

2025 Deputy Administrator's Safe Trade Award: *Israel Preclearance Bulb Inspection Team*

A team of 22 people faced a unique challenge. Due to security restrictions, APHIS inspectors couldn't travel to Israel for preclearance inspections. But instead of halting trade, this team innovated. They built a remote monitoring model—live video inspections from Israel, supplemental photo reviews, and physical inspections at ports in New Jersey and the Netherlands. Between August and September, they inspected nearly 400,000 dry bulbs—and only 500 were rejected for soil contamination. Trade continued with minimal delay, and safeguarding standards never wavered. This was safe trade under extraordinary circumstances. Congratulations to the Israel Preclearance Bulb Inspection Team—they proved that when we innovate and collaborate, we keep trade moving safely.

Team Members

Mathias Knelange	Nico Verkade	Lisa Jackson
Heather Moylett	Veronica Zabala	Lianmarie Colon Torres
Cristi Palmer	Andrew Gritzmaker	Tiffany Mauro
Stephen Miller	Tesfmariam Mengistu	Manish Poudel
Louis Volpe	Shannon Jarman	Jacob McDowell
Jon Daniels	Jonathan DA'rpa	Peter Milicia
Casey McArdle	Hannah Adickman	Mary Margarget Mumich
Saudia Cunningham	Shobhana Limbachia	