



January 25, 2013

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Biotechnology
Regulatory
Services

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

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R&D and Agricultural Services
Del Monte Fresh Produce Company
241 Sevilla Ave.
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Re: APHIS response on the regulatory status of importing genetically engineered pineapple into the United States

Dear Dr. Young:

Thank you for your letter dated July 30, 2012 to Michael Gregoire at APHIS BRS. Your letter informed APHIS about pineapple (*Ananas comosus* var *comosus*) genetically engineered for suppression of ethylene biosynthesis and increased lycopene levels. The resulting pineapple cultivar has rose-colored flesh and a more uniform growth and development to aid fruit production, harvest, and quality. The new cultivar developed is named Del Monte Rosé pineapple.

Del Monte Rosé pineapple will be imported as whole, fresh fruit and processed products. This pineapple cultivar will not be grown commercially in the United States. Whole fresh Del Monte Rosé pineapple will not be imported into Hawaii, which is prohibited from importation by United States phytosanitary regulations.

We have evaluated the information described in your letter and in a supporting document supplied by Del Monte Fresh Produce on the biology and ecology of pineapple. These documents outline the lack of any potential outcrossing with other varieties of *A. comosus* (they do not exist in the United States), the remote potential for outcrossing with commercially grown pineapple in areas where it can be grown, the remote potential for seed formation from pineapple grown commercially or as an ornamental, and the remote potential for asexual reproduction and persistence in the environment. APHIS confirms that the harvested Del Monte Rosé pineapple as described in your documentation does not require an importation or interstate movement permit under 7 CFR part 340. Even though these plant parts and products originate from a regulated article as described in 7 CFR part 340, fruit from the Del Monte Rosé pineapple cultivar does not have the ability to propagate and persist in the environment once they have been harvested.

Our confirmation that the genetically engineered Del Monte Rosé pineapple cultivar does not require a movement permit depends on the evaluation of the ability of the harvested fruit or plant products to escape and reproduce in the environment. If any information comes to light to indicate the information or data are not correct or no longer correct, it may change our evaluation and the regulatory status of these plants. Additionally, the planting of the described genetically engineered pineapple outside a contained facility may require a permit from APHIS.



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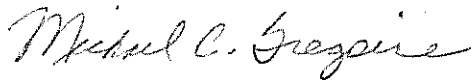
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Please be advised that the importation of pineapple is still subject to other applicable APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine phytosanitary and importation requirements.

As you are aware, FDA has a consultation process for genetically engineered food. We appreciate that Del Monte Fresh Produce is collecting information and data to support the consultation process with FDA for the Del Monte Rosé pineapple.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Gregoire
Deputy Administrator
Biotechnology Regulatory Services