

# 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  
Be The Basis For A New Standard

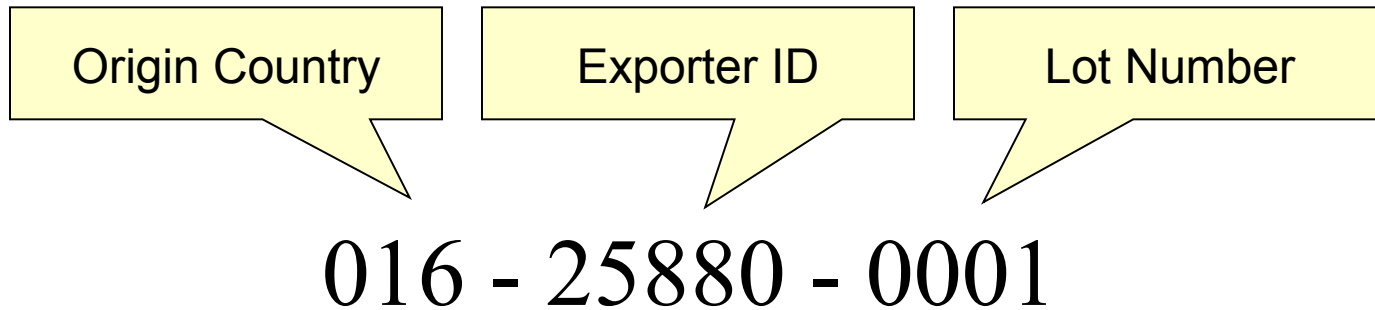
# High Value Coffee Should Be Identifiable

- Specialty Coffee Is Often Sold Outside Of The Commodities Market And Shipped In Bags With No Standardized Information Regarding Coffee Type, Quality, Or Origin
  - 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 type, quality or detailed origin of the coffee in the bag
- We Have Developed An Extended Marking System For Improved Labeling Of Green Coffee

We Have 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



**Standard ICO Marks**

# Extended ICO Marks Can Add Much Information

**Standard  
ICO Marks**

016 - 25880 - 0001

**Extended  
Marks**

0000 - PPP - DDD

Origin Community

Community,  
Cooperative, or Wet  
Mill where the coffee  
was produced

Process ID

Type of Coffee  
(washed, natural)  
and Blend ID

Description

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, cooperative, or wet mill that is the source of the coffee. In the event that the coffee is blended across communities, this group contains “X” and Traceability is maintained through “Blend ID” in the next number group.

## 2. 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 source and amounts of all the coffees in the blend

## – 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-C-NAJ-7P3

We add 7 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
<b>C</b>	<b>N A J</b>	<b>7 P 3</b>
One Field for Origin ID (Community or Wet Mill)	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
Wet Mill or Community	Cooperative, Producer, or Municipality where the coffee was grown or produced:	A = Cuarenteño B = Palapita C = Venustiano Carranza X = Blend
Type	Type of Coffee	L = Lavado (traditionally washed) M = Lavado (mechanically washed) D = Depulped natural N = Natural
Mix	ID of patio lots used	AA, AB, AC, .... ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ
Size	Screen size	7 = screen 17, round 5 = screen 15, round 1 = screen 11, slot 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, defects in a 350 gm sample	1 = 0 < defects < 6 2 = 6 < defects < 12 3 = 12 < defects < 23



# Labeling For Full Traceability

Name of  
Growing  
Region or  
Denominación  
de Origen

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**Organic**

**Reserva**

**Malinal**

**Terruño Nayarita™**

**016-1976-001-F-MAJ-SS1**

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 traceability

Farm, wet mill, dry mill, exporter, importer, warehouse, roaster



- Extended Marks And Human Readable Labels Minimize Reliance On Advanced Technology
- These Systems Are Of Increased Importance As We Develop Markets For High Value Certified Coffees
- We Propose That The SCAA Technical Standards Committee Establish Labeling Standards To Better Identify Green Coffee