Extended Green Coffee Marks And Barcode Labeling Facilitate Traceability

San Cristobal Coffee Importers
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Introduction

No Standards Currently Exist For:

• Labeling bags of green coffee to provide:
  – Origin Community
  – Process used to produce the coffee
  – Physical description of the coffee

• Adding bar codes to bags of green coffee
  – For security in traceability
  – To facilitate automation

We Are Using A Simple System That Could Provoke A New Standard
High Value Coffee Should Be Identifiable

• Specialty Coffee Is Often Sold Outside Of The Commodities Market And Shipped In Bags With No Standardized Information Regarding Coffee Origin, Type, Or Quality
  – Most shippers label bags with no more than the “marks” required by the International Coffee Organization (ICO)
  – The ICO marks have no information about the detailed origin, type, or quality of the coffee in the bag
• We Have Developed An Extended Marking System For Improved Identification Of Green Coffee

We Are Using A Low-Tech Solution That Anyone Could Use Anywhere In The World…..NOW!
Standard ICO “Marks” Are Required By Law

Every Bag Of Green Coffee Is Required To Be Labeled Using Standards Set By The ICO

Origin Country | Exporter ID | Lot Number

016 - 25880 - 0001

Standard ICO Marks
Extended ICO Marks Can Add Much Information

Standard ICO Marks

016 - 25880 - 0001

Extended Marks

OOOOO - PPP - DDD

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**Origin Community**
Community or Municipality where the coffee was produced

**Process ID**
Type of Coffee (washed, natural, etc.) and Blend ID

**Description**
Screen Size, Bean shape (flat-side or peaberry) and SCAA grade by aspect

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Three groups of numbers

Three groups of alphanumerics
Field Definitions For Extended ICO Marks

1. Origin Community:
   - Uniquely identifies the community or municipality where the coffee was grown. In the event that the coffee is blended across communities, this group contains “XX” and traceability is maintained through “Blend ID” in the next number group.

1. Process ID:
   - Identifies the coffee as Washed, Semi-washed (de-pulped natural), or Natural, and gives the Blend ID, a code that uniquely identifies the wet mill and patio lot of all the coffees in the blend.

1. Description:
   - Physical description of the coffee. Three fields are used to show screen size, bean shape, and SCAA grade by aspect, respectively.
Augmenting Traceability: An Example

How We Use Extended Marks To Better Inform Customers:

**016-2588-001-CK-NAJ-7P3**

We add 8 alphanumeric characters in three groups to the traditional ICO marks to provide detailed information about the coffee in each bag. The information is grouped as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
<th>Group 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CK</strong></td>
<td><strong>NAJ</strong></td>
<td><strong>7P2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Group 1**
  - Two Fields for Origin ID (Community or Municipality)

- **Group 2**
  - Three Fields, one for type of coffee and two for blend ID

- **Group 3**
  - Three Fields, one each for screen size, bean shape, and SCAA grade by appearance
### ICO Extended Field Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Code Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>The Community or Municipality were the coffee was grown or produced</td>
<td>A = Cuarenteño</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B = Palapita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AN = Mecatan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XX = Blend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Type of Coffee</td>
<td>L = Lavado (traditionally washed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M = Lavado (mechanically washed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D = Depulped natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N = Natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend ID</td>
<td>ID of Wet-mill / patio-lots used</td>
<td>AA, AB, AC, …. ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Screen size</td>
<td>7 = screen 17, round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 = screen 15, round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 = screen 11, slotted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S = Sin seleccionar (unselected)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td>Shape of the bean</td>
<td>P = Planchuela (normal flat sided)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C = Caracol (peaberry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S = Sin seleccionar (unselected)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Formal classification to SCAA standards, full defects in a 350 gm sample</td>
<td>1 = max 5 full defects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 = max 10 full defects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 = max 22 full defects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using Extended Marks And Bar Codes Together

• Our Tracking System And Bar Code Labels Allow Us To Track Coffee From Each Grower To Each Roaster Customer
• We Developed This Unique Technology With Our Warehouse Partner, Pacific Distribution, Inc.

The labels uniquely identify each bag and its contents
The labels are sewn into the bags as they are sealed at the dry mill.

• Our Customers Have Access To The Information Data Base Through Our Website And www.trackyourcoffee.com
Labeling For Full Traceability

Name of Growing Region or Denominación de Origen

ICO “Marks” denoting origin country, exporter, and lot number

Human Readable Bar Code

ICO Extension denoting coffee origin, type, mix, bean size, bean form and SCAA grade by appearance

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Terruño Nayarita™

016-1976-001-F-MAJ-SS1

The bar code number references database information on shipping and milling dates, patio lot numbers, growers, cultivar, quality and cup characteristics.
Summary

- Transparency In The Chain Of Custody:
  - Quick, easy identification of green coffee is a key component of the traceability needed for Food Security and Certification. Farm, wet mill, dry mill, exporter, importer, warehouse, roaster

- Extended Marks And Human Readable Labels Minimize Reliance On Advanced Technology And Can Be Used Immediately

- Simple Systems Are Of Increased Importance As We Develop:
  - Markets For High Value Certified Coffees
  - New Technology For Advanced Tracking

- We Propose The SCAA Technical Standards Committee Establish Labeling Standards To Better Label Green Coffee And Present Them To The ICO