

December 3, 2021

Subject: APHIS Removes the Federal Domestic Quarantine for Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) and Interstate Movement Restrictions

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective on December 17, 2021, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, quarantine in California and Hawaii. APHIS is reclassifying LBAM as a non-quarantine pest, removing all areas under quarantine, and removing movement restrictions on LBAM host material.

When APHIS first confirmed detections of LBAM in the United States in 2007, the best science available indicated that this moth would be a pest of economic significance. APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) developed a program to eradicate it. Over time, however, it became clear that the moth's impact was not as significant as expected. APHIS began to exempt many of the LBAM host plants originally identified, including apple, strawberry, cucumber, and citrus. Ultimately, APHIS exempted more than 100 agricultural and horticultural hosts. In addition, pest management practices implemented by producers for other routine pests have proven to be also effective against LBAM. Based on these facts, and years of surveys by APHIS and CDFA, APHIS has determined that LBAM is no longer a pest of regulatory significance.

APHIS confirmed the first detections of LBAM in the United States in adjacent areas of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California, in March 2007. In May 2007, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2007-18, which established the requirements of the regulatory actions and quarantine boundaries. Since then, a series of Federal Orders and Letters to State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials (SPRO Letters) have refined the program. Throughout this time, APHIS has partnered with CDFA and the affected counties to work closely with industry, the University of California, and other stakeholders to detect, delimit, and measure the impact of LBAM within California.

In addition, APHIS is revising import requirements for certain fruits imported from Australia and New Zealand by removing the requirement for a Phytosanitary Certificate containing an additional declaration that states the shipment was free of LBAM. Changes in the import requirements will be authorized upon publication of a final notice in the Federal Register. APHIS is changing the import requirements to comply with international standards under the International Plant Protection Convention. Its International Standards for Phytosanitary Management 20, "Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system", prevents APHIS from regulating imports for a specific pest more than it regulates it domestically.

For additional information on the LBAM program, please contact National Policy Manager, Allen Proxmire, at (301) 851-2307.

/s/

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Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

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

## **Federal Order**

### ***Removal of the Domestic Quarantine for Light Brown Apple Moth***

DA-2021-29

December 3, 2021

Effective on December 17, 2021, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, quarantine in California and Hawaii. APHIS is reclassifying LBAM as a non-quarantine pest, removing all areas under quarantine, and removing movement restrictions on LBAM host material. APHIS has determined that due to the absence of significant damage in commercial agriculture, the exemption of more than 100 agricultural and horticultural hosts and producers use of routine pest management practices that have proven to be also effective against LBAM, Federal involvement to regulate LBAM as a pest of quarantine significance appears to no longer be warranted.

On March 22, 2007, APHIS confirmed an outbreak of LBAM in adjacent areas of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California. This was the first detection of LBAM in the conterminous United States. Subsequent survey activities confirmed the presence of LBAM in additional counties in California. The APHIS Administrator considered it necessary to establish restrictions on the interstate movement of certain regulated articles from California to prevent the spread of LBAM.

On May 2, 2007, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2007-18, which established the requirements for the regulatory program for LBAM. The purpose of the Federal Order was to prevent the spread of LBAM through regulatory authority provided by Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, and 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which 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 several occasions, APHIS revised the Federal Order to update LBAM hosts, providing exemptions for interstate movement of regulated commodities, and update the quarantined areas.

As part of implementing the LBAM quarantine, APHIS partnered with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the affected counties to work closely with industry, the University of California, and other stakeholders to detect and delimit this pest in California. Based on an updated evaluation of the pest status and the absence of significant damage in commercial agriculture, the APHIS Administrator has determined that it is no longer necessary to quarantine areas and restrict movement for LBAM. Consequently, APHIS is rescinding those Federal Orders and SPRO Letters issued since May 2, 2007 (DA-2007-18), which regulated the outbreak of LBAM in the United States.

This Federal Order is effective on December 17, 2021.

For additional information on the LBAM Program, please contact National Policy Manager, Allen Proxmire, at (301) 851-2307.