



United States Department of Agriculture

# Inspection Procedures for Imported Fresh Fruits and Vegetables



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# General Guidelines

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[APHIS–PPQ Manual for Agricultural Clearance](#)

[APHIS–PPQ Treatment Manual](#)

[Code of Federal Regulations](#)

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## Purpose

These general guidelines provide the background and procedures for regulating imported articles of fresh, edible parts of plants such as fruits, stems, leaves, roots, and flowers. These imported articles are **not** intended for planting or growing, but they might serve to introduce exotic pests.

The articles from the countries of origin listed in the online [APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements Database \(FAVIR\)](#) are admissible based on import requirements. Articles **NOT** listed have **not** been evaluated for admissibility or may pose a quarantine pest risk.

FAVIR allows easy access to information pertaining to the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States, its territories, and possessions. Collectively, these regulations are commonly referred to as Quarantine 56, or Q56.

Access the [Fruit and Vegetable Import Permit Web site](#) for information on permit validation for fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables.

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## Scope

[FAVIR](#) lists the admissibility requirements and admissible parts of imported fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and unhusked nuts. The list can be organized by foreign country of harvest, by origin, by commodity, or by destination. These fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs **must** be intended for consumption; **not** planting or growing. **Only** the approved plant part(s) of the fresh fruit, vegetable, and herb is allowed entry.

FAVIR does **not** cover the following:

- ◆ Botanical fruits for decoration such as decorative *Ananas* spp. (pineapple), *Capsicum* spp. (pepper), and *Cynara* spp. (artichoke) (*see* [Cut Flowers and Greenery Import Manual](#))
- ◆ Processed fruits and vegetables that have been canned, concentrated, cooked, dried, frozen, jellied, juiced, pickled, pureed, segmented, or sliced (*see* [Miscellaneous and Processed Products Import Manual](#))
- ◆ Dried, mature, unprocessed seeds such as acorns, chestnuts, coconuts, faba beans, lentils, macadamia nuts, or peanuts (*see* [Seeds Not For Planting Import Manual](#))
- ◆ Fruits, vegetables, or herbs imported for planting or growing purposes (*see* [Plants for Planting Manual](#))

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## Users

These guidelines are written for use by regulatory officers who work at airport, maritime, and land border locations:

- ◆ CBP Agriculture Specialists (CBP–AS)
- ◆ Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers
- ◆ Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Officials

The experience levels of users will vary, but the assumption is that the officers minimally have a working knowledge of using PPQ's import manuals to make regulatory decisions.

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## Related Documents

Enabling legislation provides the authority to carry out the mission of protecting American agriculture from plant pests. Legislative acts are the fundamental authority granted by Congress to the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations to protect American agriculture. The regulatory authority for taking the actions listed in the database is contained in the Plant Protection Act (PPA). The PPA provides the authority to prohibit or restrict imports, exports, or interstate movement of plant pests, plants, plant products, noxious weeds, biological control agents, and means of conveyance.

Other documents that include information related to the importation of fresh fruits and vegetables are as follows:

- ◆ APHIS–PPQ *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*
- ◆ APHIS–PPQ *Treatment Manual*

◆ Code of Federal Regulations

**APHIS–PPQ Manual for Agricultural Clearance**

The APHIS–PPQ [Manual for Agricultural Clearance](#) provides CBP personnel working at airport, maritime, and land border locations with guidelines, directions, and policy for excluding pests that are a threat to American agriculture.

**APHIS–PPQ Treatment Manual**

The APHIS–PPQ [Treatment Manual](#) provides the details of treatments when a commodity must be treated as a condition of entry or based on pest findings.

**Code of Federal Regulations**

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) provide the authority for the regulatory action taken and are enforced by CBP and PPQ. The restrictions and prohibitions listed in this manual are covered by the [7 CFR 319.56, Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables](#).

7 CFR 319.56 Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables provides the following:

- ◆ Restricts or prohibits fresh fruits and vegetables (including herbs) from all countries
- ◆ Restricts frozen fruits and vegetables
- ◆ Includes fresh, cut articles imported for decoration when fresh fruits are attached such as pineapples (*Ananas* spp.) that are used as decorative articles
- ◆ Pests of concern—fruit and melon flies (Tephritidae)



# General Procedures

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## Introduction

This *Procedures* section outlines the inspection of generally admissible fresh fruits and vegetables and is to be used in conjunction with the import requirements listed in the APHIS [Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements Database \(FAVIR\)](#). This section also includes steps involved in sampling, inspecting, regulating, and clearing commercial and noncommercial consignments of fresh fruits and vegetables. CBP Agriculture Specialists and PPQ Officers will also find guidance in other manuals, such as the APHIS–PPQ *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*.

