

DA# DA-2006-01

FOR INFORMATION/ACTION
January 24, 2006

SUBJECT: Increase in Treatment Duration for *Brevipalpus Chilensis*
on Grapes from Chile

TO: STATE PLANT HEALTH REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Recently, high populations of the Chilean false red mite, *Brevipalpus chilensis*, were noted in grapes from Chile. Live mites were detected during inspection of shipments after the standard two-hour treatment. Attempts to increase the treatment duration to 2½ hours, the standard prior to 1978, resulted in the finding of few live mites and many dead mites following the treatment.

Effective immediately, treatment durations for grapes from Chile will be increased from 2 hours to 3 hours at U.S. ports of entry. All other treatment requirements will remain the same. Following port of entry fumigations, the grapes will be held for 24 hours to ensure there is complete mortality in the quarantine mites. The sampling rate will be 30 boxes per shipment at a rate of 1 bunch per box.

Emergency Action Notifications will be prepared to inform importers about the new treatment. We are presently unaware of any potential damage that may be caused by the increased duration of treatment. Re-export will be offered as an option should shippers decline this treatment.

This action is intended to be a temporary measure. We anticipate further adjustments as more information is made available. We are taking all possible precautions to prevent pest introduction into the United States while allowing continuation of agricultural trade.

/s/ Richard L. Dunkle

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine