


CITRUS HEALTH RESPONSE PROGRAM




*Status of Proposed Rule
&
Resources in Support of Shipping
Fresh Citrus*

Post Harvest Workshop
Ft. Pierce, Florida
September 13, 2007

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Highlights of 2006-2007 Season

- 19,362,651 cartons shipped Interstate
- 14,975,673 cartons exported overseas
- No Interstate or export shipments rejected due to infection

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- Inadvertent shipments were found in Texas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands
- Infected fruits were found during packinghouse inspections & diverted to local markets or processing

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**Overall
2006-7 Shipping season was a success!**

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Evaluation of asymptomatic citrus fruit (Citrus spp.) as a pathway for the introduction of citrus canker disease (Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. citri)

Movement of Commercially Packed Citrus Fruit from Citrus Car

Movement of Commercially Packed Citrus Fruit from Quarantine Areas

Risk Management

Preliminary Regulatory Impact Analysis and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis


Proposed Rule

Movement of Commercially Packed Citrus Fruit from Citrus Canker Quarantine Areas (Docket No. APHIS 2007-0022)

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Proposed Rules

Federal Register
Vol. 72, No. 119
Thursday, June 21, 2007

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule-making process prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301
(Docket No. APHIS-2007-0022)
RIN 0750-AC04

Citrus Canker; Movement of Fruit From Quarantined Areas

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

canker can infect susceptible plants rapidly and lead to extensive economic losses in commercial citrus-producing areas. Citrus canker is only known to be present in the United States in the State of Florida.

The regulations to prevent the interstate spread of citrus canker are contained in "Shipping-Citrus Canker" (7 CFR 301.75-1 through 301.75-14, referred to below as the regulations). The regulations restrict the interstate movement of regulated articles from and through areas quarantined because of citrus canker and provide, among other things, conditions under which regulated fruit may be moved into, through, and from quarantined areas for packing. These regulations are prescribed pursuant to the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7703 et seq.).

The regulations governing the movement of regulated articles are

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Proposed Rule

- Fruit to be inspected at packinghouse
- Treated with approved disinfectants
- Fruit free of visible symptoms of canker
- Properly packaged & labeled
- Distribution limited to non-citrus States under Limited Permit

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Proposed Rule & Comments

- Published – June 21, 2007
- Comment period – Extended 15 days
- 72 written comments received
- Proposed rule and public comments available on-line

Website to Access Rule & Comments

<http://www.regulations.gov/>

Docket No. APHIS-2007-0022



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Proposed Rule & Comments

- Undergoing thorough review
- Where appropriate, rule will be modified
- Constraints imposed on *ex parte* communication prior to publication of final rule

**Until Final Rule is published,
Interim Rule remains in effect**



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Interim Rule Provisions

- Pre-harvest grove survey within 30 days
- Grove must be free of citrus canker
- Fruit free of visible canker symptoms
- Fruit treated with approved disinfectants
- Boxes/containers properly marked with limited distribution statement
- Limited Permit must accompany shipment

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Important Change

- Packers, repackers and distributors must enter into a Compliance Agreement with APHIS based on the current Interim Rule
- These agreements will be superseded with a newer version once the new rule is in place

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“16 Points”

1. Compliance Agreement
2. Facility access
3. Access to documentation
4. Estimate lot size to be sampled
5. Advanced notification

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“16 Points” - continued

6. Facilities requesting inspection after packing must provide
 - ✓ adequately sized inspection area, tables & lighting
 - ✓ personnel to move boxes for sampling to & from inspection area, as well as, repack fruit after inspection

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“16 Points” - continued

7. Facilities requesting inspection at roll boards must provide:
 - ✓ Designated space with proper lighting for APHIS Inspector to select & inspect fruit
8. Safety considerations – freedom from hazards
9. Hazard-free access to decontamination areas to test concentration of disinfectants

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“16 Points” - continued

10. On-site internet & computer access *encouraged* to transmit digital images of suspect lesions
11. Facilities must provide adequate storage space to segregate fruit:
 - ✓ Untreated from treated
 - ✓ Canker infected lots from those eligible for limited permit

