

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2016-64
October 13, 2016

Subject: APHIS Rescinds the Federal Order Prohibiting Certain Citrus Fruits from Morocco due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*)

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

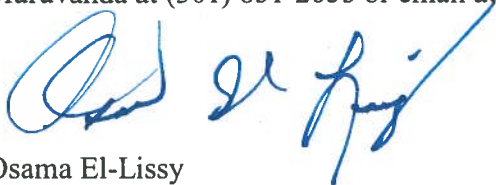
Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is lifting the Federal Order issued on January 29, 2016 prohibiting the importation of all tangerines, clementines, mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*), and sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States. This action was taken in response to the presence of live Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) larvae on cold-treated clementines from Morocco.

On January 13, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors at the port of entry in Philadelphia detected live medfly larvae on commercial consignments of cold-treated clementines (*Citrus reticulata*) from Morocco.

On January 29, 2016, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2016-10 prohibiting the importation of tangerine, clementine, mandarin (*Citrus reticulata*), and sweet orange fruit (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States.

APHIS and the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Morocco have worked diligently to investigate the probable issues that resulted in this interception. Both agencies established and agreed on several measures to mitigate pest risk and prevent future interceptions. A detailed work plan was developed specifying operational details and was signed by APHIS and the NPPO of Morocco in June, 2016. The work plan includes a requirement for all citrus consignments to be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate with an additional declaration that the consignment was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the citrus operational work plan agreement between APHIS and the NPPO. In September, 2016, APHIS conducted a site visit of production areas in Morocco, confirmed that the requirements listed in the operational work plan were being met, and answered questions about the plan. APHIS determined that the new measures specified in the bilateral operational work plan and the required cold treatment effectively mitigate pest risk and the Federal Order can safely be removed.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Devaiah Muruvanda at (301) 851-2055 or email at Devaiah.A.Muruvanda@aphis.usda.gov



Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Lifting of the Federal Order Suspending Imports of Certain Citrus Fruit (*Citrus reticulata* and *Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*)

DA-2016-64
October 13, 2016

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is lifting the Federal Order suspending the importation of all tangerine, clementine, mandarin (*Citrus reticulata*) and sweet orange fruit (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States.

On January 13, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors at the port of entry in Philadelphia detected live Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) larvae on commercial consignments of cold-treated clementines (*Citrus reticulata*) from Morocco. On January 29, 2016, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2016-10 prohibiting the importation of all tangerines, clementines, mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*) and sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States. APHIS issued the Federal Order in response to the presence of the live medfly larvae to prevent the entry or introduction of medfly, a harmful plant pest, from Morocco into the United States.

APHIS issued the Federal Order pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a) and the regulations found in the *Code of Federal Regulations* at 7 CFR 319.56. 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 the plant pest within the United States.

Medfly is not known to be established in the continental United States. It is a widespread tropical and subtropical species and its distribution includes southern Mexico south to Argentina, the Mediterranean, Africa, and western Australia. It is estimated that medflies could establish populations in southern regions of the United States. The APHIS Administrator determined that the introduction and establishment of medfly posed a serious threat to U.S. agriculture, including certain fruits and vegetables grown in the United States, and that this serious plant pest be addressed immediately.

APHIS and the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Morocco investigated the probable issues that resulted in this interception and identified steps to mitigate pest risk and prevent future interceptions. APHIS drafted a detailed work plan and specified operational details. APHIS and the NPPO signed the operational work plan in June, 2016. The work plan includes a requirement for all citrus consignments to be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate with an additional declaration that the consignment was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the citrus operational work plan agreement between APHIS and the NPPO. In September, 2016, APHIS conducted a comprehensive site visit of the production

areas in Morocco, confirmed that the details listed in the operational work plan were being met, and answered questions about the plan.

APHIS determined that the required cold treatment and new measures specified in the operational work plan effectively mitigate pest risk and the Federal Order can safely be removed. The Federal Order suspending the importation of tangerines, clementines, mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*) and sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States is rescinded effective October 13, 2016.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Devaiah Muruvanda at (301) 851-2055 or email at Devaiah.A.Muruvanda@aphis.usda.gov