

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2016-03

**JAN - 7 2016**

**Subject:** APHIS Amends the Federal Order Restricting Imports of Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) Host Commodities from the Dominican Republic into or through the United States

**To:** State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, APHIS is amending the restrictions on imports of certain fruits and vegetables from the Dominican Republic into the United States by allowing the entry of restricted Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) host material from the provinces of:

- Azúa
- Baoruco
- Barahona
- Dajabón
- Duarte
- Elías Piña
- Espaillat
- Hermanas Mirabal
- Independencia
- La Vega
- Maria Trinidad Sanchez
- Monseñor Nouel
- Monte Cristi
- Pedernales
- Peravia
- Puerto Plata
- San Cristobal
- San José de Ocoa
- San Juan
- Sanchez Ramírez
- Santiago
- Santiago Rodríguez
- Valverde

On March 18, 2015, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2015-14 to prevent the introduction of medfly into the United States by suspending U.S. imports of certain fruit and vegetable medfly hosts from the Dominican Republic. Federal Order DA-2015-14 listed the following hosts:

- avocado
- clementine
- grape
- grapefruit
- lemon
- litchi
- longan
- mamey (sapote)
- mandarin
- mango
- orange
- papaya
- pepper
- pummelo
- tangelo
- tangerine
- tomato
- tuna (cactus fruit)

Based on a site visit and a review of production practices and medfly trapping and eradication activities, we have determined that commercial consignments of the commodities listed in Federal Order DA-2015-014 may now be imported into the United States under the following conditions:

- They must originate from areas of the Dominican Republic that do not present a risk of introducing medfly into the United States.
- The movement of restricted medfly host material from non-restricted areas must be done in exclusionary containers to prevent the contamination of host material that is destined for export to the United States.
- Shipments must be inspected and accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate that is issued by the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Agriculture and that indicates the province of origin in the Dominican Republic.

Commercial shipments of mangoes from the Dominican Republic continue to be enterable under the conditions of the APHIS hot water treatment preclearance program. In addition, the Dominican Republic has completed the requirements to allow irradiation of mangoes in the United States upon entry. The mangoes must be irradiated at an APHIS-approved irradiation facility with a minimum absorbed dose of 400 gy in the United States and must follow the requirements of 7 CFR parts 305 and 319.

Per Federal Order DA-2015-25 (dated April 28, 2015), Hass avocados and green tomatoes are still enterable from restricted areas.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Tony Román at 301-851-2242 or write to him at [Juan.A.Roman@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Juan.A.Roman@aphis.usda.gov).



Osama El Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

Federal Order

Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) Host Material from the Dominican Republic

DA-2016-03

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Effective immediately, this Federal Order amends Federal Order DA-2015-25 (dated April 28, 2015), to allow the importation into the United States of commercial shipments of Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) fruit and vegetable hosts from certain provinces in the Dominican Republic that do not present a risk of introducing medfly into the United States. Some provinces, however, are excluded; such provinces are those that:

- the Dominican Republic's national plant protection organization (NPPO) has quarantined for medfly,
- are subject to control or eradication efforts for medfly, or
- APHIS considers inseparable from areas that are quarantined or subject to control or eradication efforts for medfly.

This Federal Order also authorizes irradiation at the U.S. port of entry as an approved treatment for mangoes from the Dominican Republic.

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 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 a plant pest 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 301.53.

On March 18, 2015, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2015-14 to prohibit the importation of fruit and vegetable medfly hosts from the Dominican Republic. On April 28, 2015, APHIS amended that Federal Order to allow the importation of Hass avocados and green tomatoes (tomatoes whose surface does not exceed 30 percent pink or red at the time of the harvesting) from the Dominican Republic, on the grounds that these two commodities are conditional non-hosts for medfly.

Since the time APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2015-14 and the amendment to it, the Dominican Republic's NPPO has conducted control and eradication efforts for medfly throughout the Dominican Republic. It also has requested that APHIS allow the importation of other medfly fruit and vegetable host material from areas of the Dominican Republic that do not present a risk of introducing medfly into the United States.

After a site visit and a review of production practices, medfly trapping, and eradication activities, APHIS has determined that commercial consignments of previously admissible medfly host fruits and vegetables may be imported into the United States from the following provinces:

Azúa	Independencia	San Cristobal
Baoruco	La Vega	San José de Ocoa
Barahona	Maria Trinidad Sanchez	San Juan
Dajabón	Monseñor Nouel	Sanchez Ramirez
Duarte	Monte Cristi	Santiago
Elías Piña	Pedernales	Santiago Rodríguez
Espailat	Peravia	Valverde
Hermanas Mirabal	Puerto Plata	

Non-commercial consignments of medfly fruit and vegetable host material are still prohibited from entering the United States.

The APHIS Administrator still considers that the introduction and establishment of medfly poses a serious threat to U.S. agriculture—particularly certain fruits or vegetables grown in the United States—and that this serious plant pest threat must be immediately addressed. Medfly is not known to occur in the United States except in Hawaii. It is a widespread tropical species, ranging from South Mexico to Argentina and throughout the Mediterranean and all of Africa. It is also established in Western Australia. It is estimated that the species would be able to establish populations in southern regions of the United States (Plant Hardiness Zones 9-11).

Under this Federal Order, APHIS is authorizing the importation of the following fruit and vegetable medfly hosts from the Dominican Republic, provided the commodities are produced in one of the twenty-three provinces listed above as authorized to export to the United States:

avocado	longan	pepper
clementine	mamey (sapote)	pummelo
grape	mandarin	tangelo
grapefruit	mango	tangerine
lemon	orange	tomato
litchi	papaya	tuna (Cactus fruit)

To be eligible for export to the United States, such articles must be:

- transported in sealed or tarped means of conveyance from the production site to the packinghouse and from the packinghouse to the port of export
- safeguarded during transloading to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests; and
- inspected and accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Agriculture Ministry and indicating the province of origin in the Dominican Republic.

Additionally, pursuant to Federal Order DA-2015-25, Hass avocados and green tomatoes are authorized U.S. importation from all of the Dominican Republic, subject to the requirements of 7 CFR 319.56-3.

Commercial shipments of mangoes from the Dominican Republic continue to be enterable under the conditions of the APHIS hot water treatment preclearance program. In addition, the Dominican Republic has completed the requirements to allow irradiation of mangoes at ports of entry into the United States. The mangoes must be irradiated at an APHIS-approved irradiation facility with a minimum absorbed dose of 400 gray in the United States and follow the requirements of 7 CFR parts 305 and 319.

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