

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2018–0074]

Decision To Recognize Freedom From Citrus Longhorned Beetle and Asian Longhorned Beetle in Certain Countries

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are notifying the public that we are updating the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plants for Planting Manual by recognizing the United Kingdom and 21 European Union Member States as being free from citrus longhorned beetle (CLB) and Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and removing them from the list of countries where CLB and ALB are present. We are also changing the entry conditions in the manual for imports of certain host plant taxa of CLB and ALB from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom because they have previously approved genera exempted from the category of plants Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis. These changes will relieve certain restrictions on imports of host plants of CLB and ALB into the United States from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom while continuing to mitigate the risk of introducing quarantine pests into the United States.

DATES: The changes to the entry conditions are effective June 12, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Narasimha C. Samboju, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, PHP, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 137, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–2038; narasimha.c.samboju@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the regulations in “Subpart H—Plants for

Planting” (7 CFR 319.37–1 through 319.37–23, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits or restricts the importation of plants for planting (including living plants, plant parts, seeds, and plant cuttings) to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests into the United States. *Quarantine pest* is defined in § 319.37–2 as a plant pest or noxious weed that is of potential economic importance to the United States and not yet present in the United States, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled. In accordance with § 319.37–20, APHIS may impose quarantines and other restrictions on the importation of specific types of plants for planting. These restrictions are listed in the USDA Plants for Planting Manual.¹ Under § 319.37–20, if APHIS determines it is necessary to add, change, or remove restrictions on the importation of a specific type of plant for planting, we will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice that announces the proposed change to the manual and invites public comment.

On July 17, 2019, we published in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 34116–34117, Docket No. APHIS–2018–0074) a notice² in which we proposed to update the USDA Plants for Planting Manual by recognizing 22 European Union (EU) Member States³ as being free from citrus longhorned beetle (CLB) and Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and removing them from the list of countries where CLB and ALB are present. We also proposed changing the entry conditions in the manual for imports of certain host plant taxa of CLB and ALB from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom because they have previously approved genera exempted from the category of plants Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis.

¹ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/plants_for_planting.pdf.

² To view the notice, supporting documents, and the comment we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter APHIS–2018–0074 in the Search field.

³ As the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union, we changed the number to 21 Member States in this final notice to reflect this change.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on September 16, 2019. We received one comment by that date, from a foreign government.

The commenter noted that we proposed to recognize ALB and CLB freedom in certain EU countries but not in pest-free areas within other EU countries where ALB or CLB outbreaks have occurred. The commenter asked that we not only recognize pest freedom in the countries identified in the notice but also within the pest-free areas of EU countries that have had outbreaks, noting that the United States had been provided with information showing that ALB and CLB are being contained successfully in pest-free areas of the EU in accordance with international standards.

In our notice, we acknowledged receiving the supporting information cited by the commenter and used it to prepare a commodity import evaluation document. However, for this request, we only evaluated criteria for recognition of ALB/CLB freedom by country and not by pest-free area recognition. Before APHIS can consider recognizing freedom for pest-free areas, we will need to engage in further evaluation and consultation with the European Commission.

Based on our current evaluation, we are recognizing the United Kingdom and 21 EU Member States as being free from ALB and CLB and removing them from the lists of countries where those pests are present. We are only recognizing EU Member States that are free from both pests or that eradicated an infestation at least 3 years ago. The EU Member States that continue to be listed as countries where ALB and/or CLB are present are: Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, and Italy.

We are also changing the entry conditions in the manual for imports of certain host plant taxa of CLB and ALB from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom because they have previously approved genera exempted from the category of plants Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of June 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–12830 Filed 6–11–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2023–0028]

Swine Vesicular Disease Status of the Regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we are recognizing the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy as being free of swine vesicular disease. This recognition is based on a risk evaluation we prepared in connection with this action and made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice. As a result of this action, live swine, pork, and pork products may safely be imported into the United States from the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy subject to conditions in the regulations. This notice also announces the availability of our final environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

DATES: This change in the SVD status of the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy will be recognized on July 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may read the documents referenced in this notice and the comments we received by going to www.regulations.gov, or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Chip Wells, Senior Veterinary Medical Officer, Regionalization Evaluation Services (RES), Strategy & Policy, Veterinary Services (VS), APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–3317; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals and animal products into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including swine vesicular disease (SVD). This is a dangerous and communicable disease of swine.

Within part 94, § 94.12 contains requirements governing the importation of pork or pork products from regions where SVD exists. Section 94.14 prohibits the importation of domestic swine which are moved from or transit any region in which SVD is known to exist.

In accordance with § 94.12(a)(1), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a web-based list of regions which the Agency considers free of SVD. Paragraph (a)(2) of this section states that APHIS will add a region to this list after it conducts an evaluation of the region and finds that SVD is not present.

The regulations in § 92.2 contain requirements for requesting the recognition of the animal health status of a region (as well as for the approval of the export of a particular type of animal or animal product to the United States from a foreign region). If, after review and evaluation of the information submitted in support of the request, APHIS believes the request can be safely granted, APHIS will make its evaluation available for public comment through a document published in the **Federal Register**. Following the close of the comment period, APHIS will review all comments received and will make a final determination regarding the request that will be detailed in another document published in the **Federal Register**.

In accordance with that process, the Government of Italy requested that APHIS evaluate the SVD disease status of the regions of Tuscany and Umbria. Based on our evaluation, we determined that the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy are free of SVD and that the surveillance, prevention, and control measures implemented by Italy are sufficient to minimize the likelihood of introducing SVD into the United States via imports of species or products susceptible to this disease.

On August 23, 2023, we published in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 57407–57408, Docket No. APHIS–2023–0028) a notice¹ in which we announced the

¹To view the notice, supporting documents, and comments we received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/APHIS-2023-0028-0001>.

availability for review and comment of our evaluation of the SVD status of the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy, as well as an environmental assessment (EA). We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on October 23, 2023. We received five comments, all of which supported our proposed recognition of the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy as free of SVD.

Therefore, based on the findings of our evaluation, we are announcing our determination to add the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy to the list of regions declared free of SVD. This list is available on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>.

National Environmental Policy Act

After reviewing and evaluating the comments received during the comment period, APHIS has prepared a final EA, which provides the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts associated with the recognition of the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy as free of SVD. The final EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (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). Based on our EA, the response to public comment, and other pertinent information, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact with regard to the recognition of the regions of Tuscany and Umbria, Italy as free of SVD.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of June 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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