

Food Alliance Guiding Principals – Items listed with each are improvements required before first certification.

I. Purity and Nutritional Value

- a. Truitt Bros. had to change our practices to ensure we are not chlorinating water anywhere that isn't essential to the operation and then document it during processing.
- b. The sodium silicate solution that we use to float the pears out of the totes at the beginning of the operation was a concern and was initially not allowed and would have disqualified our pears for certification. After mutual research it was agreed that we had no other workable alternative and we were allowed to use it for certified product. This was a good example of how being a sustainable producer means continual scrutiny of practices and making chemical usage decisions based on all factors.
- c. Corn Syrup is not an allowed ingredient in FA certified product because the source corn used in its manufacture contains GMO corn. We pack our FA pears in Pear Juice Concentrate.

II. Quality Control and Food Safety

- a. Need to develop a complete summary of customer complaints.

III. Reducing Use of Toxins/Hazardous Materials

- a. Clear written protocols for all sanitation procedures have been developed, showing chemicals to be used and dosages. When toxic or biocidal materials are used, there is justification for their use.
- b. All sanitation events impinging on FA goods are documented.
- c. TBI uses Sprague Pest Control. Although the FA was satisfied with their program, they felt we should be more involved in their activities.

IV. Resource Management and Recycling

- a. Although water is tested by the city, we have started testing for metal contamination in our water at the site of usage to be certain that no contamination is occurring at our plant.

V. Safe and Fair Working Conditions

- a. Passed all baseline requirements.

VI. Continual Improvement

We have an improvement goal for each of the five areas above. The most significant of these is the development of formalized recycling and energy use tracking. Although minimizing energy use and recycling were practical concepts already in place, a formalized program can help us further identify and quantify improvements.