



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

WORK PLAN

FOR THE PRE-CLEARANCE OF

CALIFORNIA or ARIZONA

CITRUS

October 2007

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1. Operational Requirements

This document sets out the main operational requirements of the California or Arizona Citrus Pre-clearance Inspection Program. To ensure effective operation of the program please ensure these requirements are followed.

1.1 Responsibilities

1.1.1 Program management and coordination

APHIS is to nominate a contact person to coordinate all operational aspects and where necessary provide liaison with APHIS/AQIS management as/if need arises.

1.1.2 Liaison with exporters for scheduling of inspections

If there is more than one participant in the program, the California or Arizona citrus industry is to nominate a designated industry liaison person who will be responsible for scheduling of inspections.

1.1.3 Pest free area and non host status quarantine pests

Scientific evidence indicating the absence of pests from areas designated as “Pest Free Area” or where “Non-Host Status” applies in California or Arizona (Attachment 1) has been provided by APHIS. APHIS must verify maintenance of such status for these pests by routine crop monitoring/surveillance. Biosecurity Australia must be notified immediately of any change in the “Pest Free Area” or “Non-Host” status of any of these pests.

1.2 Requests for Pre-clearance Inspection

Participant¹ requests for inspection will be made through the designated industry liaison person (See 1.1.2) who will work with the APHIS and AQIS inspectors to schedule inspections in an efficient manner. A copy of the relevant form is at Attachment 2.

1.3 Nomination and Tracking of Inspection Lots

A Notice of Intent to Export (NOI) will be the primary document that confirms pre-clearance of California or Arizona citrus consignments in accordance with this Work Plan. A copy of an NOI is included as Attachment 3 for reference purposes.

The exporter/freight forwarder must complete a NOI prior to any AQIS inspection. The NOI will describe the pallets (by pallet card number or other method approved by AQIS) that the participant wants included in the inspection lot.

An “inspection lot” comprises all eligible product covered by an NOI. For the purposes of California or Arizona citrus, an inspection lot must comprise citrus that is

¹ A “participant” is any packing facility or other entity that is registered by APHIS for the purpose of Californian citrus exports to Australia.

homogenous (eg fruit must be from a continuous packing run for Australia from a single packing facility) and may include boxes comprising a single or multiple consignment/s.

1.4 Inspection Location

All product inspection locations must meet AQIS requirements (refer Attachment 4).

For citrus, AQIS requires that:

- There is a registration system in place whereby all participants are aware of the Australian quarantine requirements;
- Have management/inspection systems in place to address these requirements;
- Provide trace back to grower;
- Freight forwarders/agents and cold storage facilities who undertake assembly of air or sea freight consignments must be aware of their responsibilities and duties to ensure the integrity of California or Arizona citrus destined for Australia under this Work Plan is not compromised.
- It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that their freight forwarder(s)/agent(s) or cold storage facilities
 - Understand their responsibilities and duties and
 - Accept, and are responsible for, the quarantine requirements for their consignments.

1.5 Product Identification

All citrus for export must be practically free from trash and weed seeds and must meet Australia's import conditions. Trash refers to soil, splinters, twigs, leaves and other plant material. No unprocessed packing material of plant origin will be allowed. All wood material used in packaging of citrus must comply with the conditions stipulated in "Cargo containers quarantine aspects and procedures" (AQIS, 1996) and as contained in the AQIS "ICON" database.

All product is to be identified by one of the following means:

- Attaching a pallet card or sticker to each pallet or part pallet. Each pallet card or sticker will be uniquely numbered or include information (such as grower lot code number/s) to enable traceback to the grower/s, and packing facility name or number, or
- By marking each box with the relevant lot code (eg grower lot number, or similar identifying mark).

Where pallet cards or stickers are used to identify produce these must be securely fastened to the pallet in order to withstand handling to the ports of export/import. (Note: If pallet cards or stickers are not affixed or cannot be located on arrival in Australia the pallet will not be considered pre-cleared). Consignments without either the pallet cards/stickers or an identifying lot code on the boxes will require AQIS inspection in Australia (as per requirements for non-precleared US citrus) to facilitate quarantine

clearance.

Participants are responsible for the printing of pallet cards or stickers for their respective companies.

