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PRESS INFORMATION

Dole Europe Import Is Granted AEO Status

November, 24th 2009 – Within Dole Europe, Dole Europe Import is the division in charge of banana and pineapple imports of Latin American origins, into Europe. Right after Dole France in March, and following a careful audit conducted by customs authorities early 2009, Dole Europe Import obtained the AEO certificate last July. Dole is the first importing company to get this status in the European fruit industry.

Obtaining the AEO (Authorised Economic Operator) status validates that Dole works according to EU criteria: an appropriate record of compliance with customs requirements; a satisfactory system of managing commercial and transport records, which allows appropriate customs controls; proven financial solvency; appropriate security and safety standards.

Based in Antwerp, Dole Europe Import now gets access to facilitations for customs controls and simplifications for customs rules (AEOC) along with facilitations concerning security and safety controls into the customs territory of the Community (AEOS).

The company will go on working together with customs authorities, on various innovative future projects, in order to satisfy its customers' requests and needs ever more.

The certificate is valid for all Dole European imports of Latin bananas and pineapples for all European countries. It meets the need of customers for whom AEO status is the insurance that the business process prior to the delivery is meeting the highest defined standards in the world.

About Dole Europe: *Dole Europe is one of the largest marketers of fresh produce on the continent, where it has been operating since 1992. It imports a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables from both Dole Food Company's own farms and independent growers situated all over the world. Dole Europe also provides retailers with innovative solutions in terms of services and products. The company focuses on four core values: competence, responsibility, integrity and enthusiasm. Its network stretches from Scandinavia to South Africa, from Portugal to Russia, and includes 1,000 employees, working in 40 locations. More information at www.dole.eu.*

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