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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 03-018-2]

Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the Asian longhorned beetle regulations by adding portions of New York City, NY, and Hudson County, NJ, to the list of quarantined areas and restricting the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas. The interim rule also updated the list of regulated articles in order to reflect new information concerning host plants. These actions were necessary to prevent the artificial spread of the Asian longhorned beetle to noninfested areas of the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim rule became effective on May 13, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael B. Stefan, Director of Emergency Programs, Pest Detection and Management Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-4387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an interim rule effective May 13, 2003, and published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2003 (68 FR 26983-26985, Docket No. 03-018-1), we amended the Asian longhorned beetle regulations contained in 7 CFR 301.51-1 through 301.51-9 by adding portions of

New York City, NY, and Hudson County, NJ, to the list of quarantined areas in § 301.51-3(c) and restricting the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas. We also updated the list of regulated articles in § 301.51-2(a) in order to reflect new information concerning host plants gathered through survey experience and research.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before July 18, 2003. We did not receive any comments. Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Orders 12372 and 12988, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review under Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

■ Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 7 CFR part 301 and that was published at 68 FR 26983-26985 on May 19, 2003.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Section 301.75-15 also issued under Sec. 204, Title II, Pub. L. 106-113, 113 Stat. 1501A-293; sections 301.75-15 and 301.75-16 also issued under Sec. 203, Title II, Pub. L. 106-224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of September, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23354 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. 02-003-2]

Importation of Pork-Filled Pasta

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending the regulations regarding the importation of pork and pork products from regions affected with swine vesicular disease by establishing procedures for the importation of pork-filled pasta into the United States. The procedures require that the product contain only cooked or dry-cured pork otherwise eligible to enter the United States under the regulations; that the operator of any pork-filled pasta processing facility processing products for export to the United States enter into a cooperative service agreement with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service providing for unannounced inspections of the facility which are to be paid for by the facility; that the product not be commingled, directly or indirectly, with products ineligible to enter the United States; and that the product be accompanied by an official veterinary certificate confirming that the product has been prepared in accordance with the regulations. This action provides for the importation of pork-filled pasta under conditions designed to prevent the introduction of swine vesicular disease into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 15, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Masoud Malik, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Technical Trade Services, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-3277.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) prohibit or restrict the importation of specified animals and animal products into the United States to prevent the introduction into the U.S. livestock population of certain contagious animal