Subject: APHIS Adds New Commodity to the Exempted Host List for Light Brown Apple
                Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*)

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding
conventionally and organically grown avocado (*Persea americana*) to the light brown apple
moth (LBAM) exempted host list.

The commodities on the exempted host list, when commercially produced, are exempt from the
LBAM interstate movement provisions. APHIS' analysis of industry practices for commercially
produced avocadoes indicated that they present a low risk for the spread of LBAM. Analysis of
production practices determined avocadoes present a low risk of dispersing viable populations of
the pest. According to the California avocado industry, standard practices include thorough
inspection and hand packing of each harvested fruit, with damaged fruit culled. The commercial
processing would result in the detection and removal of any leaves attached to the fruit, any
larvae or pupae hidden underneath the leaves, and any larvae or pupae present without leaves.
Therefore, it is extremely unlikely that any LBAM larvae present on the fruit would remain
through harvest, inspection, and packing.

APHIS maintains its survey and regulatory framework, including enforcement of phytosanitary
measures, to prevent the artificial spread of LBAM to other states or trading partners.

For future additions to the LBAM exempted host list, APHIS will update its website (listed
below) with the date and description of the new commodity and will notify state regulatory
authorities of the change. The Exempted Host List is available on the LBAM website at:

        http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/lba_moth/index.shtml

For further information about the LBAM program, you may call Acting Director of Pest
Management Paul Chaloux at (301) 851-2064.

/s/

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine