

§ 319.56-30

7 CFR Ch. III (1-1-11 Edition)

(2) Field inspections for signs of pest infestation must be conducted by the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of China during the growing season.

(3) The registered growers shall be responsible for following the phytosanitary measures agreed upon by APHIS and the NPPO of China, including applying pesticides to reduce the pest population and bagging the pears on the trees to reduce the opportunity for pests to attack the fruit during the growing season. The bags must remain on the pears through the harvest and during their movement to the packinghouse.

(4) The packinghouses in which the pears are prepared for exportation shall not be used for any fruit other than Ya variety pears from registered growers during the pear export season. The packinghouses shall accept only those pears that are in intact bags as required by paragraph (a)(3) of this section. The pears must be loaded into containers at the packinghouse and the containers then sealed before movement to the port of export.

(b) Each consignment of pears must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the NPPO of China stating that the conditions of this section have been met.

[72 FR 39501, July 18, 2007, as amended at 73 FR 10973, Feb. 29, 2008]

§ 319.56-30 Hass avocados from Michoacan, Mexico.

Fresh Hass variety avocados (*Persea americana*) may be imported from Michoacan, Mexico, into the United States in accordance with the requirements of § 319.56-3 of this subpart, and only under the following conditions:

(a) *Shipping restrictions.* (1) The avocados may be imported in commercial consignments only;

(2) *Shipping restrictions.* The avocados may be imported into and distributed in all States and in Puerto Rico, but not in any U.S. Territory.

(b) *Trust fund agreement.* The avocados may be imported only if the Mexican avocado industry association representing Mexican avocado growers, packers, and exporters has entered into a trust fund agreement with APHIS for

that shipping season in accordance with § 319.56-6.

(c) *Safeguards in Mexico.* The avocados must have been grown in the Mexican State of Michoacan in an orchard located in a municipality that meets the requirements of paragraph (c)(1) of this section. The orchard in which the avocados are grown must meet the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section. The avocados must be packed for export to the United States in a packinghouse that meets the requirements of paragraph (c)(3) of this section. The Mexican national plant protection organization (NPPO) must provide an annual work plan to APHIS that details the activities that the Mexican NPPO will, subject to APHIS' approval of the work plan, carry out to meet the requirements of this section; APHIS will be directly involved with the Mexican NPPO in the monitoring and supervision of those activities. The personnel conducting the trapping and pest surveys must be hired, trained, and supervised by the Mexican NPPO or by the Michoacan State delegate of the Mexican NPPO.

(1) *Municipality requirements.* (i) The municipality must be listed as an approved municipality in the bilateral work plan provided to APHIS by the Mexican NPPO.

(ii) The municipality must be surveyed at least semiannually (once during the wet season and once during the dry season) and found to be free from the large avocado seed weevil *Heilipus lauri*, the avocado seed moth *Stenomoma catenifer*, and the small avocado seed weevils *Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*.

(iii) Trapping must be conducted in the municipality for Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) (*Ceratitis capitata*) at the rate of 1 trap per 1 to 4 square miles. Any findings of Medfly must be reported to APHIS.

(2) *Orchard and grower requirements.* The orchard and the grower must be registered with the Mexican NPPO's avocado export program and must be listed as an approved orchard or an approved grower in the annual work plan provided to APHIS by the Mexican NPPO. The operations of the orchard must meet the following conditions:

(i) The orchard and all contiguous orchards and properties must be surveyed semiannually and found to be free from the avocado stem weevil *Copturus aguacatae*.

(ii) Avocado fruit that has fallen from the trees must be removed from the orchard at least once every 7 days and may not be included in field boxes of fruit to be packed for export.

(iii) Dead branches on avocado trees in the orchard must be pruned and removed from the orchard.

(iv) Harvested avocados must be placed in field boxes or containers of field boxes that are marked to show the official registration number of the orchard. The avocados must be moved from the orchard to the packinghouse within 3 hours of harvest or they must be protected from fruit fly infestation until moved.

(v) The avocados must be protected from fruit fly infestation during their movement from the orchard to the packinghouse and must be accompanied by a field record indicating that the avocados originated from a certified orchard.

(3) *Packinghouse requirements.* The packinghouse must be registered with the Mexican NPPO's avocado export program and must be listed as an approved packinghouse in the annual work plan provided to APHIS by the Mexican NPPO. The operations of the packinghouse must meet the following conditions:

(i) During the time the packinghouse is used to prepare avocados for export to the United States, the packinghouse may accept fruit only from orchards certified by the Mexican NPPO for participation in the avocado export program.

(ii) All openings to the outside must be covered by screening with openings of not more than 1.6 mm or by some other barrier that prevents insects from entering the packinghouse.

(iii) The packinghouse must have double doors at the entrance to the facility and at the interior entrance to the area where the avocados are packed.

(iv) Prior to the culling process, a biometric sample, at a rate determined by APHIS, of avocados per consignment must be selected, cut, and in-

spected by the Mexican NPPO or its approved designee and found free from pests.