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## Preparation

Before beginning inspection, complete the preparatory tasks described below.

### Inspection Area Needed

In order to effectively and easily inspect fruits and vegetables, you need the following inspection area:

- ◆ Good lighting to be able to see small pests
- ◆ Interior location protected from inclement weather, away from open doorways and drafts so pests do not blow away or escape
- ◆ Safe, uncluttered area away from vehicular traffic, machinery forklifts, and stacked cargo
- ◆ Table to inspect and cut fruits and vegetables

### Materials Needed

When sampling and inspecting fresh fruits and vegetables, have the following materials available:

- ◆ Alcohol (for insect preservation)
- ◆ Brush (a small one for picking up insects)
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Hand lens
- ◆ Knife
- ◆ Manuals
- ◆ Pill boxes (for adult insects)
- ◆ Regulatory stamps (Hold, Released, Treated & Released, Authorize Consignment to, Released for Export, and Inspected & Released)
- ◆ Safety equipment (hard hat, plastic or rubber gloves)
- ◆ Vials (for interceptions)

### Information Needed

Do some solid investigating and be creative when collecting the necessary information that can be obtained from a variety of sources. Refer to [Table 2-1](#) for information sources. **HOLD all** consignments until you have the needed information, including **but not limited to**:

- ◆ Destination of the commodities where they will be used (**not** always the port of entry)
- ◆ Origin of the commodities (where they were grown or harvested, **not** the port of lading)
- ◆ Presence or absence of required import permits, foreign phytosanitary certificates, PPQ Form 203 (APHIS preclearance documents)
- ◆ Treatment certificates, ingredient statements, processing statements, etc.
- ◆ Scientific or common name of the commodities
- ◆ Size and kind of consignment: commercial or noncommercial

Ensure the information is accurate. Manifests often show the port of lading, but not the origin of the commodity; therefore, you may need to check other documents for the country of origin. Consult reference materials and PPQ

specialists (botanist, entomologist, and plant pathologist) through proper channels when you are **not** sure what is being imported.

**Table 2-1 Where to Collect Needed Information**

If the consignment is:	Then get information from:
Commercial (for resale or for profit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Carrier documents (air waybills and shipping papers)</li> <li>◆ Computers and computer printouts</li> <li>◆ Foreign phytosanitary certificates</li> <li>◆ Interviews with importers, brokers, freight forwarders, or other representatives of the importer</li> <li>◆ Invoices (obtained from importer or broker)</li> <li>◆ Labels</li> <li>◆ Manifests and other Customs forms</li> <li>◆ Notices of arrival</li> <li>◆ Packing lists</li> <li>◆ Permits (PPQ, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), Endangered Species (ESA))</li> </ul>
Noncommercial (not for sale nor profit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Declarations (oral or written Customs declaration)</li> <li>◆ Documents (such as a sales receipt)</li> <li>◆ Foreign phytosanitary certificates</li> <li>◆ Labels (information written on the packaging)</li> <li>◆ Interviews with importers</li> <li>◆ Permits</li> </ul>

### Regulatory Action

Once you have all the information needed to make a regulatory decision, take one of the following actions:

- ◆ [Authorize Shipment](#)
- ◆ [Hold](#)
- ◆ [Prohibit Entry](#)
- ◆ [Release](#)

### Authorize Shipment

The regulatory action to AUTHORIZE SHIPMENT may be authorized under a Customs bond (in-transit or I.T.) and an APHIS authorization. They allow the item to move to another port where CBP or PPQ have personnel to inspect or treat the item. Safeguard to prevent pest escape and authorize consignment if:

- ◆ An import permit, Emergency Action Notification (EAN) (generated from the National AQAS EAN Database), or AI-523A Chain of Custody is available, and the receiving CBP or PPQ office agrees to clear the cargo
- ◆ Cargo is moving to an approved treatment facility

- ◆ Cargo remains aboard the carrier as residue cargo or transits the U.S. under a transit permit
- ◆ Conditions of the APHIS import permit require that the regulated cargo be cleared or treated at a specific location or port

### Hold

The regulatory action to HOLD maintains control of the cargo while:

- ◆ Awaiting inspection of the cargo
- ◆ Awaiting the identification of an “urgent interception” after inspection
- ◆ Awaiting decision by the importer to apply for the required import permit to treat<sup>1</sup> or to reexport
- ◆ Awaiting a copy of an approved APHIS import permit
- ◆ Collecting information to make a regulatory decision

### Prohibit Entry

Take the regulatory action PROHIBIT ENTRY if the plants or plant products are:

