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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 98-082-1]

Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Addition of Regulated Area

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the Mexican fruit fly regulations by designating a portion of San Diego County, CA, as a regulated area. This action is necessary on an emergency basis to prevent the spread of the Mexican fruit fly to noninfested areas of the United States. This action restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles from the regulated area in California.

DATES: Interim rule effective August 10, 1998. Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before October 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 98-082-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-082-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

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

The Mexican fruit fly, *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew), is a destructive pest of citrus and many other types of fruit. The short life cycle of the Mexican fruit fly allows rapid development of serious outbreaks that can cause severe economic losses in commercial citrus-producing areas.

The Mexican fruit fly regulations (contained in 7 CFR 301.64 through 301.64-10 and referred to below as the regulations) were established to prevent the spread of the Mexican fruit fly to noninfested areas of the United States. The regulations impose restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the regulated areas. Prior to the effective date of this rule, the only area in California regulated for the Mexican fruit fly was a portion of Los Angeles County.

Section 301.64-3 provides that the Deputy Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) shall list as a regulated area each quarantined State, or each portion of a quarantined State, in which the Mexican fruit fly has been found by an inspector, in which the Deputy Administrator has reason to believe the Mexican fruit fly is present, or that the Deputy Administrator considers necessary to regulate because of its proximity to the Mexican fruit fly or its inseparability for quarantine enforcement purposes from localities in which the Mexican fruit fly occurs.

Less than an entire quarantined State is designated as a regulated area only if the Deputy Administrator determines that the State has adopted and is enforcing a quarantine or regulation that imposes restrictions on the intrastate movement of the regulated articles that are substantially the same as those that are imposed with respect to the interstate movement of the articles and the designation of less than the entire State as a regulated area will otherwise be adequate to prevent the artificial interstate spread of the Mexican fruit fly.

Recent trapping surveys by inspectors of California State and county agencies and by inspectors of PPQ reveal that

portions of San Diego County, CA, are infested with the Mexican fruit fly. Specifically, on July 20, 1998, inspectors found four Mexican fruit flies in a residential area in San Diego County, CA. Since the initial detection, a total of 11 Mexican fruit flies have been captured in the same area. The Mexican fruit fly is not known to occur anywhere else in the continental United States except in a portion of Los Angeles County, CA, and in Texas.

Accordingly, to prevent the spread of the Mexican fruit fly to noninfested areas of the United States, we are amending the regulations in § 301.64-3(c) by designating as a regulated area a portion of San Diego County, CA. The regulated area is described in the rule portion of this document.

There does not appear to be any reason to designate any other portions of the quarantined State of California as a regulated area. Officials of State agencies of California are conducting an intensive Mexican fruit fly eradication program in the regulated areas in California. Also, California has adopted and is enforcing regulations imposing restrictions on the intrastate movement of certain articles from the regulated areas that are substantially the same as those imposed with respect to the interstate movement of regulated articles.

Emergency Action

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an emergency exists that warrants publication of this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. Immediate action is necessary to prevent the Mexican fruit fly from spreading to noninfested areas of the United States.

Because prior notice and other public procedures with respect to this action are impracticable and contrary to the public interest under these conditions, we find good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 to make it effective upon signature. We will consider comments that are received within 60 days of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register**. It will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule as a result of the comments.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. For this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review process required by Executive Order 12866.

This rule restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles from a portion of San Diego County, CA. Within the regulated area there are approximately 183 small entities that may be affected by this rule. These include 67 fruit sellers, 1 swapmeet, 71 nurseries, 43 growers, and 1 farmer's market. These 183 entities comprise less than 1 percent of the total number of similar entities operating in the State of California. Additionally, these small entities sell regulated articles primarily for local intrastate, not interstate movement, so the effect, if any, of this regulation on these entities appears to be minimal.

The effect on those few entities that do move regulated articles interstate will be minimized by the availability of various treatments, that, in most cases, will allow these small entities to move regulated articles interstate with very little additional cost.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12372

This program/activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.025 and is subject to Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V.)

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule; (2) has no retroactive effect; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared for this rule. The assessment provides a basis for the conclusion that the methods employed to eradicate the Mexican fruit fly will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating plant pests and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on

the finding of no significant impact, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact were prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Incorporation by reference, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Accordingly, 7 CFR part 301 is amended as follows:

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

1. The authority citation for part 301 continues to read as follows:

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).

2. In § 301.64-3, paragraph (c), the entry for California is amended by adding an entry for San Diego County, in alphabetical order, to read as follows:

§ 301.64-3 Regulated areas.

* * * * *
(c) * * *

California

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San Diego County. That portion of San Diego County in the El Cajon area bounded

by a line drawn as follows: Beginning at the intersection of State Highway 67 and Mapleview Street; then east along Mapleview Street to Lake Jennings Park Road; then southeast along Lake Jennings Park Road to El Monte Road; then east along an imaginary line to the intersection of Blossom Valley Road and Flinn Springs Road; then southeast along Flinn Springs Road to Olde Highway 80; then east along Olde Highway 80 to Dunbar Lane; then south along Dunbar Lane to Alpine Boulevard; then southeast along Alpine Boulevard to Arnold Way; then south along Arnold Way to Harblson Canyon Road; then southwest along Harblson Canyon Road to Dehesa Road; then southwest along Dehesa Road to Sloane Canyon Road; then west along an imaginary line to the intersection of Willow Glenn Drive and Hillsdale Road; then northwest and west along Hillsdale Road to State Highway 54; then north along State Highway 54 to Chase Avenue; then west along Chase Avenue to Rolling Hills Drive; then west along Rolling Hills Drive to Fuerte Drive; then southwest, west, and northwest along Fuerte Drive to Severin Drive; then north along Severin Drive to Interstate Highway 8; then northeast along Interstate Highway 8 to Russell Road; then west along Russell Road to Cuyamaca Street; then north along Cuyamaca Street to Mission Gorge Road; then east along Mission Gorge Road to Woodside Avenue; then northeast along Woodside Avenue to State Highway 67; then northeast along State Highway 67 to the point of beginning.

* * * * *

Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of August 1998.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-21905 Filed 8-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

8 CFR Part 103

[INS No. 1768-98; AG No. 2173-98]

RIN 1115-AE42

Adjustment of Certain Fees of the Immigration Examinations Fee Account

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule adjusts the fees schedule of the Immigration Examinations Fee Account (IEFA) for certain immigration adjudication and naturalization applications and petitions. Fees collected from persons filing these applications and petitions are deposited into the IEFA and used to fund the cost of processing immigration adjudication and naturalization