

Restrictions on Certain Products Imported From Countries Where Khapra Beetle Is Known To Occur

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has established restrictions on the importation of commercial and noncommercial shipments of rice, soybeans, *Cicer* species (e.g., chickpeas), and safflower seeds from countries where Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) is known to occur. These restrictions apply to all countries where Khapra beetle is known to occur, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

In the past year, an increasing number of agricultural commodity shipments from these countries have been found to be infested with Khapra beetle at U.S. ports of entry. In order to protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources from the introduction and spread of Khapra beetle, APHIS has restricted or prohibited the importation of rice, soybeans, "Cicer" species, and safflower seeds from countries where the beetle is known to occur.

The Khapra beetle is a small, brown beetle between 2 and 3 millimeters long. It will feed on grains, cereal products, and almost any dried plant or animal matter. The introduction and establishment of this beetle into the United States poses a serious threat to stored agricultural products, including spices, grains, and packaged foods.

Previous detections of Khapra beetle have resulted in massive, long-term control and eradication efforts at great cost to the American taxpayer. Established infestations are difficult to control because the beetle can survive without food for long periods of time, requires little moisture, hides in tiny cracks and crevices, and is relatively resistant to many insecticides and fumigants. These factors, combined with its small size, make the Khapra beetle one of the world's most destructive pests.

Restrictions on the Importation of Noncommercial Quantities

Noncommercial quantities of rice, soybeans, "Cicer" species, and safflower seeds from countries where Khapra beetle is known to occur are prohibited from entering the United States. Noncommercial quantities are defined as amounts for personal use and not for resale, including those transported in international passenger baggage, by mail, or by courier.

The Khapra beetle's size and other characteristics make it very difficult for members of the general public to identify. Returning travelers must declare all agricultural items on their Customs Declaration Form or verbally to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer or agriculture specialist at the first U.S. port of entry. Failure to declare agricultural items can result in up to \$10,000 in fines and penalties.

Restrictions on the Importation of Commercial Shipments

Commercial shipments of rice, soybeans, "Cicer" species, and safflower seeds originating from countries where Khapra beetle is known to occur must be inspected and accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating that the shipment has been inspected and found free of Khapra beetle. A phytosanitary certificate or phytosanitary certificate of re-export with the same additional declaration is also required for commercial shipments originating from countries known to have Khapra beetle that make entry into another country before re-exportation to the United States. The means of conveyance must also be inspected and found free of Khapra beetle.

For More Information

For more information about restrictions on the importation of rice, soybeans, *Cicer* species, and safflower seeds from countries where Khapra beetle is known to occur, contact APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Permits Unit at (877) 770-5990 (toll free) or (301) 851-2046 or at permits@aphis.usda.gov.

Returning international travelers can learn more about the admissibility of agricultural products by accessing the "Information for Travelers Returning From Overseas Travel" factsheet at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/2011/faq_return_overseas_travel.pdf.

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