



ALERT

AUSTRALIA INTERIM EXPORT MEASURES

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

The California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) has been notified by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that Biosecurity Australia is requiring a series of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) management requirements for **U.S. citrus sourced from quarantine areas** before fruit can be exported to Australia. The requirements could include some form of trapping, ACP control in orchards and other measures. Since it will take some time to identify and implement all the requirements, Biosecurity Australia will allow fruit to be exported as long as either of two interim measures is met:

Interim measure No. 1 –

Alternative to pest-free places of production for fruit entering packinghouse:

1. Fruit entering the packinghouse will be subject to a 600-unit per grower lot inspection by state/county regulatory officials (recognized by APHIS). The detection of any ACP in the in-line inspection will rule the lot ineligible for export. The in-line sampling will be subject to oversight and/or audit by AQIS.
2. Fruit subject to washing, brushing and waxing (standard post-harvest procedures as detailed in APHIS letter of October 8, 2009).
3. Phytosanitary certificate to include a declaration by APHIS that: "the fruit in this consignment has been subjected to sampling and approved packinghouse measures effective against *Diaphorina citri*."
4. Fruit will be subject to the standard 600-unit inspection by AQIS. Detection of ACP in consignments will be investigated and may result in suspension of the grower lot and/or packing house and review of the protocol.

Interim measure No. 2 –

Provisional measures for fruit already in cold store and intended for export:

1. Fruit will be subject to a 3,000 unit inspection by state/county officials (recognized by APHIS) to provide a 95-percent confidence that a 0.1-percent infestation by *Diaphorina citri* would be detected. AQIS will conduct a standard 600 unit inspection. Detection of ACP will result in the lot being rejected for export to Australia.

Issuance of phytosanitary requirements has been on hold for the past week pending the outcome of the bilateral meeting in Australia, which ended this weekend. Phytos can now be issued as long as either of the two conditions is met.



These interim measures will be terminated after the systems requirements have been identified and implemented. APHIS is gathering information on a range of measures they will provide to Biosecurity Australia. Once Biosecurity Australia approves the measures they will be established as the only approved measures and the interim measures will be terminated. We do not have a firm timeline for implementing the systems requirements, but we expect them to be in place within two or three weeks.

Please contact me by telephone at (530) 885-1894 or via e-mail at jcranney@calcitrusquality.org if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JRCranney Jr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James R. Cranney, Jr.
President
California Citrus Quality Council