(v) The identity of the avocados must be maintained from field boxes or containers to the containers in which they will be shipped so the avocados can be traced back to the orchard in which they were grown if pests are found at the packinghouse or the port of first arrival in the United States.

(vi) Prior to being packed for shipping, each avocado fruit must be cleaned of all stems, leaves, and other portions of plants and labeled with a sticker that bears the official registration number of the packinghouse.

(vii) The avocados must be packed in clean, new boxes or bulk shipping bins, or in clean plastic reusable crates. The boxes, bins, or crates must be clearly marked with the identity of the grower, packinghouse, and exporter. The boxes, bins, or crates must be covered with a lid, insect-proof mesh, or other material to protect the avocados from fruit-fly infestation prior to leaving the packinghouse. Those safeguards must be intact at the time the consignment arrives in the United States.

(viii) The packed avocados must be placed in a refrigerated truck or refrigerated container and remain in that truck or container while in transit through Mexico to the port of export for consignments shipped by air or sea or the port of first arrival in the United States for consignments shipped by land. Prior to leaving the packinghouse, the truck or container must be secured by the Mexican NPPO with a seal that will be broken when the truck or container is opened. The seal may be broken and a new seal applied by the Mexican NPPO if the truck or container stops at another approved packinghouse for additional avocados meeting the requirements of this section to be placed in the truck or container. The seal on the refrigerated truck or refrigerated container must be intact at the time the truck or container reaches the port of export in Mexico or the port of first arrival in the United States.

(ix) Any avocados that have not been packed or loaded into a refrigerated truck or refrigerated container by the

end of the workday must be kept in the screened packing area.

(d) *Certification.* All consignments of avocados must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Mexican NPPO with an additional declaration certifying that the conditions specified in this section have been met.

(e) *Pest detection.* If any of the avocado pests *Heilipus lauri*, *Conotrachelus aguacatae*, *C. perseae*, *Copturus aguacatae*, or *Stenomoma catenifer* are detected during the semiannual pest surveys in a packinghouse, certified orchard or areas outside of certified orchards, or other monitoring or inspection activity in the municipality, the Mexican NPPO must immediately initiate an investigation and take measures to isolate and eradicate the pests. The Mexican NPPO must also provide APHIS with information regarding the circumstances of the infestation and the pest risk mitigation measures taken. Orchards affected by the pest detection will lose their export certification immediately, and avocado exports from that orchard will be suspended until APHIS and the Mexican NPPO agree that the pest eradication measures taken have been effective.

(f) *Inspection.* The avocados are subject to inspection by an inspector at the port of first arrival, at any stops in the United States en route to an approved State, and upon arrival at the terminal market in the approved States. At the port of first arrival, an inspector will sample and cut avocados from each consignment to detect pest infestation.

(g) *Repackaging.* If any avocados are removed from their original shipping boxes, crates, or bulk shipping bins and repackaged, the stickers required by paragraph (c)(3)(vi) of this section may not be removed or obscured and the new packaging must be clearly marked with all the information required by paragraph (c)(3)(vii) of this section.

[72 FR 39501, July 18, 2007, as amended at 74 FR 31160, June 30, 2009; 75 FR 66644, Oct. 29, 2010; 75 FR 81376, Dec. 28, 2010]

#### §319.56-31 Peppers from Spain.

Peppers (fruit) (*Capsicum* spp.) may be imported into the United States from Spain only under permit, and only in accordance with this section

and all other applicable requirements of this subpart:

(a) The peppers must be grown in the Alicante or Almeria Province of Spain in pest-proof greenhouses registered with, and inspected by, the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAFF);

(b) The peppers may be shipped only from December 1 through April 30, inclusive;

(c) Beginning October 1, and continuing through April 30, MAFF must set and maintain Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) (Medfly) traps baited with trimedlure inside the greenhouses at a rate of four traps per hectare. In all outside areas, including urban and residential areas, within 8 kilometers of the greenhouses, MAFF must set and maintain Medfly traps baited with trimedlure at a rate of four traps per square kilometer. All traps must be checked every 7 days;

(d) Capture of a single Medfly in a registered greenhouse will immediately halt exports from that greenhouse until the Administrator determines that the source of infestation has been identified, that all Medflies have been eradicated, and that measures have been taken to preclude any future infestation. Capture of a single Medfly within 2 kilometers of a registered greenhouse will necessitate increased trap density in order to determine whether there is a reproducing population in the area. Capture of two Medflies within 2 kilometers of a registered greenhouse during a 1-month period will halt exports from all registered greenhouses within 2 kilometers of the capture, until the source of infestation is determined and all Medflies are eradicated;

(e) The peppers must be safeguarded from harvest to export by insect-proof mesh or plastic tarpaulin, including while in transit to the packinghouse and while awaiting packing. They must be packed in insect-proof cartons or covered by insect-proof mesh or plastic tarpaulin for transit to the airport and subsequent export to the United States. These safeguards must be intact upon arrival in the United States;

(f) The peppers must be packed for shipment within 24 hours of harvest;