



Extended Green Coffee Marks And Barcode Labeling Facilitate Traceability

San Cristobal Coffee Importers

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Cafés Sustentables de México, S.A. de C.V.

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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

**Three groups
of numbers**

**Extended
Marks**

OOOO - PPP - DDD

**Three groups of
alphanumerics**

Origin Community

Process ID

Description

Community or
Municipality where
the coffee was
produced

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

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

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:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
CK	NAJ	7P2
Two Fields for Origin ID (Community or Municipality)	Three Fields, one for type of coffee and two for blend ID	Three Fields, one each for screen size, bean shape, and SCAA grade by appearance

ICO Extended Field Parameters



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



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.

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**Organic
Reserva**

Terruño Nayarita™

Malinal

016-1976-001-F-MAJ-SS1



★ S C M 3 6 0 1 0 3 4 ★

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

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Kirkland, WA 98034 Tel: 425-825-9106
 www.sancristocafe.com **Organic Reserva Malinal**

Terruño Nayarita™
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ICO "Marks" denoting origin country, exporter, and lot number



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

Human Readable Bar Code

Company ID Sub-Lot Container number Bag number

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