- ◆ Imported and the importer refuses to comply with the conditions of entry
- ◆ Infested with a pest for which a treatment does **not** exist or is **not** feasible
- ◆ Infested with plant pests and the importer refuses to treat the commodities
- ◆ Prohibited and **not** authorized by a Departmental permit

### Release

Take the regulatory action to RELEASE after ensuring:

- ◆ All import permit requirements have been met
- ◆ All required documents are in order (CITES, import permits, foreign phytosanitary certificates)
- ◆ The material is admissible
- ◆ Treatable pests have **not** been found
- ◆ Required treatments, if any, have been completed

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<sup>1</sup> If a commercial consignment requires treatment or if the consignment is being held pending the identification of a pest, the consignment **must** be safeguarded. Segregate and secure any infested or prohibited materials. For additional safeguarding information, refer to the APHIS–PPQ *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*.



## General Inspection Procedures

The procedures involved in sampling, inspecting, regulating, and clearing both commercial and noncommercial shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables are found in the following Steps 1 through 6. In addition, Steps 7 and 8 provide clearance highlights also covered in detail in the APHIS–PPQ *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*, Clearing Cargo section.

### Step 1: Determine the Category of the Shipment

After collecting and reviewing the documents accompanying the shipment, determine if the shipment fits in a category that requires special attention, such as international mail, U.S. returned, or shipments transiting the United States. Because you may need to follow special procedures for processing shipments, use [Table 2-2](#) to determine the category of the shipment and what to do or where to go next.

**Table 2-2 Categories of Shipments**

If the shipment is:	Then:
Foreign produce that is transiting the United States	GO to <a href="#">roduce of Foreign Origin That is Transiting the United States</a> on page 2-14
U.S.-returned fruits or vegetables	GO to <a href="#">U.S.-Returned Fruits and Vegetables</a> on page 2-15
Foreign produce imported in international mail	GO to <a href="#">Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in International Mail</a> on page 2-17
Foreign importations <b>other than</b> one of the categories described above	GO to <a href="#">Step 2: Determine Entry Status</a>

### Step 2: Determine Entry Status

Open the APHIS [Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements Database \(FAVIR\)](#). There are several ways to determine whether a fruit or vegetable is allowed entry into the U.S. (*see* [Figure 2-1](#).)



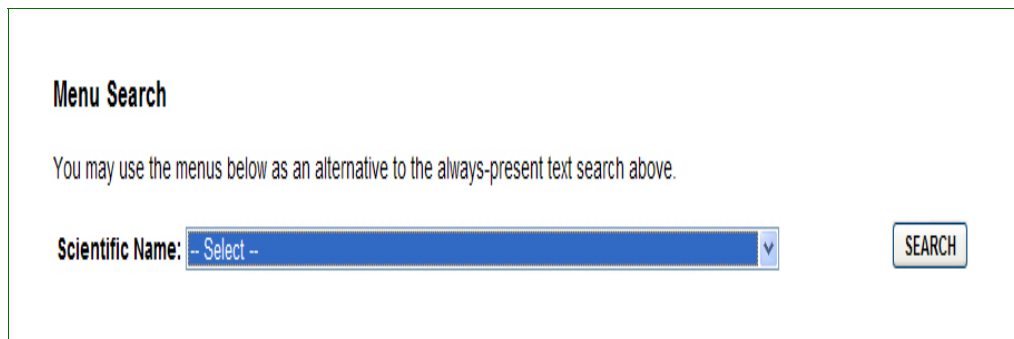
**Figure 2-1 FAVIR Homepage**

For a list of all the commodities admissible from a particular country, select the radio button for “Country/Region,” click on the drop-down arrow, and select

the country in the drop-down list. Select “SEARCH” to view the list of admissible commodities from that country.

For a list of all admissible commodities, click on the radio button for “Approved Name,” select the commodity in the drop-down list, and click on “SEARCH.”

If you would like to search by the scientific name of the commodity, select “Search by Scientific Name” located in the upper right corner of the home page. Select the scientific name from the drop-down menu.



**Menu Search**

You may use the menus below as an alternative to the always-present text search above.

Scientific Name:

**Figure 2-2 Example of Scientific Name Search**

After you have selected the country or commodity of interest, you must open the Commodity Import Requirement (CIR) to access detailed import requirements, such as required treatments, special inspections, preclearance status, and/or approved arrival ports. Select “OPEN CIR” to view the import requirements.

The CIR also contains specific information about the commodity. Click on the hyperlink “Guide Page.” The “Guide Page” provides general commodity information and may serve as a tool to help identify fruits and vegetables. Some guide pages include pictures or links to the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) database.

