# US suspends avocado and mango inspections in Mexico following assault on USDA inspectors



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has suspended avocado and mango inspections in Michoacan, Mexico, following an assault on two USDA inspectors. The incident, which took place in the Mexican state during avocado inspections, led to the inspectors being temporarily held but later released.

U.S. officials stated that the pause in inspections is due to security concerns, confirmed by U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Ken Salazar. The inspectors are part of the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), responsible for ensuring that exported avocados do not carry diseases harmful to U.S. agriculture.

Michoacan, the largest avocado-exporting state in Mexico, has experienced ongoing security issues, with local farmers often reportedly threatened by drug gangs. Despite the suspension, avocado shipments from Jalisco, another state authorized to export to the U.S., will continue unaffected. Michoacan Governor Alfredo Ramírez Bedolla is in discussions with U.S. counterparts to resolve the situation quickly.

This is not the first suspension; in February 2022, inspections halted for a week after a U.S. inspector received a threatening message. Ambassador Salazar plans to visit Michoacan next week to discuss security and resumption of inspections.