Where pallet cards or stickers are used to identify the precleared product and a pallet is broken down prior to loading into airfreight or sea freight containers, then the following procedure must be completed:

- Prior to unstrapping all boxes are to be stamped with the pallet card/sticker number;
- The pallet card/sticker is to remain with the unshipped pallet and must record details of the consignment(s) dispatched;
- The pallet card/sticker is to be forwarded when the final balance of the pallet is shipped.

1.6 Records

Participants are to keep appropriate records to enable trace-back of product from the NOI issued, through the packing house/cold storage (including pallet identification) to each supplying grower.

1.7 Storage

Packed product and packaging is to be protected from pest recontamination during and after packing, packing house to cold storage, to depot/consolidation point, to pre-clearance inspection point, then to shipment point (i.e. at distribution points).

Pre-cleared lots must be maintained in secured conditions segregated by a minimum of 1 meter from non-inspected citrus or other fruit. In a cold storage environment a clear space of 100mm in all directions from other product will suffice.

When pre-cleared product is transported from an approved packing house/cold store it must be protected from pest recontamination. If product is not transported in a separate truck then an APHIS approved barrier (eg plywood or shrink-wrapped pallets) needs to be inserted between pre-cleared product or product intended for pre-clearance and any other fruit.

Registered participants will be audited by AQIS as required during the season to verify that the following requirements are continuing to be met:

- There is an effective system in operation at each facility to ensure that pre-cleared and non pre-cleared product are kept separate.
- At anytime pre-cleared product are moved, the transport systems used must ensure that the hygiene and integrity of the pre-cleared products is maintained.
- The filing systems for relating pre-cleared product, as defined by an AQIS signed NOI, to that product held in storage are accurate and up to date.

1.8 AQIS/APHIS Inspection

It is APHIS/US industry responsibility to ensure that only citrus that meets Australia's import requirements is presented for preclearance inspection. The AQIS preclearance inspection may be conducted sequentially (ie after the APHIS phytosanitary inspection) or jointly with APHIS officers assisting the AQIS preclearance inspector. Participants are to remove pallets or boxes from cold or ambient air storage as directed by AQIS. This will be on a random basis so all pallets in the lot must be in the one place and accessible at the time of inspection.

AQIS will undertake pre-clearance inspection of lots per NOI submitted by participants.

Sufficient boxes will be selected at random from the nominated lot to ensure a 600 unit (fruit) inspection can be completed. The 600 fruit sample will be based on a representative sample of the growers in the shipment. For navel oranges, a minimum of 10 fruit per box making up the 600 fruit must be cut looking for bean thrips. The detection of live bean thrips will remove the lot from the Australia program until corrective actions are implemented to the satisfaction of AQIS. If the inspection lots are less than 1000 cartons, a 450 unit inspection requirement will be applied. The number of cartons inspected to obtain either the 600 or 450 units will be recorded. (Cut oranges may be replaced with sound fruit. However the replacement fruit must be sourced from carton/s that are part of the inspected lot.)

All product will be removed from each selected box and the empty box examined for debris and/or leaf material and live pest.

If during the lot inspection a detection of a live quarantine pest (see Attachment 5) occurs, the inspection will cease at that point and the consignment rejected. If a live pest is detected that cannot be readily identified at the time of the inspection, the inspection should be completed and the lot put on "hold" until the pest is identified and appropriate action is determined.

However, the full 600 units selected for inspection must be completed if a quarantine weed seed is detected to ensure no other system failures have occurred with that pathway even though the lot must also be rejected.

Inspection lots must be free from seeds of specified weed species and genera that are of quarantine concern to Australia.

As necessary, AQIS inspectors and/or APHIS-authorized certifying official should refer to the list of weed seeds of concern to AQIS (see Attachment 6).

Each citrus fruit in the carton will be individually inspected, and as necessary, a limited number of fruits will be subjected to microscope inspection where suspect infestation is identified.

The inspected boxes will be practically free of trash (soil, splinters, twigs, leaves and other plant material). If the shipment does not meet this requirement the lot will be rejected from the Australian program.

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Participants are to reassemble pallets immediately after completion of pre-clearance inspection.

AQIS reserves the right to direct APHIS to suspend a grower should non-host status pests (Attachment 1) be detected during inspections. The suspended grower may be reinstated pending favourable results of an investigation conducted to the satisfaction of AQIS. Restoration of the suspended grower into the program will be undertaken only when Biosecurity Australia is satisfied that appropriate corrective action has been taken.

