

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2015-05

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Subject: Federal Order for Hosts of Carambola Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*) in
Guyana

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

APHIS recently reevaluated the import requirements for fruits and vegetables from countries where carambola fruit fly is known to occur. Pursuant to this Federal Order, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will prohibit the importation of shipments of apples (*Malus* spp.), citrus (*Citrus* spp.), and peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) from Guyana to prevent the introduction and establishment of carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*).

The presence of carambola fruit fly in Guyana poses a significant phytosanitary threat to U.S. agriculture and is described in detail in the attached Federal Order, which is effective 30 days from the date of issuance.

For additional information, please call Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist George Apgar Balady at 301-851-2240 or write to him at <George.A.Balady@aphis.usda.gov>.



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Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

FEDERAL ORDER

Hosts of Carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*)

DA-2015-05

This Federal Order is effective March 11, 2015.

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry and establishment of carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera carambolae* Drew & Hancock) from Guyana into the United States. APHIS will revoke current import permits and will not issue new import permits for the following commodities from Guyana:

- peppers (*Capsicum* spp.),
- citrus (*Citrus* spp.), and
- apples (*Malus* spp.).

Recently published research conducted in Brazil identified several new hosts of carambola fruit fly, including peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) (Lemos *et al*, 2014). This development prompted APHIS to re-evaluate the import requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables from countries where carambola fruit fly is known to occur. This review identified three carambola fruit fly hosts—*Malus* spp., *Citrus* spp., and *Capsicum* spp.—that are currently enterable from Guyana. During the past five years, Guyana has not exported consignments of apples or citrus to the United States, although Guyana has exported small volumes of peppers to the United States.

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 importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed 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 319.56.

This quarantine action is necessary because the APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of carambola fruit fly poses a serious threat to many fruits and vegetables grown in the United States.

Carambola fruit fly is a harmful plant pest that could be spread via host commodities imported from foreign countries where this pest is known to occur; it has not been reported to occur in the United States. Carambola fruit fly is in the family Tephritidae and is a member of the *B. dorsalis* species complex. This family contains a number of harmful plant pests of major agricultural concern to the United States, including the Mediterranean fruit fly. These fruit flies attack a

variety of fruits and vegetables, adult females lay large numbers of eggs in their host fruits, and adults are capable of dispersing over several miles. Damage to fruit occurs from egg-laying and subsequent larva development. Carambola fruit fly is native to Southeast Asia and is found in Brunei, India (Nicobar and Andaman Islands), Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand (CABI, 2014). Carambola fruit fly has spread in South America to Brazil, French Guiana, and Guyana since it was first recorded in Surinam in 1985 (van Sauers-Muller, 2008). Carambola fruit fly can attack 75 different plant species from 20 plant families, including carambolas (star fruit), peppers, papaya, citrus, mangosteens, mangoes, avocados, and guava (Lemos *et al*, 2014). The number of reported hosts is expected to increase (Lemos *et al*, 2014).

To prevent the introduction of this harmful plant pest into the United States, the APHIS Administrator has determined that consignments of apple (*Malus* spp.), *Citrus* spp. and peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) from Guyana into the United States will be prohibited.

For more information about this Federal Order please call Senior Regulatory Specialist George Apgar Balady at 301-851-2240 or write to him at <George.A.Balady@aphis.usda.gov>.

References:

- CABI, 2014. *Bactrocera carambolae*. In: Crop Protection Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. Accessed Aug. 1, 2014. www.cabi.org/cpc.
- Lemos, L. N., R. Adaime, C. R. de Jesus-Barros, and E. G. de Deus. 2014. New hosts of *Bactrocera carambolae* (Diptera: Tephritidae) in Brazil. Florida Entomologist 97(2):841-843. Last accessed July 31, 2014, from <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.1896/054.097.0274>.
- van Sauers-Muller, A. 2008. Carambola Fruit Fly Situation In Latin America And The Caribbean. Proceedings of the Caribbean Food Crops Society. 44(1): 135-144.