

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2016-79

December 23, 2016

Subject: APHIS Prohibits the Importation of Certain Citrus Fruit from Berkane Region in Morocco due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective December 23, 2016, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will prohibit the importation of tangerines, clementines, mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*), and sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from the Berkane Region in Morocco into the United States.

We are also requiring all shipments of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet oranges from other regions of Morocco to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration that the fruit was not produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from the Berkane Region, and has been produced in accordance with an operational workplan that the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Morocco has entered into with APHIS. This is in addition to the other requirements of the operational workplan, which are still in effect for shipments from such regions.

Prior to this Federal Order, tangerine, clementine, mandarin, and sweet orange fruit were authorized importation into the United States from all regions of Morocco, subject to an operational workplan that requires orchard and packinghouse registration, Medfly trapping, packinghouse inspections (including fruit cutting), lot identification, cold treatment, and inspection upon arrival. However, on December 14, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections at the port of entry in Philadelphia detected live Medfly on commercial consignments of clementines (*Citrus reticulata*) from the Berkane Region in Morocco.

Shipments of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet oranges from Berkane Region in Morocco that are currently in transit to the United States (on-the-water shipments) will be permitted to enter if they arrive at a port of entry north of 39° latitude and east of 104° longitude within 14 days of the date of issuance of this Federal Order (January 6, 2017), pass cold treatment, and are inspected and determined to present no plant pest risk. APHIS is coordinating with CBP regarding implementation of this restriction for on-the-water shipments.

APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of tangerine, clementine, mandarin, and sweet orange fruit that was produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from Berkane Region from arriving at a port of entry south of 39° latitude and west of 104° longitude in the United States. These prohibitions apply to all importation and movement,

including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Risk Manager Devaiah Muruvanda, Ph.D. at 301-851-2055 or Devaiah.A.Muruvanda@aphis.usda.gov.



Osama El Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Suspension of Imports of Certain Citrus fruit (*Citrus reticulata* and *Citrus sinensis*) from Berkane Region in Morocco due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

DA-2016-79

December 23, 2016

This Federal Order suspends the importation of all tangerines, clementines, mandarin fruit (*Citrus reticulata*), and sweet orange fruit (*Citrus sinensis*) produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from Berkane Region in Morocco into the United States due to the presence of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly).

It also requires all shipments of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet oranges from other regions of Morocco to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration that the fruit was not produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from the Berkane Region, and has been produced in accordance with an operational workplan that the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Morocco has entered into with APHIS. This is in addition to the other requirements of the operational workplan, which are still in effect for shipments from such regions.

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 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 and found in the *Code of Federal Regulations* at 7 CFR 319.56.

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry or introduction of the Medfly, a harmful plant pest, from Morocco into the United States. The APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of the Medfly would pose a serious threat to U.S. agriculture, including certain fruits or vegetables grown in the United States, and that this serious plant pest threat must be immediately addressed. Medfly is not known to be established in the United States except in Hawaii. It is a widespread tropical and subtropical species, ranging from South Mexico to Argentina, as well as throughout the Mediterranean, parts of Europe, and all of Africa. It is also established in Western Australia. It is estimated that the species would be able to establish populations in southern regions of the United States (Plant Hardiness Zones 9-11).

Prior to this Federal Order, tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet orange fruit from all regions of Morocco were authorized importation into the United States, subject to an operational work plan that required orchard and packinghouse registration, Medfly trapping, packinghouse inspections (including fruit cutting), lot identification, cold treatment, and inspection upon arrival. However, on December 14, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

inspections at the port of entry in Philadelphia detected live Medfly larvae on commercial consignments of clementines (*Citrus reticulata*) from Berkane Region in Morocco.

Effective December 23, 2016, APHIS is suspending the importation of tangerines, clementines, and mandarin fruit (*Citrus reticulata*) and sweet orange fruit (*Citrus sinensis*) produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from Berkane Region in Morocco to prevent the introduction of Medfly into the United States. This prohibition will remain until APHIS and Morocco's national plant protection organization investigate and take necessary actions to mitigate the pest risk; this may include revision to the conditions for importation of tangerines, clementines, and mandarin fruit (*Citrus reticulata*) and sweet orange fruit from that region.

Effective December 23, 2016, APHIS is also requiring all shipments of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet oranges from other regions of Morocco to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration that the fruit was not produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from the Berkane Region, and has been produced in accordance with an operational workplan that the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Morocco entered into with APHIS. This is in addition to the other requirements of the operational workplan, which are still in effect for shipments from such regions.

Shipments of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet oranges from Berkane Region in Morocco that are currently in transit to the United States (on-the-water shipments) will be permitted to enter if they arrive at a port of entry north of 39° latitude and east of 104° longitude within 14 days of the date of issuance of this Federal Order (January 6, 2017), pass cold treatment, and are inspected and determined to present no plant pest risk. APHIS is coordinating with CBP regarding implementation of this restriction for on-the-water shipments.

APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet orange fruit that was produced in, packaged in, moved through, or shipped from Berkane Region from arriving at a port of entry south of 39° latitude and west of 104° longitude in the United States. These prohibitions apply to all importation and movement, including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Devaiah Muruvanda, Ph.D. at 301-851-2055 or write to him at Devaiah.A.Muruvanda@aphis.usda.gov.