### Geographic Designations

Geographic designations of the ports where the commodities are allowed to enter are indicated in the column labeled “Port(s) of Entry.” These geographic designations are summarized in [Table 2-3](#). A detailed list is provided in [Table 2-4](#).

**Table 2-3 Geographic Abbreviations**

Geographic Abbreviation	Description
ALL	All ports of entry in all States where CBP officials are stationed and their area of coverage. This description includes Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
ALASKA	The entire State of Alaska
NA	North Atlantic—Atlantic ports north of and including Baltimore, MD; ports on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; Canadian border ports east of and including North Dakota; Washington, D.C. including Andrews Air force Base and Dulles for air consignments. In other words, all the areas north of 39° and east of 104°.
NP	Northern Pacific—Pacific ports north of California including Alaska; Canadian border ports west of and including Montana <b>but excluding</b> Hawaii. In other words, all the areas north of 42° and west of 104°.
SAG	South Atlantic and Gulf—Atlantic ports south of Baltimore, MD and the U.S. gulf ports; includes Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In other words, all the areas south of 39° and east of 104°.
PR	Puerto Rico (also included under SAG)
USVI	U.S. Virgin Islands that consists of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John (also included under SAG)
HAWAII	The entire State of Hawaii
GUAM	The U.S. territory of Guam
CNMI	The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
SoP	Ports as specified on a permit

Ports of entry are listed for reference purposes **only**. Geographic designations are based on their longitude and latitude. Therefore, some States have additional designations (e.g., *see* Missouri and Virginia).

**Table 2-4 Geographic Designations for Ports of Entry (page 1 of 2)**

States and U.S. Territories:	Abbreviation:	States and U.S. Territories:	Abbreviation:
Alabama	ALL/SAG	Nebraska	ALL/NA
Alaska	ALL/AK/NP	Nevada	ALL
Arizona	ALL	New Hampshire	ALL/NA
Arkansas	ALL/SAG	New Jersey	ALL/NA
California	ALL	New Mexico	ALL
Colorado	ALL	New York	ALL/NA
Connecticut	ALL/NA	North Carolina	ALL/SAG


**Table 2-4 Geographic Designations for Ports of Entry (page 2 of 2)**

<b>States and U.S. Territories:</b>	<b>Abbreviation:</b>	<b>States and U.S. Territories:</b>	<b>Abbreviation:</b>
Delaware	ALL/NA	North Dakota	ALL/NA
Florida	ALL/SAG	Ohio	ALL/NA
Georgia	ALL/SAG	Oklahoma	ALL/SAG
Hawaii	ALL/HI	Oregon	ALL/NP
Idaho	ALL/NP	Pennsylvania	ALL/NA
Illinois	ALL/NA	Puerto Rico	ALL/PR/SAG
Indiana	ALL/NA	Rhode Island	ALL/NA
Iowa	ALL/NA	South Carolina	ALL/SAG
Kansas	ALL/NA	South Dakota	ALL/NA
Kentucky	ALL/SAG	Tennessee	ALL/SAG
Louisiana	ALL/SAG	Texas <sup>1</sup>	ALL/SAG
Maine	ALL/NA	US Virgin Islands	ALL/USVI/SAG
Maryland	ALL/NA	Utah	ALL
Massachusetts	ALL/NA	Vermont	ALL/NA
Michigan	ALL/NA	Virginia	ALL/NA (Dulles) ALL/SAG (Norfolk and Richmond)
Minnesota	ALL/NA	Washington	ALL/NP
Mississippi	ALL/SAG	West Virginia	NA
Missouri	ALL/NA (Kansas City) ALL/SAG (St. Charles)	Wisconsin	ALL/NA
Montana	ALL/NP	Wyoming	ALL/NP

1 The geographic designation for El Paso and Presido is ALL. All other ports of entry in Texas are ALL/SAG.

Use [Table 2-5](#) to identify the regulatory action to take based on whether the commodity is listed as admissible.

**Table 2-5 Determine Regulatory Action Based on Entry Status and Conditions of Entry**

If:	And the CIR states:	Then:
Commodity is listed	Is admissible under the port of entry <b>without</b> additional conditions	SEE <a href="#">Step 3: Check for Import Permit Requirements</a>
	Requires a treatment as a condition of entry	1. HOLD shipment 2. CONTACT a PPQ official through proper channels 3. SEE <a href="#">Step 3: Check for Import Permit Requirements</a>
	Requires some form of certification as a condition of entry	1. REQUIRE the certification 2. SEE <a href="#">Step 3: Check for Import Permit Requirements</a>
	Requires a special procedure for sampling and inspecting or has detailed regulatory information	1. REFER to the special procedure 2. SEE <a href="#">Step 3: Check for Import Permit Requirements</a>
Commodity is <b>not</b> listed <sup>1</sup>		1. PROHIBIT ENTRY to the commodity; it is inadmissible <sup>2</sup> 2. INITIATE the Emergency Action Notification (EAN) (refer to the MAC)

1 If accompanied by a valid APHIS import permit, SEE [Check for Import Permit Requirements](#).

2 Fruits and vegetables may be inadmissible for the following reasons: 1) PPQ has **not** evaluated the pest risk of importing the fruit or vegetable from that country; 2) PPQ has studied the risk, **but cannot** issue a permit because no treatment exists that eliminates the pest risk.

