

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of January, 2013.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-00192 Filed 1-8-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2012-0088]

#### Notice of Establishment of an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Stakeholder Registry

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of a new Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service stakeholder registry.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Hallie Zimmers, Advisor for State and Stakeholder Relations, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS, room 1147, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; (202) 799-7029.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has established an electronic stakeholder registry for individuals and organizations interested in receiving updates regarding APHIS announcements, activities, policies, regulations and services. Subscribers can choose from an array of topics covering all of APHIS' program areas and once registered will receive information via email or text tailored to their specific interests. In addition to choosing topics of interest, subscribers may select how often they want to receive messages.

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine and Veterinary Services programs are already using this subscription service to share information with stakeholders. By expanding the registry to include APHIS' Animal Care, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, International Services, and Wildlife Services programs, we are adopting an agency-wide approach toward increasing transparency and communication with our many and diverse stakeholders.

To join the registry and receive messages, stakeholders must subscribe and provide an email address or telephone number. Stakeholders can update their profiles at any time using this same information.

Persons interested in becoming subscribers or updating their subscriptions may access the expanded registry at: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS\\_1](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/topics?qsp=USDAAPHIS_1). Subscribers can also register or update their profiles by clicking on the red envelope on the APHIS home page at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Questions concerning the APHIS stakeholder registry may be directed to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2012-0004]

#### Importation of Fresh Barhi Dates From Israel Into the United States

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we have prepared a pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of fresh dates of the cultivar Barhi from Israel into the United States. Based on that analysis, we have concluded that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the pest risk. In addition, we are advising the public that we have prepared a treatment evaluation document that describes a new treatment schedule for *Ceratitis capitata* in Barhi dates. We are making the pest risk assessment and treatment evaluation document available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 11, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [http://www.regulations.gov/#/documentDetail;D=APHIS\\_2012-0004-0001](http://www.regulations.gov/#/documentDetail;D=APHIS_2012-0004-0001).
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2012-0004, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station

3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at [http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS\\_2012-0004](http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS_2012-0004) or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Marc Phillips, Import Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 156, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2114.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under the regulations in "Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56-1 through 319.56-57), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant pests that are new to or not widely distributed within the United States.

Section 319.56-4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section.

APHIS received a request from the Government of Israel to allow the importation of fresh dates (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) of the cultivar Barhi to be imported into the United States. Currently, fresh Barhi dates are not authorized for entry from Israel. We completed a pest risk assessment (PRA) to identify pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of importation if such imports were to be allowed. Based on the PRA, we then completed a risk management document (RMD) to identify phytosanitary measures that could be applied to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating the identified pests via the importation of Barhi dates from Israel. We have concluded that fresh Barhi dates can safely be imported into the United States from Israel using one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in § 319.56-4(b). These measures are that:

- The dates may be imported into the United States in commercial consignments only;

- The dates must be treated in accordance with 7 CFR part 305 for *Ceratitis capitata*; and

- The dates must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the national plant protection organization of Israel stating that the consignment has begun or has undergone treatment T107-i, with the additional declaration stating that the fruit in the consignment was inspected and found free of *Mauginiella scaetiae*.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56-4(c), we are announcing the availability of our PRA for public review and comment. The PRA may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* Web site or in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for instructions for accessing *Regulations.gov* and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may also request paper copies of the PRA by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the subject of the analysis that you wish to review when requesting copies.

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the import status of fresh Barhi variety dates from Israel in a subsequent notice. If the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator's determination of risk remain unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will authorize the importation of fresh Barhi variety dates from Israel into the United States subject to the requirements specified in the RMD.

#### *New Treatment*

The phytosanitary treatments regulations contained in part 305 of 7 CFR chapter III set out standards for treatments required in parts 301, 318, and 319 of 7 CFR chapter III for fruits, vegetables, and other articles.

In § 305.2, paragraph (b) states that approved treatment schedules are set out in the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Treatment Manual.<sup>1</sup> Section 305.3 sets out a process for adding, revising, or removing treatment schedules in the PPQ Treatment Manual. In that section, paragraph (a) sets out the process for adding, revising, or removing treatment schedules when

there is no immediate need to make a change.

The PPQ Treatment Manual does not currently provide a treatment schedule for *C. capitata* in Barhi variety dates. In accordance with § 305.3(a)(1), we are providing notice of a new cold treatment schedule T107-i that we have determined is effective against *C. capitata* in Barhi variety dates. The reasons for this determination are described in a treatment evaluation document (TED) we have prepared to support this action. The TED may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* Web site or in our reading room. You may also request paper copies of the TED by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

After reviewing the comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the changes to the Treatment Manual that are described in the TED in a subsequent notice. If our determination that it is necessary to add new treatment schedule T107-i remains unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will make available a new version of the PPQ Treatment Manual that reflects the addition of T107-i.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450, 7701-7772, and 7781-7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of January, 2013.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. APHIS-2012-0082]

#### **International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Activities**

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with legislation implementing the results of the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, we are informing the public of the international standard-setting activities of the World Organization for Animal Health, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, and the North American Plant Protection Organization,

and we are soliciting public comment on the standards to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2012-0082-0001>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2012-0082, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2012-0082> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on the topics covered in this notice, contact Mrs. Jessica Mahalingappa, Acting Associate Deputy Administrator for SPS Management, International Services, APHIS, room 1132, USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; (202) 799-7121.

For specific information regarding standard-setting activities of the World Organization for Animal Health, contact Dr. Michael David, Director, International Animal Health Standards Team, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 33, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-3302.

For specific information regarding the standard-setting activities of the International Plant Protection Convention or the North American Plant Protection Organization, contact Ms. Julie E. Aliaga, Program Director, International Phytosanitary Standards, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 851-2032.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established as the common international institutional framework for governing trade relations among its members in matters related to the Uruguay Round Agreements. The WTO is the successor organization to the General Agreement on Tariffs and

<sup>1</sup> The Treatment Manual is available on the Internet at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/index.shtml) or by contacting the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Manuals Unit, 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 200, Frederick, MD 21702.