

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2015-42
July 31, 2015

Subject: APHIS Amends Import Requirements for Medfly Host Commodities from Chile

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is implementing restrictions on all commercial consignments of Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata* or Medfly) host commodities imported into the United States from Chile.

To mitigate the risk and prevent the introduction of Medfly into the United States, APHIS is requiring all Medfly host commodities from quarantined areas to be treated for Medfly. Medfly host commodities from quarantined areas for which there is no approved APHIS treatment are prohibited entry into the United States. Medfly host material originating from areas in Chile not under quarantine for Medfly must have a phytosanitary certificate issued by Chile's national plant protection organization, with an additional declaration that the consignment was produced in a pest-free area for Medfly.

APHIS is taking this action in response to multiple detections of Medfly in areas within Tarapaca (Region I), Coquimbo (Region IV), and Valparaiso (Region V) in Chile. This action primarily affects the export of clementines, grapes, lemons, mandarins, pomegranates, and tangerines from the quarantine areas. Under this Federal Order, these commodities must be treated for Medfly prior to export by using treatment schedule T107-a, under the existing pre-clearance program in Chile.

Before the detection of Medfly in Regions I, IV, and V of Chile, the above-mentioned commodities were commercially enterable into the United States with inspection at the first port of entry and either methyl bromide fumigation treatment or under a systems approach to mitigate for Chilean false red mites (*Brevipalpus chilensis*). Due to the pest risk, APHIS has determined that additional entry requirements are immediately necessary to prevent the entry of Medfly into the United States on all Medfly host commodities. Restricted commodities brought in by travelers and in non-commercial pathways will be prohibited.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Walter Gould at 301-851-2187, or e-mail him at Walter.P.Gould@aphis.usda.gov.

/s/

Osama El Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER
Import Restrictions on Mediterranean Fruit Fly Host
Material from Quarantine Areas in Chile

DA-2015-42

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry or introduction of the harmful plant pest Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata* or Medfly) from Chile into the United States. The APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of Medfly poses a serious threat to United States agriculture.

APHIS has decided to amend the import requirements for all commercial consignments of Medfly host commodities imported from Chile because of the detections of Medfly in the:

- Townships of Iquique and Alto Hospicio in Tarapaca (Region 1);
- Townships of La Serena and Coquimbo in the Coquimbo Region (Region IV);
and
- Townships of San Esteban, Los Andes, Calle Larga, Santa Maria, and San Felipe in Valparaiso (Region V).

This Federal Order is effective immediately.

Commercial consignments of Medfly host commodities (Table 1) from Medfly quarantined areas in Chile require mandatory treatment, in accordance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 305. Treatment application can be done in Chile under an APHIS preclearance program, in transit, or at U.S. ports of entry that have an APHIS approved cold-treatment facility. Port of entry requirements for cold-treated fruits remain restricted to approved ports, that is, at ports located north of 39° latitude and east of 104° longitude and ports that have approved cold-treatment facilities. Medfly host commodities from quarantined areas for which there is no APHIS-approved treatment (Table 2) are prohibited entry into the United States.

Medfly host commodities originating from areas in Chile *not* under quarantine for Medfly must have a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Chilean National Plant Protection Organization, with an additional declaration that the consignment was produced in a pest-free area for *Ceratitis capitata*.

For more information on the quarantine boundaries, please refer to the Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service (known as SAG by its Spanish acronym) website:

<http://www.sag.gob.cl/ambitos-de-accion/mosca-de-la-fruta>

Table 1: The following fruits from Medfly quarantined areas in Chile are prohibited unless treated in accordance with 7 CFR part 305 for Medfly.

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|----------------------|---|
| Apple | <i>Malus domestica</i> |
| Apricot | <i>Prunus armenaica</i> |
| Avocado | <i>Persea americana</i> |
| Blueberry | <i>Vaccinium ashei, Vaccinium angustifolium, Vaccinium corymbosum, Vaccinium virgatum</i> |
| Cape gooseberry | <i>Physalis peruviana</i> |
| Cherry | <i>Prunus avium</i> |
| Grape | <i>Vitis vinifera</i> |
| Grapefruit | <i>Citrus paradisi</i> |
| Kiwi | <i>Actinidia deliciosa, A. chinensis</i> |
| Kumquat | <i>Fortunella japonica</i> |
| Lemon | <i>Citrus limon</i> |
| Loquat | <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> |
| Mango | <i>Mangifera indica</i> |
| Nectarine | <i>Prunus persica nuspersica</i> |
| Opuntia | <i>Opuntia spp.</i> |
| Orange | <i>Citrus sinensis</i> |
| Papaya | <i>Carica papaya</i> |
| Peach | <i>Prunus persica var. persica</i> |
| Pear | <i>Pyrus communis</i> |
| Pepper (bell) | <i>Capsicum annuum</i> |
| Persimmon | <i>Diospyros kaki</i> |
| Plum | <i>Prunus domestica subspecies domestica</i> |
| Plumcot | <i>Prunus hybrid</i> |
| Pomegranate | <i>Punica granatum</i> |
| Tangerine/Clementine | <i>Citrus reticulata cv</i> |
| Mandarin | |
| Tomato* | <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> |

* Hass variety avocados and green tomatoes do not require treatment for Medfly as they are not considered hosts at the time of harvest.

Table 2: The following fruits from Medfly quarantined areas in Chile are prohibited, due to the lack of an APHIS-approved treatment for Medfly.

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|--------------------|--|
| Cherimoya | <i>Annona cherimola</i> |
| Feijoa | <i>Acca sellowiana</i> |
| Fig | <i>Ficus carica</i> |
| Passion fruit | <i>Passiflora spp.</i> <i>Pouteria spp.</i> |

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act and found in the *Code of Federal Regulations* at 7 CFR 301.53.

Between February and April, 2015, the Chilean government notified APHIS of Medfly outbreaks in areas within Regions I, IV, and V. Chile provided APHIS with its eradication plan: Exempted Resolution No. 801/2015 “Establishment of Quarantine Regulations to Control and Eradicate the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata* W.) at indicated locations.” APHIS determined that import restrictions were unnecessary at that time, based on Chile’s delineation of the infestation, eradication efforts, history of effective eradication of Medfly, and because the detection did not occur in a fruit production area. On April 27, 2015, after additional Medfly captures, Chile expanded the quarantine area in Valparaiso to include areas that produce commercial fruit for export. The Chilean national plant protection organization notified APHIS by letter dated April 29, 2015, that effective immediately a quarantine treatment for Medfly would be applied proactively for all Medfly host material produced and exported from the quarantine areas. The following commodities are being treated for Medfly using treatment schedule T107-a under the existing pre-clearance program in Chile as a condition of import: clementines, grapes, lemons, mandarins, pomegranates, and tangerines.

Medfly is not known to occur in the United States, except in Hawaii. Detections of Medfly in California, Florida, and Puerto Rico have been successfully eradicated. Medfly is a widespread tropical fruit-fly species, ranging from Southern Mexico to Argentina, throughout the Mediterranean, Western Australia, and Africa. APHIS estimates that the species would be able to establish populations in southern regions of the United States (Plant Hardiness Zones 9-11). This fruit fly has been recorded infesting more than 300 plant species in more than 60 families.

This action is necessary because the APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of Medfly poses a serious threat to agriculture, including

certain fruits or vegetables grown in the United States. These restrictions to prevent the introduction and establishment of Medfly are immediately needed and warranted to address plant pest risks associated with currently admissible Medfly host commodities.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Walter Gould at 301-851-2187, or e-mail him at Walter.P.Gould@aphis.usda.gov.