### Step 3: Check for Import Permit Requirements

Except where noted in the database, all consignments of admissible fresh fruits and vegetables require an import permit. However, lack of an import permit is **not** grounds to prohibit entry to an admissible consignment.

For consignments that have an import permit and are listed in FAVIR, follow the instructions on the permit. Refer to e-Permits through e-Authentication to validate the import permit. If the consignment is **not** listed in FAVIR, but arrives with an import permit, CONTACT USDA–APHIS–PPQ Permit Services (301-851-2046) through your chain of command.

If the importer lacks an import permit when one is required, HOLD the consignment. CBP–AS may issue oral authorization for fruits and vegetables arriving in the United States without a specific written permit for plant and plant products, provided it meets **all** other import requirements and special conditions. Use [Table 2-6](#) to determine whether an oral authorization is appropriate.

**Table 2-6 Deciding Whether an Oral Authorization is Appropriate**

If:	And the fresh fruit or vegetable is:	And:	Then:
Commercial consignment	Admissible	All other import requirements can be met	1. ALLOW the importer to apply for a permit <sup>1</sup> 2. OBTAIN adequate proof that an application was submitted <sup>2</sup> 3. PROVIDE oral authorization <sup>3</sup>
		All other import requirements <b>CANNOT</b> be met	PROHIBIT ENTRY
	Prohibited	—————▶	PROHIBIT ENTRY
Personal baggage	Admissible	All other import requirements can be met	PROVIDE oral authorization
		All other import requirements <b>CANNOT</b> be met	PROHIBIT ENTRY
	Prohibited	—————▶	Refer to the MAC Chapter 4-1 Clearing Passengers, Crew, and Baggage

- 1 Allow the importer to complete an application online. [[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq\\_epermits.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq_epermits.shtml)] The importer may also use the appropriate paper application. FAX completed paper applications to the number on the application.
- 2 Adequate proof that the importer has applied for a permit includes a FAX receipt or verbal confirmation from PPQ Permit Services, Riverdale, MD. The proof of application will **only** be allowed for entry for 30 days. If the application or proof of application is presented 30 days after the date on the application, the CBP Agriculture Specialist should contact Permit Services at (301) 851-2046 for further guidance.
- 3 For commercial consignments of fruits and vegetables (7 CFR 319.56), CBP Agriculture Specialists may grant oral authorization for entry provided a completed permit application (PPQ Form 587) is on file at PPQ Permit Services and the commodity presented for entry is admissible and meets **all** import requirements.

Proceed to [Step 4: Verify Consignment and Determine Its Condition](#)

**Step 4: Verify Consignment and Determine Its Condition**

Check the fruits and vegetables being imported against the accompanying paperwork to verify the commodities and the paperwork match.

If you discover inadmissible commodities are mixed with admissible fruits or vegetables, segregate and safeguard **all** the containers with cartons or bags of inadmissible commodities. Use [Table 2-7](#) to identify the action to take on commingled consignments.

**Table 2-7 Action to Take on Commingled Consignments**

If the fruits and vegetables are:	And:	Then:
Mixed within the same carton or bag	→	PROHIBIT ENTRY
<b>Not</b> mixed within the same carton or bag	One or more of the inadmissible commodities is a fruit fly host <sup>1</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HOLD the consignment</li> <li>2. CONSULT with a PPQ entomologist through channels for the regulatory action to take</li> </ol>
	None of the commodities is a fruit fly host <sup>1</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PROHIBIT ENTRY to the cartons or bags holding inadmissible produce</li> <li>2. INSPECT AND RELEASE the cartons holding admissible produce</li> <li>3. Refer to the MAC to issue an Emergency Action Notification (EAN)</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Most fleshy fruits are fruit fly hosts. Examples of fruits that are poor hosts to fruit flies include commercial bananas, dates, lemons of commerce, litchis, pineapples, pomegranates, and sour limes.

Proceed to [Step 5: Select the Sample](#)

**Step 5: Select the Sample**

Determine the condition of the shipment at the same time you verify its contents. If the shipment is rotten, decayed, or so badly damaged that your inspection would **not** be reliable for determining pest presence, PROHIBIT ENTRY.