If product from any one facility continually fails inspection, AQIS reserves the right to conduct an audit of the pest mitigation systems that are in place. The program will only continue once AQIS is satisfied appropriate corrective action has been taken.

If the lot passes inspection the AQIS officer will sign and stamp the NOI. The original is to be retained by the AQIS officer, and copies provided to APHIS or APHIS-authorized certifying official) and the participant. Other copies specific to each consignment must be marked to identify which pallets (or lot codes) from the original inspection lot are included in a consignment. Such copies will be attached to the appropriate Phytosanitary certificate accompanying each specific consignment. Participants may use copies of the NOI as inventory worksheets.

Lots that fail AQIS inspection must be clearly identified with a label on the pallet indicating that the lot is rejected for export to Australia.

Rejected product must be physically separated in storage from other citrus, which are either awaiting AQIS inspection or have passed AQIS inspection.

Separation distance must be a minimum of 1 meter in all directions from other products under ambient temperature storage conditions, or a minimum of 100mm in all directions in a cold storage environment.

Product rejected for Australian quarantine purposes may be eligible for export to Australia where subsequent corrective action is applied that effectively addresses the problem (ie treatment, repacking, replacing problem pallets, etc). Precleared status may be reinstated based on AQIS supervised treatment or re-inspection.

1.9 Product Verification

Verification of consignment details (in Australia) will be aided if pallet cards or stickers are visible without having to break down the consignment. Where pallet card/sticker numbers or lot codes are stamped on individual boxes, these should be loaded so that identification numbers are placed towards the door of the containers (air and sea freight). Where pallet card/sticker numbers or lot codes are stamped on individual boxes, a tolerance of up to 2 percent of the boxes in the consignment will be allowed for missing or smeared box stamps, provided the total number of boxes do not exceed the number declared on the NOI.

AQIS will verify phytosanitary documentation with physical container numbers and seal numbers on arrival in Australia and will not normally require any other supervision

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inspection. Should documentation not align with physical data the consignment will be held until AQIS/APHIS can resolve the problem.

1.10 Phytosanitary Certification

Each consignment of precleared USA citrus shipped to Australia must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate endorsed as follows:

Additional Declarations:

- A declaration stating “The citrus fruits in this consignment have been produced in California or Arizona in accordance with the conditions governing the entry of fresh citrus fruits from California and Arizona to Australia”.
- A declaration stating “AQIS Pre-clearance inspection undertaken in California or Arizona in accordance with the Work Plan for the pre-clearance of citrus fruits to Australia”.
- The appropriate fruit fly additional declaration (in accordance with the requirements specified in the AQIS ICON listing).

Distinguishing marks:

- This section will include the container number or aircraft flight number and the seal number when these numbers are known at the packinghouse. In the event that the container or seal numbers are not known at the packinghouse, the phytosanitary certificate number together with the container and seal numbers will be included on the relevant commercial documentation, i.e., the bill of lading.

Other information:

- Have attached (stapled) a copy of the relevant NOI's highlighting the pre-cleared pallet card/sticker numbers or lot codes included in that consignment.
- If only part of the lot covered by a NOI is to be shipped, reconciliation on arrival in Australia will be helped if the relevant pallet card or sticker numbers or lot codes are marked on the copy of the NOI accompanying the Phytosanitary certificate.

1.11 Non Compliance

Failure to meet the above requirements will result in product losing its pre-clearance status.

Depending on the nature of the non-compliance the grower, the packing house/cold storage and/or exporter may be suspended from the program.

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Signed on this date _____

Peter Liehne

National Manager

Plant Programs

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries,

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Phytosanitary Issues Management

Plant Protection and Quarantine

APHIS

United States Department

Of Agriculture

ATTACHMENT 1

Pests absent from areas designated as “Pest Free Area” (PFA) or for which “Non-Host Status” (NHS) applies.

