



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

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Determination by the Administrator: Conditions for Importation into the Continental United States Fresh Blueberry Fruit from Guatemala

In response to a request from the Government of Guatemala, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has analyzed the phytosanitary risks associated with importation of fresh blueberry fruit (*Vaccinium* spp.) into the continental United States.

APHIS has determined that, based on the information available in the attached pest risk analysis (composed of a pest risk assessment (PRA)¹ and a risk management document), the application of one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures described in 7 CFR 319.56-4(b) is sufficient to mitigate the risk that plant pests or noxious weeds could be introduced into or disseminated within the United States via blueberry fruit imported from Guatemala into the continental United States. APHIS' risk analysis concludes that the following specific measures are necessary to mitigate the phytosanitary risks posed by the importation of fresh blueberry fruit from Guatemala into the continental United States:

- The fruit must be cold treated for Medfly and South American fruit fly using APHIS treatment schedule T107-a-1 in accordance with Title 7, *Code of Federal Regulations* (7 CFR), part 305.
- Each shipment of fruit must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Guatemala.
- Each shipment is subject to inspection upon arrival in the United States.
- The fruit must be a commercial consignment as defined in 7 CFR 319.56-2.

In addition to these specific measures, the fresh blueberry would be subject to the general requirements listed in 319.56-3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

In accordance with the requirements of 7 CFR 319.56-4, we are making our pest risk analysis available to the public for 60 days comment via a notice published in the *Federal Register*. We will consider all comments received on the notice during the comment period.

¹ APHIS received a request from Guatemala to allow the importation of fresh blueberry fruit (*Vaccinium virgatum* Aiton) into the continental United States. APHIS completed a regional PRA for the importation of *Vaccinium* spp. to include certain countries in Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama) and certain countries in South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela). The PRA considered all *Vaccinium* spp. and identified potential pest risks. However, though the completed PRA evaluated multiple countries, this action is only for the importation of fresh blueberry fruit from Guatemala.



If no comments are received on the pest risk analysis, if comments are received but no changes to the pest risk analysis are necessary, or changes to the pest risk analysis are made in response to public comments, but the changes do not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator's determination of risk, we will publish another notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the date upon which we will begin issuing permits for the importation of blueberry fruit from Guatemala into the continental United States. At that time, we will make available our final pest risk analysis, which will include a discussion of the comments we receive, if any.

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