Determining the presence of plant pests or contaminants in a commercial shipment is based on inspection of a sample. The size and method of selecting the sample are important in ensuring it is representative of the whole shipment. If the shipment received a preclearance inspection by USDA–APHIS, refer to the MAC or other special procedures for detailed sampling instructions. If the shipment is arriving under cold treatment, coordinate the verification of the treatment with local PPQ Officers **before** sampling. Specific sampling procedures for cold-treated commodities are available in the Officer Instructions in the FAVIR CIR.

If no other sampling instructions, procedures, or protocols are provided in the FAVIR CIR, use 2% as a standard sample rate. Also, use past port experience working with the shipper and the type of fruits or vegetables being imported. The standard sample rate may be increased for smaller shipments, or for a shipper or commodity that is encountered for the first time. The sample rate may be decreased for low-risk commodities or for importations that pose no risk. Homogeneous shipments of the same commodity, country of origin, shipper, and importer may be consolidated according to the [Maritime Container Consolidation Protocol](#).

Keep in mind that for containerized shipments, shippers may put the cleanest boxes of fruits and vegetables at the tailgate of the container. Therefore, it is important the sample is representative of the **whole** shipment.

The importer is responsible for supplying the labor to move, open, and repack the boxes sampled.

PROCEED to Step 6: Inspect Sample.

**Step 6: Inspect the Sample**

Fruits and vegetables may be hosts of significant plant pests. Thoroughly examine the commodity for pests and diseases, as well as prohibited plant parts. The packaging and/or conveyance also offer an environment that can attract hitchhiking pests—pests that do not attack the commodity. Therefore, when clearing commercial and noncommercial shipments, be sure to inspect for evidence of all types of plant pests and contaminants such as the following:

- ◆ Insects
- ◆ Mites
- ◆ Mollusks
- ◆ Nematodes
- ◆ Noxious weeds and their seeds
- ◆ Pathogens
- ◆ Plant debris
- ◆ Soil

Officers who encounter pests or quarantine material must safeguard the shipment (or affected portion of the shipment) or the container. Refer to the Safeguarding section of the *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*.

Just one destructive pest might be enough to start a pest outbreak that can cause millions of dollars of damage to crops, trees, flowers, or lawns. By their destructiveness, pests can increase the price and reduce the quality of food, lower property values, and ruin recreational areas. The extinction of just one plant species does away with the aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, commercial, and scientific value of our world.

If the FAVIR CIR has a link to a special procedure for sampling or inspection, use the special procedure as guidance for the inspection. However, if there is no special procedure in the Instructions for Officers in the CIR, use the following standard inspection guidelines:



- ◆ Edible Inflorescences
- ◆ Fleshy or Pulpy Fruits and Vegetables
- ◆ Leafy Herbs and Vegetables
- ◆ Legumes
- ◆ Root Crops and Edible Bulbs

Proceed to [Step 7: Take Regulatory Action Based on Inspection Results](#)

**Step 7: Take Regulatory Action Based on Inspection Results**

After following appropriate safeguards, use [Table 2-8](#) to determine the regulatory action to take based on inspection results.

**Table 2-8 Action to Take Based on Inspection Results**

If you find:	And from:	And:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Insects</li> <li>◆ Intact seeds and/or grain contaminants</li> <li>◆ Mollusks</li> <li>◆ Pathogens</li> <li>◆ Plant debris contaminants</li> </ul>	→		GO to <a href="#">Table 2-9</a>
Unauthorized plant parts	→		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HOLD shipment, and</li> <li>2. INITIATE an Emergency Action Notification (EAN)</li> <li>3. REQUIRE removal and disposal of contaminant, or PROHIBIT ENTRY</li> </ol>
Soil	Canada	An area in Canada infected with potato cyst nematode <sup>1</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HOLD shipment, and</li> <li>2. INITIATE an Emergency Action Notification (EAN)</li> <li>3. REQUIRE removal and disposal of contaminant, or PROHIBIT ENTRY</li> </ol>
		An area in Canada <b>free</b> of potato cyst nematode	RELEASE shipment
	<b>Other than</b> Canada	→	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HOLD shipment, and</li> <li>2. INITIATE an Emergency Action Notification (EAN)</li> <li>3. REQUIRE removal and disposal of contaminant, or PROHIBIT ENTRY</li> </ol>
<b>Neither</b> pests <b>nor</b> contaminants	→		RELEASE shipment

