

fly into noninfested areas of the United States. We have determined that the Oriental fruit fly has been eradicated from the portions of Los Angeles County, CA, and that the quarantine and restrictions are no longer necessary. Therefore, as a result of the interim rules, there are no longer any areas in the continental United States quarantined for Oriental fruit fly.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Affirmation effective August 4, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael B. Stefan, Operations Officer, Domestic and Emergency Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8247; or e-mail: michael.b.stefan@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We recently published two interim rules amending the Oriental fruit fly quarantine and regulations. In the first interim rule, effective February 18, 1998, and published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1998 (63 FR 8835-8836, Docket No. 97-073-4), we amended the Oriental fruit fly regulations by removing the quarantine on a portion of Los Angeles County, CA, and by removing the restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area. In the second interim rule, effective April 1, 1998, and published in the **Federal Register** on April 7, 1998 (63 FR 16877-16878, Docket No. 97-073-5), we amended the Oriental fruit fly regulations by removing the quarantine on the remaining portion of Los Angeles County, CA, and by removing the restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area. As a result of the interim rules, there are no longer any areas in the continental United States quarantined for Oriental fruit fly.

These actions were necessary to relieve restrictions that are no longer needed to prevent the spread of the Oriental fruit fly into noninfested areas of the United States.

Comments on the first interim rule (Docket No. 97-073-4) were required to be received on or before April 24, 1998. Comments on the second interim rule (Docket No. 97-073-5) were required to be received on or before June 8, 1998. We did not receive any comments on either interim rule. The facts presented in the interim rules still provide a basis for the rules.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rules 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 the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Incorporation by reference, 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, two interim rules that amended 7 CFR part 301 and that were published at 63 FR 8835-8836 on February 23, 1998, and 63 FR 16877-16878 on April 7, 1998.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 147a, 150bb, 150dd, 150ee, 150ff, 161, 162, and 164-167; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of July 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 97-102-3]

Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area

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 Mediterranean fruit fly regulations by removing the quarantined area in Los Angeles County, CA, from the list of quarantined areas. We have determined that the Mediterranean fruit fly has been eradicated from this area and that restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from this area are no longer necessary. As a result of the interim rule, there are no longer any areas in California quarantined because of the Mediterranean fruit fly.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim rule was effective on April 16, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael B. Stefan, Operations Officer,

Domestic and Emergency Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8247; or e-mail: michael.b.stefan@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an interim rule effective April 16, 1998, and published in the **Federal Register** on April 21, 1998 (63 FR 19651-19652, Docket No. 97-102-2), we amended the Mediterranean fruit fly regulations (contained in 7 CFR 301.78 through 301.78-10) by removing the quarantined area in Los Angeles County, CA, from the list of quarantined areas in § 301.78-3(c). That action relieved unnecessary restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantined area. Also, as a result of that action, there are no longer any areas in California quarantined because of the Mediterranean fruit fly.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before June 22, 1998. We did not receive any comments. The facts presented in the interim rule still provide a basis for the 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 the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Incorporation by reference, 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 63 FR 19651-19652 on April 21, 1998.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 147a, 150bb, 150dd, 150ee, 150ff, 161, 162, and 164-167; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of July 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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