

APHIS Regulatory Program for the Suppression of Light Brown Apple Moth  
*Epiphyas postvittana* (Walker)  
January 2014

Since the initial discovery of light brown apple moth (LBAM) in 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) has maintained a regulatory program to mitigate the moth's impact on agricultural production and domestic and foreign trade markets. USDA first noted the potential risk of LBAM to U.S. agriculture production in the 1960s with published reports of crop damage in Australia and New Zealand. Entry requirements such as inspection and phytosanitary certification of foreign shipments of fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers helped to prevent LBAM's establishment within the United States for decades. During this time, LBAM remained a pest of concern for the United States because of its potential to damage fruit and vegetable crop production.

In 2007, APHIS developed a cooperative eradication program with the State of California in response to the detection of LBAM. The objective of the program was to conduct survey, regulatory, and control activities to eliminate LBAM from the infested areas.

APHIS responded to this invasive pest because scientific literature indicates that LBAM is a significant threat to agricultural production due to its extensive plant host list. In addition, other states and foreign trading partners are concerned about LBAM and would likely impose restrictions on California agricultural products if the federal government did not take mitigation action for LBAM.

From 2007 to 2010, the cooperative eradication program implemented mitigation measures which included cropland and production area trapping, compliance agreements, area-wide suppression treatments, and regulated article inspection and certification. Due to limited control options and the subsequent spread of LBAM, APHIS transitioned the program's goal from eradication to suppression and management. In March 2010, APHIS posted for public comment our response to the two petitions to the Secretary of Agriculture requesting reclassification of LBAM to a non-actionable insect. The APHIS response to these public comments is posted separately from this document at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Since the goal transition, APHIS continues to evaluate the possibility of and impact from reclassifying LBAM from actionable to non-actionable, therefore ending the regulatory program. At this time, APHIS anticipates that both foreign and domestic trade would be significantly impacted should the Agency reclassify LBAM to a non-actionable pest.

APHIS acknowledges that revisions are necessary to align the program with the demonstrated risk of damage caused from LBAM. APHIS is partnering with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), counties, and industry to modify the LBAM regulatory program. This modification includes reexamining the host list to determine which commodities may be exempted from program requirements; developing systems approaches for commodities not exempted; and revising program protocols including trapping protocols.

To date, APHIS has added 30 commodities to the LBAM Exempted Host List, therefore allowing producers to ship these commodities interstate without additional restrictions to mitigate LBAM. APHIS determined that these commodities when produced and harvested

according to standard industry practices were low risk. APHIS and CDFA also revised protocols for trapping and for isolated LBAM detections near nurseries. The new exempted host list and the revised program protocols are posted on the APHIS web page at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis\\_content\\_library%2Fsa\\_our\\_focus%2Fsa\\_plant\\_health%2Fsa\\_domestic\\_pests\\_and\\_diseases%2Fsa\\_pests\\_and\\_diseases%2Fsa\\_insects%2Fsa\\_lba\\_moth%2Fct\\_light\\_brown\\_apple\\_moth](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_plant_health%2Fsa_domestic_pests_and_diseases%2Fsa_pests_and_diseases%2Fsa_insects%2Fsa_lba_moth%2Fct_light_brown_apple_moth)

APHIS has determined that maintaining a regulatory program for LBAM allows trade to continue uninterrupted and minimizes the moth's spread further into the United States. For further information on the LBAM program, you may contact Andrea Simao, LBAM National Policy Manager at (301) 851-2067 or by email at [Andrea.B.Simao@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Andrea.B.Simao@aphis.usda.gov).