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“16 Points” - continued

12. Each lot eligible for interstate movement must be accompanied by a limited permit:
 - ✓ Packaged in boxes/containers approved by APHIS
 - ✓ Clearly marked with statement “LIMITED PERMIT: USDA-APHIS-PPQ. NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION IN”
13. All citrus fruit intended for markets outside Florida require treatment with a USDA-approved decontaminant

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“16 Points” - continued

14. Any lots run when APHIS inspectors are not present must be held for sampling & inspection. Identity must be maintained until sampling & inspection is completed. Prior approval is needed from APHIS CHRP supervisor to run fruit without an APHIS inspector present.

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“16 Points” - continued

15. Gift fruit packers may present a lot for APHIS inspection then pack gift boxes from that lot without an APHIS inspector being present providing that identity of the lot is maintained & kept segregated from fruit yet to be sampled & inspected.

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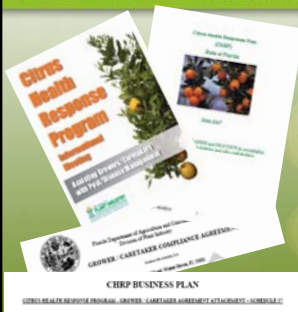
“16 Points” - continued

16. No fruit from a lot destined to markets outside of Florida may be shipped from the packinghouse until it has been completely sampled, inspected & a limited permit issued

Onus is on growers & packers to prevent infected fruit from arriving at the packinghouse



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- Citrus Health Response Plan, Compliance Agreements & BMPs provide important guidance in achieving effective disease suppression


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Grove Management

- Compliance Agreements/Business Plans
- Training employees
- Best Management Practices
 - ✓ Self-surveys of groves
 - ✓ Decontamination of personnel & equipment
 - ✓ Copper sprays
 - ✓ Vector & Leafminer Control
 - ✓ Windbreaks
 - ✓ Tree removal

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Resources

- Continued funding both State & Federal for pre-harvest surveys
- USDA staffing increased
- USDA inspectors required to pass pathology proficiency exam
- New tools in place to aid in identification of suspect lesions


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Pathology Proficiency Testing



- 110 CHRP employees trained to date
- Proficiency exam requires passing score = 80%
- Average final score = 94%

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DATE (m/d/y) 10/2/2008 TIME: 1600
Military time

LOT # 7745

HARVEST PERMIT # Inm 423021-009-9D
423021-009-9E

T-R-S 42 30 21

FIELD BLOCK/sub-block# 9-9D 9-9E VARIETY Grapefruit

PACKINGHOUSE Dundee CGA Plant #1

PHOTOGRAPHER Riley NEXTEL # 6862

This digital image has not been modified from its original content.

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

ImmunoStrip® Test



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Next Steps

- Circulate draft compliance agreements based on new rule
- Publication of the Final Rule
- Communicate new requirements to affected industry & other interested parties
- Work closely to resolve issues arising from these changes

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Target Date for Publication

- On or about October 18, 2007
- Cannot predict with certainty when actual publication will occur

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Citrus Fruit Exported Outside the US

- Must meet requirements of importing country
- Phytosanitary certificate PPQ 577 used for exports
- Non-restrictive foreign markets (Canada, Korea, Japan) may move under APHIS seal directly to the port of export if accompanied by "For Export Only" Limited Permit

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
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APHIS remains committed to work closely with industry & the State of Florida on ways to maintain vital markets while preventing the spread of citrus canker to other citrus producing areas

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USDA CHRP Offices

- Orlando
- Sanford
- Tampa
- Clearwater
- Haines City (new)
- Avon Park
- Sarasota
- Arcadia
- Fort Myers
- Melbourne
- Ft. Pierce
- Jupiter
- Vero Beach (new)
- Plantation
- Miami

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Plantation Office
Michael Hornyak
USDA CHRP Director
 Office: 954-797-6943
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Send any comments, questions or concerns to:

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(919) 625-7660



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Thank You!



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