

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2024-03

February 5, 2024

Subject: APHIS Modifies Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from the Redlands Oriental Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) Quarantine Area in California

To: State, Territory, and Tribal Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is temporarily modifying conditions for the movement of regulated articles (fresh citrus fruit) from the Redlands Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*, or OFF) quarantine area of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California for the duration of the 2024 harvest season.

Due to the imminent harvest period, growers in the Redlands quarantine area currently have only two post-harvest treatments available (methyl bromide fumigation with a subsequent cold holding period or irradiation) in order to move fresh citrus fruit from non-core areas of the quarantine to areas outside of the quarantine. However, neither of these options is economically viable for citrus production in the Redlands quarantine at this time. This Federal Order provides relief to the growers by establishing a new treatment approach under which fresh citrus fruit from non-core areas may enter domestic commerce outside of the quarantine, using an alternative fumigation and subsequent cold treatment method. This approach applies only to the Redlands OFF quarantine for the 2024 harvest season. It does not permit international export of fresh citrus fruit from this area unless the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.

APHIS regulates the interstate movement of OFF host articles from all OFF quarantine areas in the United States in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.32 et seq.](#) and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order. The current OFF quarantine areas, the OFF regulated articles/host list, and this Federal Order are posted on the [APHIS fruit fly webpage](#).

For additional information about the OFF quarantine program, you may contact the Fruit Fly National Policy Manager Richard Johnson at richard.n.johnson@usda.gov or at 301-851-2109.



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Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Modification of the Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from the Redlands Oriental Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) Quarantine Area in California

DA-2024-03
February 5, 2024

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is temporarily modifying the conditions for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from the Redlands Oriental fruit fly (OFF) quarantine area of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California for the duration of the 2024 harvest season. This Federal Order permits the interstate movement of regulated articles (fresh citrus fruit) from this quarantine area following completion of the requirements of a new treatment approach for this movement. This approach allows producers inside the quarantine, but outside of the core areas, to move fresh citrus fruit domestically, which is otherwise restricted.

[7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.32-1](#) defines a core area as “the area within a circle surrounding each site where fruit flies have been detected using a ½-mile radius with the detection site as a center point.”

This new treatment approach applies only to commercially produced fresh citrus fruit that is harvested from non-core areas in the Redlands quarantine area that APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) established on September 27, 2023, and have subsequently expanded. This Federal Order permits domestic movement of treated fresh citrus fruit from this area, with some export limitations. It does not permit international export of fresh citrus fruit from this area unless the fresh citrus fruit meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act (PPA) 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. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the domestic fruit fly regulations implemented under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 CFR § 301.32](#) *et seq.*

The OFF host list (regulated articles) contains over 300 species, varieties, or cultivars for which the fruit fly can be a major pest. Although this species is native to eastern Asia, incursions have been detected in the United States on numerous occasions. Damage occurs when the female fruit fly deposits eggs in unripe fruit. The eggs hatch into larvae, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit making it unfit for consumption. This Federal Order provides a new treatment approach for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit out of the quarantine area.

The [APHIS Fruit Flies Quarantine Information webpage](#) provides descriptions and maps of the Redlands quarantine and other current quarantine areas in California. As of January 15, 2024, the

quarantine encompasses 554 square miles and includes over 6,500 acres of commercial agricultural production.

This Federal Order is necessary to modify conditions for interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from non-core areas of the Redlands OFF quarantine. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of OFF regulated articles must be in accordance with this Federal Order and applicable conditions of 7 CFR § 301.32 *et seq.*

Rationale for the New Treatment Approach

The extent of an OFF quarantine area is primarily determined through an area-wide trapping program following the international standards. To safely move fresh citrus fruit to locations outside this OFF quarantine area, the program employs all the following safeguards:

1. The portions of a quarantine area that are outside of the core areas may be considered areas of low pest prevalence (ALPP) due to the absence of fruit fly detections in an extensive network of fruit fly traps.
2. There is a pesticide-based management program.
3. There is a post-harvest treatment regimen.
4. Producers and packing houses apply approved disposal/destruction methods for culled fruit and fruit waste outside of the quarantine area, when necessary.
5. Regulatory officials enforce restrictions against the shipment of fresh citrus fruit from the quarantine area to areas outside of the quarantine where OFF establishment would have major impacts.
6. As the entirety of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties are within the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine, growers must also adhere to the treatment and movement requirements of that quarantine.

