Life	Within two years from the date of production, with the storage temperature maintained at/below -18°C (-0.5 F).
Indicator Microbiology	
Enterobacteriaceae	< 5,000 cfu/g
Bacillus Cereus	< 1,000 cfu/g
Yeast and Mold	< 10,000 cfu/g
E. coli	< 10 cfu/g
E. coli O157	H7- Negative
Listeria monocytogenes	Negative
Salmonella	Negative
Pesticides	Please follow the CODEX requirements for frozen blueberries: https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/dbs/pestres/commodities-detail/en/?c_id=105

Ron has also provided an initial list of required documents for the shipment. As mentioned, he will help the selected shipper(s) through the export process to ensure all product documentation requirements are met.

- GMP certification (ISO 22,000, 9001+HACCP, BRC, IFS) by a third-party authorized body (A2LA, ANAB, IAS, UAF, or IOAS) Learn more at https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF_MEM_USA_all/112.
- Kosher certification.
- Frozen fruits statement confirming that the product complies with Israeli food safety requirements (example will be provided to the selected shipper(s)).
- Commercial invoice.
- Packing list.
- Bill of Lading.
- Invoice declaration (as a Certificate of Origin for customs exemption).
- Certificate of analysis for the load.

If you're interested in supplying samples, please send Shelby Sackett a quote at shelby.sackett@bryantchristie.com by COB **Friday, August 12**. Again, you may quote on all volumes listed or a portion of the product. Please contact Shelby or Ron at ron@aapple.co.il with any questions.

Thank you!