

Subject: APHIS Rescinds the Federal Order Prohibiting Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) Host Commodities from the Dominican Republic into the United States

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is lifting the Federal Order issued on March 18, 2015, prohibiting certain fruits and vegetables from the Dominican Republic into the United States. The original action was taken in response to the multiple detections of live Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) in the Punta Cana region of the Dominican Republic.

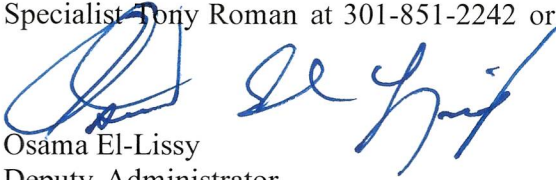
On March 13, 2015, the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the Dominican Republic notified APHIS of confirmed Medfly captures in the Punta Cana area. On March 18, 2015, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2015-14 restricting the entry of the following products from Dominican Republic:

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

APHIS subsequently updated the Federal Order three times to relieve restrictions on the importation of Hass avocados, which are not a Medfly host, and to relieve restrictions on commodities imported from provinces in the Dominican Republic that APHIS determined to be free of Medfly.

The NPPO of Dominican Republic, with the technical assistance of APHIS, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Food and Agriculture Organization, developed and established a comprehensive nationwide monitoring network and initiated an eradication campaign conducting bait sprays and Medfly sterile release. APHIS evaluated the Medfly trapping, eradication activities, and trapping results. No medflies have been trapped in the Dominican Republic since January 9, 2017. APHIS has determined the trapping results provided by the NPPO and APHIS technical team meet the requirements for eradication of Medfly. Therefore, APHIS is lifting the Federal Order restricting the import of Medfly host fruits and vegetables from Dominican Republic into the United States.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Tony Roman at 301-851-2242 or via email at Juan.A.Roman@aphis.usda.gov.



Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Lifting the Federal Order Restricting Host Fruits and Vegetables from Dominican Republic Due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

DA-2017-38
December 12, 2017

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is lifting the Federal Order issued on March 18, 2015 prohibiting certain fruits and vegetables from the Dominican Republic into the United States. This action was taken in response to the multiple detections of live Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) in the Punta Cana region of the Dominican Republic.

Medfly is not known to be established in the continental United States. It is a widespread tropical and subtropical species and its distribution includes southern Mexico south to Argentina, the Mediterranean, Africa, and western Australia. It is estimated that Medfly could establish populations in southern regions of 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 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.

On March 13, 2015, the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the Dominican Republic notified APHIS of confirmed Medfly captures in the Punta Cana area. On March 18, 2015, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2015-14 restricting the entry of the following products from Dominican Republic into the United States:

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- tangelo
- tangerine
- tomato
- tuna (cactus fruit)

On April 28, 2015, APHIS issued an amended Federal Order DA-2015-25, providing clarification allowing Hass avocados to enter the United States which are not consider fruit fly host.

On January 7, 2016, APHIS issued a second amendment allowing commodities without restrictions from certain Medfly-free Provinces. These provinces were:

- Azua
- Baoruco
- Barahona
- Dajabón
- Duarte
- Elias Piña
- Espaillat
- Hermanas Mirabal
- Independencia
- La Vega
- Maria Trinidad Sanchez
- Monseñor Nouel
- Monte Cristi
- Pedernales
- Peravia
- Puerto Plata
- San Cristobal
- San Jose de Ocoa
- San Juan
- Sanchez Ramirez
- Santiago
- Santiago Rodriguez
- Valverde
- Santo Domingo

On August 10, 2016, APHIS issued a third amendment adding Distrito Nacional and Santo Domingo to the list of Provinces allowed to export to the United States, without Medfly restrictions.

The NPPO of Dominican Republic, with the technical assistance of APHIS, International Atomic Energy Agency, and Food and Agriculture Organization, developed and established a comprehensive nationwide monitoring network and initiated an eradication campaign conducting bait sprays and Medfly sterile release, resulting in the eradication of Medfly from the Dominican Republic.

APHIS evaluated the Medfly trapping, eradication activities and trapping results. No medflies have been trapped in the Dominican Republic since January 9, 2017. APHIS has determined the trapping results provided by the NPPO and APHIS technical team meet the requirements for eradication of Med fly.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Tony Román at 301-851-2242, or at Juan.A.Roman@aphis.usda.gov.