Federal fruit fly regulations do not allow for regulated articles to be moved from a quarantined area if the articles are infested at the time of movement. For fresh citrus fruit originating from the non-core areas of a fruit fly quarantine, either a 30-day preharvest bait spray treatment or one of two post-harvest treatments (a combined post-harvest fumigation with methyl bromide and cold treatment or irradiation) are currently the only ways the regulated articles may be moved outside of the quarantine. There is insufficient time for growers in the Redlands quarantine area to complete the pre-harvest treatment and still have marketable fruit and both established post-harvest treatment options are not economically viable. Additionally, these established post-harvest treatments often reduce the shelf life and commercial viability of the fruit. Therefore, APHIS has determined that fresh citrus fruit may be safely moved from the Redlands OFF quarantine area under certain other conditions. This Federal Order provides a new treatment approach under which fresh citrus fruit originating from this quarantine area may enter domestic commerce outside of the quarantine, using an alternative fumigation method. However, this approach does not allow this fruit to be exported from the United States, unless the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.

I. Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from the Redlands OFF Quarantine Area

- A. Except as provided in paragraph B of this section, the conditions for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit for OFF are those found in 7 CFR § 301.32 *et seq.* Certificates, limited permits, and compliance agreements are issued and revoked in accordance with the provisions of that subpart.
- B. The interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit is prohibited from areas within 0.5 miles from an OFF detection site (core areas), unless moved in accordance with (1) the regulations contained in 7 CFR § 301.32 *et seq.*, and (2) all applicable state laws and regulations.

II. New Treatment Approach for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Non-Core Areas of the Redlands OFF Quarantine

A. General Requirements

1. To ship under the conditions of this approach, groves engaged in growing fresh citrus fruit intended for interstate movement and/or movement out of this quarantined area must meet the requirements conditions specified in paragraph B of this section.
2. Growers and packers engaged in growing and shipping fresh citrus fruit in this quarantine area must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS/CDFR before shipping under the new approach option. This compliance agreement specifies the terms of the approach, as well as any other grove-specific requirements determined to be necessary to prevent the spread of OFF. APHIS/CDFR evaluates the location of the grove in relation to the quarantine boundary prior to initiation of the compliance agreement.
3. Fresh citrus fruit found eligible for interstate movement under the new treatment approach must be accompanied by a state or federal certificate of quarantine compliance verifying that all conditions of this protocol and any additional requirements listed in the compliance agreement have been met. A copy of the state or federal certificate of quarantine compliance must be attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill, in concurrence with 7 CFR § 301.32-8.
4. Fresh citrus fruit must be properly labeled. Shipping documents accompanying the containers must be clearly marked with the statement, "**Not for export outside of the contiguous United States unless the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.**"
5. The adoption and use of this protocol is subject to monitoring by an inspector, as defined in 7 CFR § 301.32-1.

B. Grove Requirements

1. APHIS and CDFR determine whether a grove is in an area of low pest prevalence (ALPP) for OFF. To be considered an ALPP within the Redlands OFF Quarantine,

APHIS and CDFA must confirm that the appropriate treatment, and specimen identification confirmation have taken place.

2. The grove must not be located within a core area. If a block (portion of the grove) falls within an area not eligible for the new treatment approach described earlier in this Federal Order, that contiguous citrus block is ineligible. If OFF is detected within the grove following this treatment approach, the grove is suspended from shipping under the terms of the treatment approach for the remainder of the shipping season.
3. APHIS and CDFA must be engaged in an active trapping program in accordance with the [National Exotic Fruit Fly Detection Trapping Guidelines](#).

C. Monitoring, Treatment, and Inspection Requirements

1. Growers must conduct pre-harvest bait sprays using approved pesticides, starting a minimum of 30 days prior to harvest, in accordance with 7 CFR § 301.32-10.
2. Growers who are unable to complete a pre-harvest treatment must use one of the post-harvest treatments provided in the [APHIS Treatment Manual](#), or alternatively, the new treatment that uses phosphine fumigation in combination with cold treatment. The phosphine fumigant will be used at a concentration of between 1,000 and 2,500 ppmv for 48 hours at a minimum of 8°C (47°F) and subsequent cold treatment for 5 days at maximum 5°C (41°F). The treatment will be documented in a treatment log.
3. Inspectors will conduct fruit-cutting at packing houses or other appropriate locations. Inspector will randomly select 150 citrus fruit per lot for a 95% confidence level of detecting a 2% pest population and visually inspect for the presence of pest or indications of pest damage, using a magnifying glass or other inspection tool, as necessary. All suspect or damaged fruit will be cut or a minimum of 30 fruit per lot, whichever is more, to detect the presence of internal pests. If fruit fly larvae are found during inspection, fruit from that block will not undergo the phosphine fumigation with subsequent cold treatment and fruit from that block is ineligible for movement outside of the quarantine. Inspectors will ensure that any load of citrus from the block of the infested citrus be culled and disposed of in accordance with established procedures.

D. Limited distribution

1. Fresh citrus fruit meeting all the requirements of paragraphs A-C in this section may be moved to throughout the contiguous United States.

2. Fresh citrus fruit meeting all the requirements of paragraphs A-C in this section may not be exported outside of the United States unless the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.

For additional information about the OFF quarantine program, you may contact the Fruit Fly National Policy Manager Richard Johnson at richard.n.johnson@usda.gov or at 301-851-2109.