1 The following areas in Canada are positive for potato cyst nematode:

- ◆ Alberta: a farm unit and associated land located near the municipality of Fort Saskatchewan; and a farm unit and associated land located near the municipality of Spruce Grove
- ◆ British Columbia: that portion of the municipality of Central Saanich on Vancouver Island, east of the West Saanich Road
- ◆ Newfoundland and Labrador: the entire island of Newfoundland
- ◆ Quebec: the Municipality of St. Amable

**General Procedures**

roduce of Foreign Origin That is Transiting the United States

**Table 2-9 Action to Take Based on Cargo Release Authority**

If you:	And the pest or pathogen is:	Then:
<b>Lack</b> authority to identify <sup>1</sup>	→	1. HOLD shipment; and 2. SEND the interception for identification, see Appendix A (PPQ Form 309) and Appendix J (Interceptions) of the <i>Manual for Agricultural Clearance</i>
<b>Have</b> authority to identify	Nonactionable, but reportable	1. RELEASE shipment; and 2. SEND the interception for identification, see Appendix A (PPQ Form 309) and Appendix J (Interceptions) of the <i>Manual for Agricultural Clearance</i>
	Nonactionable and non-reportable	RELEASE shipment

<sup>1</sup> Authority to identify requires issuance of appropriate Cargo Release Authorities from the Area Identifier.

Proceed to [Step 8: Document Action Taken](#)

**Step 8: Document Action Taken**

Document the regulatory action taken for both commercial and noncommercial shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables using the instructions in the *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*.

**roduce of Foreign Origin That is Transiting the United States**

USDA–APHIS–PPQ Permit Services issues transit permits for the unloading, landing, or other movement of plants and plant products in cargo and passenger baggage through the United States to ensure they are adequately safeguarded and reexported in the specified time frame. Transit permits prescribe all required safeguarding or mitigation measures for the consignment. Transit permits are issued in accordance with 7 CFR 352.

Importers should apply for transit permits in advance of arrival by completing PPQ Form 586, Application for Permit to Transit Plants and/or Plant Products through the United States. Importers may call USDA–APHIS–PPQ Permit Services toll free at 1-877-770-5990 or go to the following Web site address:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/permits/transit.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/permits/transit.shtml)

Refer to Clearing Transiting In-Bond Cargo in the *Manual for Agricultural Clearance*.

## U.S.-Returned Fruits and Vegetables

Verify the commercial consignment is of U.S. origin by checking the accompanying documentation such as export bill of lading, Customs export declaration, U.S. phytosanitary certificate, or another source identifying the shipment as U.S. origin. The broker should supply a letter explaining:

- ◆ How the cargo was safeguarded while overseas
- ◆ The reason for the rejection
- ◆ Other details to satisfy any concern of contamination or commingling

Inspecting the U.S.-returning commercial consignment to ensure integrity may also be a useful piece of evidence.

For U.S.-returned fresh fruits and vegetables, **other than** commercial citrus, including personal provisions (land border, private yachts, and aircraft) and passenger baggage, use stencil marks on fruits and bagging, sales receipts, and answers to questions to determine the origin. Commuters traveling locally along the northern border often carry U.S. provisions and pose less/little risk and may be afforded a local commuter allowance.

### NOTICE

Stencil marks are used on fruits by several countries. Ensure the stencil is from a U.S. grower. There have been instances of counterfeit documents and fruit stamping.

In the case of citrus and avocados, the stencil may easily pinpoint origin. Refer to [Table 2-10](#) for a list of stencil marks most likely to be encountered. This list is **not** comprehensive.

**Table 2-10 Examples of Stencil Marks on U.S. Fruits**



Arizona and California	Florida	Texas
Blue Goose	Babijua	Alamo
Calavo	Florida	Crest-Tex
Coachella	Florigold	McAllen Texas
Excel	Indian River	Royal Ruby
Gold banner	Intrinsic	Sweetex
Pure Gold	Orchid	Texas
Sundiet (Sun-diet)	Seald Sweet	Texasweet
Sunkist		

**General Procedures**

U.S.-Returned Fruits and Vegetables

Returned citrus **cannot** reenter a citrus producing state other than its original State or territory of origin. Refer to [Table 2-11](#) for details on U.S. returned citrus in cargo.

