



CHARLES H. BRONSON  
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Division of Fruit & Vegetables

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August 4, 2008

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**Re: Information on How To Apply For A Permit to Pack/Repack Fresh Tomatoes**

Enclosed is an application for a permit to pack or repack fresh tomatoes as required by Florida Rule 5G-6.007. Florida Statutes § 500.3(1)(n) designate tomato packing houses as food establishments and as such requires them to be permitted and inspected by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department).

Florida Rules 5G-6.005 and 5G-6.009 require Tomato packing houses to comply with the Tomato Good Agricultural Practices (T-GAP) and Tomato Best Management Practices (T-BMP) as defined in the *Tomato Best Practice Manual* as well as the provisions of the *Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Fresh Tomato Supply Chain*. Tomato packing houses must provide all records required by these documents to the Department upon request for inspection. The Department will inspect packing houses at least once a year as provided in Florida Rule 5G-6.005. Failure to comply with the provisions of the T-GAP or T-BMP may result in fines up to \$5,000.00, suspension or revocation of permit, or a combination thereof as provided by Florida Statutes § 500.121.

A permit will be issued upon the submission of a completed and approved application and a \$100.00 processing fee as provided for in Florida Rule 5G-6.007. Please remit the application and processing fee to:

**The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Fruit and Vegetables  
Attn: License and Bond  
P.O. Box 1192  
Winter Haven, FL 33882-1192**

The *Tomato Best Management Practices Manual* and *Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Fresh Tomato Supply Chain* can be obtained at <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/fruits/Links.html>. Scroll down to the section labeled Tomatoes.