

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2022-06
February 8, 2022

Subject: APHIS Revises the Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Citrus Fruit from Areas Quarantined for both Sweet Orange Scab and Citrus Canker

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the conditions for interstate movement of citrus fruit from areas quarantined for both sweet orange scab (*Elsinöe australis*, SOS) and citrus canker (*Xanthomonas axonopodis*, CC) to allow movement of fruit to packing houses located in contiguous states that are not quarantined for either disease.

In 2019 and 2020, APHIS conducted a pilot program to determine the efficacy of safeguards that would allow the interstate movement of citrus fruit from groves in Florida, near the Georgia state line, to a packing house in Georgia. Florida is currently quarantined under federal regulations for SOS and CC, and Georgia is not. As for any regulated articles, the movement of fruit is subject to compliance protocols and restrictions to prevent the spread of economically harmful pests and diseases. The pilot study concluded that sanitation measures and inspection processes successfully mitigated the risk of spreading SOS and CC on fruit originating in quarantined areas for these diseases.

As a result, APHIS is adding this option for the interstate movement of citrus fruit for packaging from areas quarantined for both SOS and CC with additional safeguarding measures. The States involved in the movement must establish and coordinate a monitoring program, which includes periodic surveys, on-site inspections, and certification of each shipment. Entities involved in the harvest, transport, and packing of regulated fruit must operate under a signed compliance agreement. State agricultural authorities may prescribe additional safeguards and protocols. Movement of fruit from quarantine areas for the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), citrus greening/Huanglongbing (CG/HLB), and citrus black spot (CBS) must follow requirements stipulated in (1) regulations contained in 7 CFR §301.76 for ACP/CG, (2) Federal Orders for movement conditions for CBS, (3) all applicable state laws, and (4) this Federal Order.

The following website contains the attached Federal Order:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/citrus/citrus-federal-orders/citrus-policy-federal-orders>

APHIS will publish this change in the Federal Register. For additional information please contact the Director of Specialty Crops and Cotton Pests, Shailaja Rabindran, at (301) 851-2167.



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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

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

Federal Order

**Domestic Quarantine for Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) and Citrus Canker (CC)
Revised Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Citrus Fruit**

DA-2022-06
February 8, 2022

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the conditions for interstate movement of citrus fruit from areas quarantined for both sweet orange scab (*Elsinöe australis*, SOS) and citrus canker (*Xanthomonas axonopodis*, CC) to allow movement of fruit to packing houses located in contiguous states that are not quarantined for either disease. This Federal Order adds an option for movement of citrus fruit from areas quarantined for both SOS and CC. This Federal Order does not supersede DA-2016-55, which defines conditions for movement of regulated articles, including fruit, from areas quarantined for only SOS.

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, or means of conveyance, 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 found at 7 CFR § 301.75 et. seq. for CC. Movement of citrus fruit from quarantine areas for the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), citrus greening/Huanglongbing (CG/HLB), and citrus black spot (CBS) must follow requirements stipulated in (1) regulations contained in 7 CFR §301.76 for ACP/CG, (2) federal orders for movement conditions for CBS, (3) all applicable state laws, and (4) this Federal Order.

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APHIS will publish this change in the Federal Register. For additional information please contact the Director of Specialty Crops and Cotton Pests, Shailaja Rabindran, at (301) 851-2167.

A. Conditions for interstate movement of fruit from areas quarantined for both SOS and CC, to packing houses in contiguous states that are not quarantined for either disease:

- a. The states are contiguous (for example: Florida and Georgia; Georgia and Alabama).
- b. The involved state departments of agriculture agree and affirm the action through a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement.

- c. The state will conduct pre-harvest surveys for SOS and CC in participating grove blocks, and must be found negative for foliar and fruit symptoms.
- d. Entities involved in the harvest, transport, and packing of regulated fruit must operate under a signed compliance agreement and its conditions. Debris, eliminations, and culls must be disposed of as described in the compliance agreement.
- e. Fruit must be practically free of leaves, stems, or other regulated plant material, except that stems less than 1-inch may be attached to fruit, but leaves may not be attached to the fruit.
- f. Harvested fruit must be completely tarped while in transit to prevent loss of citrus fruit, stems, leaves, and other plant debris.
- g. Fruit shipped from the groves to the packing houses must be accompanied by a limited permit or equivalent state permit issued by authorized personnel.
- h. Fruit at the packing house must be handled in accordance with standards outlined in the required compliance agreement.
- i. Fruit will be treated in accordance with APHIS-Approved Packing House Procedures (Section B).
- j. Field bins, boxes, and trailers must be emptied and cleaned of plant debris, and disinfested as detailed in the compliance agreement.
- k. After treatments, eligible fruit may move from the packing house with a Federal Certificate if:
 - i. Certified by an inspector to be free of SOS and CC; and
 - ii. Shipping documents and containers in which fruit is packed are marked with a Federal Certificate, stating: “USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CHRP CERTIFICATE: This shipment of citrus fruit is certified under applicable Federal domestic plant quarantines”.

B. APHIS-Approved Packing House Procedures for Treatment of Fruits

All the following steps are required to certify the movement of fruit from a packing house when they are received from an area quarantined for both SOS and CC. The Treatment Manual must be followed

(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf).

Fruit must be:

1. Washed
2. Brushed
3. Surface disinfested with at least one of the following chemicals, either with immersion baths or sprays, with or without roller brushes:
 - a. Chlorine (sodium hypochlorite): Regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted for at least two minutes with a solution containing two hundred parts per million (ppm) sodium hypochlorite with the solution maintained at a pH of 6.0-7.5;
 - b. Sodium o-phenyl phenate (SOPP): Regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted with a solution containing SOPP at a concentration of 1.86-2.0% of the total solution, for at least 45 seconds if the solution is visibly foamy, and for 60 seconds if not visibly foamy; or
 - c. Peroxyacetic Acid (PAA): Regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted for at least 60 seconds with a solution containing 85 ppm PAA.
4. Treated at the time of packing, in accordance with the label directions, with at least one of the following treatments:

- a. Imazalil;
 - b. Thiabendazole; or
 - c. Combination of fludioxonil and azoxystrobin
5. Waxed