Pest	Common name	Official control program in California	Presence in California	Presence in Australia
Insects				
<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>	Medfly	Pest Free Area	No	Yes (official control)
<i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i> complex	Oriental Fruit Fly	Pest Free Area	No	No
<i>Anastrepha suspensa</i>	Caribbean Fruit Fly	Pest Free Area	No	No
<i>Anastrepha ludens</i>	Mexican Fruit Fly	Pest Free Area	No	No
Diseases				
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>Citri</i>	Citrus Canker	Pest Free Area	No	No
<i>Mycosphaerella angulata</i>	Angular leaf spot	Pest Free Area	No	No
<i>Physopella ampelopsidis</i>	Rust	Pest Free Area	No	No
<i>Pseudopezizicola tetraspora</i>	Angular leaf scorch	Pest Free Area	No	No

TO: APHIS/Industry Inspection Coordinator (AQIS Inspections)

FAX: _____

REQUEST FOR PRE-CLEARANCE INSPECTION - CITRUS

Participant's Name: _____
Date and Time Inspection Required: _____
Location Where Inspection to be Carried Out: _____
Contact Name to Finalize Details: _____
Contact Phone Number: _____
Number of Lots to be Inspected: _____

ATTACHMENT 4

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PRE-CLEARANCE INSPECTION
LOCATIONS**

**All locations should be registered by APHIS/State Department
and meet the following requirements:**

Inspection Facilities

- A suitable work area, which is kept, clean and free of other material or equipment.
- A workbench of minimum 2 meters by 1.2 meters, which is preferably white laminate.
- Lighting directly over the inspection table of minimum 600 lux. (Two fluorescent tubes placed approximately 1 meter above the inspection table will obtain this measure of light).
- Access to an electric outlet.
- Clear of main traffic areas and other operations.
- Located in a designated non-smoking area.
- Magnification Lamp or suitable equivalent.
- Other equipment necessary for the collection/detection of quarantine pests.

Cold storage

- Capacity to segregate product following inspection.
- Facility to load/unload product under cover with reasonable quarantine security.

Other Facilities

- Access to a photocopier within the Operators facility.
- Equipment for the re-strapping of pallets (depending on how product is to be shipped).

Staff Assistance

- Assistance with selection samples.
- Re-strapping of pallets.

Management

- Responsibility for communication directly with the pre-clearance co-coordinator on pre-clearance inspection arrangements.
- Responsibility for the organization of lots.
- Responsibility for ensuring adequate resources are available.
- The ability to prepare documentation and keep inventory records.

Product Security

- After pre-clearance inspections product must be segregated from non-pre-cleared product. In a cold storage a 100mm clear space or physical barrier is required. For product stored in ambient temperatures 1 meter clear space or physical barrier is required.

ATTACHMENT 5

Pests of Quarantine Significance to Australia Associated with Californian and Arizonan Citrus Fruits

Quarantine Pest	Common Name
<i>Aleurothrixus floccosus</i>	Woolly whitefly
<i>Alternaria alternata</i> pv. <i>Citri</i>	Alternaria brown spot
<i>Amyelois transitella</i>	Navel orange worm
<i>Aphis spiraecola</i>	Green citrus aphid
<i>Argyrotaenia citrana</i>	Orange tortrix
<i>Caliothrips fasciatus</i>	Bean thrips
<i>Diaphorina citri</i>	Asiatic citrus psyllid
<i>Eotetranychus yumensis</i>	Yuma spider mite
<i>Frankliniella occidentalis</i>	Western flower thrips
<i>Homalodisca coagulate</i>	Glassy winged sharp shooter
<i>Parabemisia myricae</i>	Bayberry whitefly
<i>Platynota stultana</i>	Omnivorous leaf roller
<i>Planococcus citri</i>	Citrus mealybug
<i>Pseudococcus maritimus</i>	Grape mealybug
<i>Scirtothrips citri</i>	California citrus thrips

ATTACHMENT 6

Weeds of Quarantine Significance to Australia Associated with California or Arizonan Citrus Fruits

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>	Coast fiddleneck
<i>Cenchrus</i> spp.	Sandbur
<i>Chloris virgata</i>	Feather fingergrass
<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Crabgrass
<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	Turkey mullein
<i>Eriochloa gracilis</i>	Cupgrass
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Filaree
<i>Euphorbia maculate</i>	Spurge
<i>Gnaphalium</i> spp.	Cudweed
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Cheeseweed
<i>Montia perfoliate</i>	Miner's lettuce
<i>Salsola iberica</i>	Russian thistle
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London rocket
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silverleaf nightshade
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> var. <i>canadense</i>	Cocklebur