

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Germany Announces Follow-Up Rule for Seasonal Workers

**Country:** Germany

**Post:** Berlin

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Fresh Fruit, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Stone Fruit, Strawberries, Vegetables, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements

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**Report Highlights:**

COVID19 impact/mitigation update: On June 10, 2020, Germany announced follow-up rules that will allow for easier entry of seasonal agricultural workers into Germany. The new rules will come into effect on June 16, the day after the current rules expire.

On April 2, 2020, Germany had announced the re-opening of its borders for seasonal agricultural workers under strict conditions and in a limited fashion (for details see our report [Germany Partially Re-opens Borders for Seasonal Agricultural Workers](#).) According to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 38,967 seasonal agricultural workers entered Germany under these rules in the period until June 3, 2020.

As of June 16, seasonal agricultural workers may again enter Germany via road and rail (previously only by air). In addition, and in response to experience with the current agreement and eased general quarantine regulations, rules for physical distancing and information sharing with local health authorities are further specified. These new rules will expire on December 31, 2020, but may be withdrawn or revised depending on the future development of the pandemic.

### **Key points of the follow-up rules include:**

#### **I. Facilitated arrival and departure:**

Due to the abolition of entry restrictions, seasonal workers from EU and associated Schengen states may enter by air, road, and rail. For third-country nationals, the respective entry regulations apply.

#### **II. Strict infection protection measures on the farm:**

Small, permanent teams must be formed: The general principle is: "Live together - work together." The division into fixed teams from the outset helps to minimize the risk of infection.

When forming the teams, the separation of workers who live on premise from those who live off premise is encouraged to reduce the risk of infection.

Employers ensure that employees have as little contact with each other as possible and that the necessary distances can be maintained.

Safety distances of at least 1.5 meters should also be maintained for all work-related contacts whenever possible. In any case, these distances must be maintained between the various teams on site.

If areas in the accommodation are shared by several teams, e.g. sanitary rooms and kitchens, organizational measures shall ensure that the individual groups of employees should not come into contact with each other.

In the event of illness, the entire team must be isolated immediately. Sick employees must be accommodated separately from the others. The illness must be reported to the local health authority, and the employer must provide all relevant information.

### **III. Notification, on site control, and easier traceability in case of infection:**

The employer notifies the local health and safety authority before seasonal workers start working.

The local authorities are responsible for monitoring.

Traceability is facilitated by requiring companies to record the address data and the return or onward journey of the seasonal worker, as well as the team and residential occupancy. In case of infection, the employer then submits this list to the local health authority. The data must be destroyed four weeks after departure.

### **IV. Other employer duties**

Employers are recommended to send the following documents in a language that is understandable to the seasonal worker prior to entering the Federal Republic of Germany:

- the contract of employment and a contract covering the ancillary costs (transport, accommodation, meals) to be borne by the worker for signature,
- information on living and working conditions, including hygiene rules, before entry,
- information about relevant advisory services for seasonal workers (Fair Mobility; European Association for Migrant Workers), and
- enclose with their pay slips proof that seasonal workers are covered by sickness insurance (statutory or private) which provides sickness insurance cover for all medically necessary benefits.

**Related Reports:** The following related report can be accessed through the FAS GAIN report database at <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

- German COVID-19 Related Aid Measures for the Farm and Food Sector – April 14, 2020
- Germany Partially Re-opens Borders for Seasonal Agricultural Workers – April 3, 2020
- Germany Closes Borders to Seasonal Ag Workers – March 26, 2020
- German Farmers Fear Lack of Seasonal Workers – March 18, 2020

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.