**Table 2-11 Action to Take on U.S. Citrus Encountered in Cargo**

If the citrus was grown in:	And is reentering the U.S. at:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hawaii</li> <li>◆ Northern Mariana Islands</li> </ul>		◆ PROHIBIT ENTRY <sup>1</sup>
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ American Samoa</li> <li>◆ Arizona</li> <li>◆ California</li> <li>◆ Hawaii</li> <li>◆ Louisiana<sup>2</sup></li> <li>◆ Northern Mariana Islands</li> <li>◆ Puerto Rico</li> <li>◆ Texas</li> <li>◆ U.S. Virgin Islands</li> </ul>	
	State or territory <b>other than</b> listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VERIFY citrus are intact</li> <li>2. RELEASE</li> </ol>
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Arizona</li> <li>◆ California</li> <li>◆ Hawaii</li> <li>◆ Louisiana<sup>1</sup></li> <li>◆ Florida</li> <li>◆ Northern Mariana Islands</li> <li>◆ Puerto Rico</li> <li>◆ U.S. Virgin Islands</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VERIFY citrus are intact</li> <li>2. RELEASE</li> </ol>
	State or territory <b>other than</b> listed above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VERIFY citrus are intact in the original shipping containers</li> <li>2. RELEASE</li> </ol>
State or territory <b>other than</b> listed above		

- 1 If the commercial consignment is returning via Canada and is in a sealed package bearing an official PPQ stamp impression "TREATED AND RELEASE" or "RELEASED," inspection and release is at the discretion of the CBP Agriculture Specialist.
- 2 **Only** the parishes of Iberia, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafouche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Mary, and Terrebonne.

In many instances, it will be the cumulative evidence available to be assessed that will satisfy the question of origin. Original packaging is acceptable to verify origin for commercial shipments. If there is any question as to origin, CBP-AS may need to take more restrictive action up to destruction for personal provisions.

## Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in International Mail

Because fresh fruits and vegetables are perishable items and international mail is **not** an ideal shipping environment, permits are **not** issued for mail importations.

Follow the special procedures in [Table 2-12](#) for taking action on fresh fruits and vegetables in international mail.

**Table 2-12 Regulatory Action for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in International Mail**

If the shipment has:	And using the FAVIR CIR the commodity is:	And the condition of the commodity is:	Then:
Acceptable evidence of origin, e.g., foreign phytosanitary certificate and sales receipt	Admissible	Good	INSPECT AND RELEASE
	Inadmissible	Decayed, rotten, or will <b>not</b> reach destination in good condition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PROHIBIT ENTRY</li> <li>2. COMPLETE a Mail Interception Notice (PPQ Form 287)</li> <li>3. SEE the <i>Manual for Agricultural Clearance (MAC)</i> for instructions on how to complete forms</li> </ol>
→			
No evidence or inconclusive evidence of origin	Admissible from ALL COUNTRIES	Good	INSPECT AND RELEASE
	Inadmissible from ALL COUNTRIES	Decayed, rotten, or will <b>not</b> reach destination in good condition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PROHIBIT ENTRY</li> <li>2. COMPLETE a Mail Interception Notice (PPQ Form 287)</li> <li>3. SEE the <i>Manual for Agricultural Clearance (MAC)</i> for instructions on how to complete forms</li> </ol>
→			

**General Procedures**

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in International Mail

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# List of Special Procedures

## List of Special Inspection Procedures

The standard inspection rate for imported fruits and vegetables is 2%. However, some commodities have inspection and cutting procedures that differ from the standard 2% inspection. The bulleted list in this chapter is a summary of **all** inspection procedures for use by authorized personnel **only**.

### NOTICE

Always open the Commodity Import Requirement (CIR) to access **all** import requirements.

### Cold-Treated Commodities

- ◆ Apples, citrus, grapes, pears, and stone fruit from the Republic of South Africa
- ◆ General cold treatment inspection
- ◆ Grapes from Namibia
- ◆ Grapes from South Africa that are not precleared
- ◆ Litchi from China, including Taiwan
- ◆ Longan from Taiwan

### Precleared Commodities

- ◆ Precleared hot-water treated mangoes
- ◆ Precleared irradiated fruits and vegetables

### Commodities Intended for Irradiation in the United States

- ◆ Clearance of articles irradiated upon arrival into the United States

### Commodities from Various Countries

- ◆ Apple, kiwi, orange, and pear from Australia
- ◆ Banana-bulk and containerized inspection
- ◆ Commodities from Mexico
  - ❖ Hass avocado from Michoacan, Mexico
  - ❖ Bulk citrus from fruit fly-free areas in Mexico
- ◆ Corn smut galls
- ◆ Ethrog from Mediterranean fruit fly-infested countries

## List of Special Procedures

### List of Special Inspection Procedures

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- ◆ Fruits and vegetables entering under the [National Agriculture Release Program](#)
- ◆ Inspection procedure for *Tuta absoluta*
- ◆ Inspection procedures for cherries for European cherry fruit fly
- ◆ [Light brown apple moth host material](#) (various fruit from Australia and New Zealand)
- ◆ Noncommercial quantities of Japanese produce entering Hawaii
- ◆ Pears from China, Japan, and South Korea
- ◆ Peppers from the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago



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