



Paid QSP Opportunity for Dried and Frozen Blueberry Product Samples

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

USHBC is soliciting bids for dried and frozen blueberry samples from suppliers qualified to export to the Philippines. USHBC has been awarded \$65,250 to purchase both product samples. In your solicitation, please include the following information:

- Product type (dried and/or frozen)
- Price
- Available volume
- If you have a company contract with an international freight forwarder, USHBC could utilize it to secure lower shipping rates.

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 the Philippines through the QSP grant program. USHBC will help coordinate the shipment of samples to the Philippines with the supplier(s), including helping arrange pickup with the international freight forwarder and assisting with documentation. USHBC anticipates the shipment of samples to the Philippines will occur in August.

Product Specifications and Import Requirements

USHBC has partnered with Reji Retugal-Onal, USHBC’s in-market representative, to coordinate the product shipment and distribution. Reji will help ensure the selected suppliers meet the product phytosanitary and shipping documentation requirements. Reji has shared a list of the dried and frozen blueberry product specifications required for shipment, which are included below. Before submitting a bid, please ensure that your product(s) complies with this list of requirements.

Dried Blueberry Product Specifications	
Product Description	Dried Blueberry
General Description	Dried blueberries are prepared from sound, properly ripened fruit, which has been infused, dried to the specific moisture range, sized, coated, and packaged.
Additives/Preservatives/ Artificial Flavors/Colors	Sugar, sunflower oil
Moisture	10-16%
Water Activity	<0.600
Packaging Material	

Net Weight	25lb (11.34 kg)
Gross Weight	26lb
Case Dimensions	14.75" x 9.75" x 7.5"
No. of cases per pallet	72 cases
Labeling	Product name, lot number, net weight, date of manufacture
Storage	
Storage Temperature	12-20°C
Relative Humidity	<50%
Shelf Life	12 months
Indicator Microbiology	
Aerobic Plate Count	< 5000 cfu/g
Yeast	< 500 cfu/g
Mold	< 500 cfu/g
Total coliforms	< 100 cfu/g
E. coli	< 10 cfu/g
Salmonella, in 2x375g	Negative
Pesticides	Maximum pesticide residue levels to meet the U.S. FDA and the Philippines guidelines

Frozen Blueberry Product Specifications	
Product Description	Frozen Blueberries 30# IQF ½" Over Blues Grade A
General Description	Individually quick-frozen blueberries prepared from freshly harvested fruit
Specifications	No additives, preservatives, GMOs, or animal products used
Irradiations	No irradiations. Cultivated in a non-radiological zone
Insect Pests and Diseases	Free from insect pests, larvae, eggs, etc.
Color	Rich, dark blue; not more than 5% by count
Packaging Material	Gross weight: 32 pounds Net weight: 30 pounds Case description: 30# blueberry logo cases Liner description: 1.5 mil liner 20# & 30#
Labeling	Customer-provided labels could be used.
Storage	Frozen blueberry product is stored at/below -17°C (0° F)
Shelf Life	24 months
Indicator Microbiology	
APC	< 100,000 cfu/g
Coliform	< 10 cfu/g
Listeria	Negative
E. coli	< 10 cfu/g
Salmonella	Negative
Pesticides	Maximum pesticide residue levels to meet the U.S. FDA and the Philippines guidelines

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

- Food Safety System Certification – FSSC 22000
- Halal Certified
- Kosher Certified
- Non-GMO
- Certificate of free sale
- USDA Certificate of Quality and Condition
- Contract
- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Bill of lading
- Certificate of origin
- Certificate of analysis for the load
- Process flow diagram
- Registration number of overseas manufacturers of imported food

If you are interested in supplying samples, please send Shelby Sackett a quote at shelby.sackett@bryantchristie.com by COB Friday, June 30. You may quote one or both of the requested products.

Please feel free to reach out to Shelby Sackett with any questions.

Thank you!