

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2023-07  
July 14, 2023

Subject: APHIS amends Federal Order for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (*Foc* TR4) Import Restrictions

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective July 19, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is amending the Federal Order DA-2021-10, issued on May 21, 2021, to add Venezuela to the list of countries where *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (*Foc* TR4) is known to exist. The attached revised Federal Order replaces the May 21, 2021, Federal Order (DA-2021-10).

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Robert M. Bishop at 970-803-0078 or [robert.m.bishop@usda.gov](mailto:robert.m.bishop@usda.gov).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark L. Davidson', is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Mark L Davidson  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**Federal Order**

**APHIS Amends Federal Order for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4  
(*Foc* TR4) Import Restrictions**

**DA-2023-07**

**July 14, 2023**

Effective July 19, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is prohibiting the importation of certain plant parts of all banana and plantain species of *Musa* spp. and of Abyssinian banana (*Ensete ventricosum*) from Venezuela to prevent the introduction and establishment of the harmful *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical race 4 (*Foc* TR4) into the United States and its territories. With the addition of Venezuela, APHIS will now prohibit the import of these species from 22 countries where *Foc* TR4 is known to occur: Australia, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mayotte, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and Viet Nam. Prior to the issuance of this Federal Order, DA-2023-07, APHIS prohibited imports of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical race 4 (*Foc* TR4) from 21 countries by Federal Order.

This Federal Order applies to *Musa* spp. and *Ensete ventricosum* plant parts including rooted plants, rooted and unrooted cuttings, roots, and rhizomes known to carry *Foc* TR4 from the identified countries where the pathogen is known to occur. This Federal Order does not apply to seeds, leaves, cut flowers, fruits, and plants in tissue culture since these are not significant pathways for *Foc* TR4.

*Foc* TR4 is a fungal quarantine pathogen that causes vascular wilting and death in bananas and plantains. The pathogen enters through the roots of its host, settles within the tissues of the vessels, and blocks the flow of water causing plant wilting and death. *Foc* TR4 can also establish in the soil where it can survive for decades without its host, and spread long distance through movement of infested soil, contaminated equipment, and infected plant parts. A similar strain of *Fusarium oxysporum* was responsible for the near extinction of the 'Cavendish' cultivar in the 1930s in Panama.

Presently, *Foc* TR4 has been reported in 22 countries in eastern and southeastern Asia, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and Australia. In July 2019, the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario confirmed the pathogen for the first time in six commercial farms in Colombia, which was the first report in the Western Hemisphere (the Americas). Also, in April 2021, the Peruvian National Agrarian Health Service, detected the *Foc* TR4 in Piura, a northwestern region of Peru. The diagnosis was confirmed by PCR and sequencing tests.

On January 19, 2023, the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health of Venezuela notified the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention that *Foc* TR4 was detected through molecular analysis in three states in Venezuela and official control was initiated.

The primary location for banana and plantain fruit production in the United States is in Puerto Rico where the estimated total monetary loss and long-term economic affect is valued at over three billion dollars. Other local banana and plantain fruit production areas are found in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Likewise, ornamental plants and tropical foliage of *Musa* spp. are also widely grown in these states and territories.

APHIS has determined that the introduction and establishment of *Foc* TR4 poses a serious threat to U.S. agriculture. The restriction to prevent the introduction and establishment of *Foc* TR4 is needed and warranted to mitigate the plant pest risks associated with this pest.

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act (PPA) of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 USC 7712(a). Under the Act, the Secretary may 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. The regulatory authority provided by 7 USC 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

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