

 **NOTICE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 743-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

USDA PROPOSES TO ALLOW HASS AVOCADOS FROM PERU

January 6, 2009

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend the fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of Hass avocados from Peru into the continental United States. As a condition of entry, Hass avocados from Peru would have to be produced in accordance with a systems approach that would include requirements for importation in commercial consignments; registration and monitoring of places of production and packinghouses; grove sanitation; pest-free areas or trapping for fruit flies; surveys for the avocado seed moth and inspection for quarantine pests by the national plant protection organization of Peru. Hass avocados from Peru would also be required to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating that the avocados were grown, packed and inspected and found to be free of pests in accordance with the proposed requirements. This action would allow for the importation of Hass avocados from Peru into the United States while continuing to provide protection against the introduction of quarantine pests.

This action is scheduled for publication in the Jan. 7 *Federal Register*.

APHIS will consider all comments received on or before March 9. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2008-0126> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0126, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0044.

#

Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Melissa O'Dell at (301) 734-5222 or by e-mail at melissa.l.o'dell@aphis.usda.gov.