

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Under the regulations in “Subpart L—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of fruits and vegetables that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section.

APHIS received a request from the national plant protection organization of Indonesia to allow the importation of fresh rhizomes (underground stems) of wasabi, *Eutrema japonicum* (Miq.) Koidz. (Brassicaceae), for consumption from Indonesia into the United States. As part of our evaluation of Indonesia’s request, we have prepared a pest risk assessment to identify the pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh rhizomes of wasabi for consumption from Indonesia into the United States. Based on the pest risk assessment, a risk management document (RMD) was prepared to identify phytosanitary measures that could be applied to fresh rhizomes of wasabi to mitigate the pest risk.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c), we are announcing the availability of our pest risk assessment and RMD for public review and comment. Those documents, as well as a description of the economic considerations associated with the importation of fresh rhizomes of wasabi for consumption from Indonesia into the United States, may be viewed on the [Regulations.gov](https://www.aphis.usda.gov) website or in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for a link to [Regulations.gov](https://www.aphis.usda.gov) and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may request paper copies of the pest risk assessment and RMD by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the subject of the analysis you wish to review when requesting copies.

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the import status of fresh rhizomes of wasabi for consumption from Indonesia into the United States in a subsequent notice. If the overall

conclusions of our analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk remain unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will authorize the importation of fresh rhizomes of wasabi for consumption from Indonesia into the United States subject to the requirements specified in the RMD.

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 10th day of January 2025.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2025–00952 Filed 1–15–25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. APHIS–2023–0062]

Addition of Panama and Costa Rica to the List of Regions Affected With Screwworm

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have added Panama and Costa Rica to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) list maintained on the APHIS website of regions considered affected with screwworm. We took this action because of the confirmation of screwworm in these regions.

DATES: Panama was added to the list of regions considered affected with screwworm effective July 12, 2021. Costa Rica was added to the list of regions considered affected with screwworm effective August 21, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For information on Panama, contact: Dr. Michael Ray, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Strategy and Policy, APHIS Veterinary Services, 920 Main Campus Drive, Venture II Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606; phone: (919) 855–7225; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

For information on Costa Rica, contact: Dr. Rebecca Gordon, APHIS Veterinary Services, Regionalization Evaluation Services, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606; phone: (919) 338–4972; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 93 (referred to

below as the regulations) prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals into the United States to prevent the introduction of communicable diseases of livestock. Subparts C, D, E, and F of the regulations govern the importation of horses, ruminants, swine, and dogs, respectively.

Horses, ruminants, swine, and dogs may be imported into the United States from the regions where screwworm is considered to exist only if they are inspected and, if necessary, treated for screwworm according to the conditions outlined in the regulations for each type of animal. The requirements for horses are set out in § 93.308(a)(3) and include not only pre-embarkation and post-arrival inspection and treatment requirements, but also quarantine in the United States for 7 days after arrival, and examination by a veterinarian before release from quarantine. The requirements for ruminants and swine are set out in §§ 93.405(a)(3) and 93.505(b), respectively, and are the same as for horses, other than the 7-day quarantine and final examination of the animal. The requirements for dogs are set out in § 93.600 and require that all dogs from affected regions be inspected and, if necessary, treated before importation.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a list of regions APHIS considers affected with screwworm on its website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>. APHIS will add a region to the list upon determining that screwworm exists in the region based on reports we receive of detections of the pest from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable.

On July 2, 2021, Panama reported a detection of New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) to WOAH. After that report, and after confirming that the screwworm occurred in livestock, on July 12, 2021, APHIS added Panama to the list of regions APHIS considers affected with screwworm. In 2022, Panama requested that APHIS evaluate the country for New World screwworm. APHIS concluded the evaluation in 2022 after Panama reported additional detections of screwworm throughout the country.

On July 17, 2023, Costa Rica reported a detection of New World screwworm in a dog to WOAH. On July 24, 2023, APHIS responded by adding Costa Rica

to the Temporary Restrictions list for the import of animal commodities imported from or transiting Costa Rica. Subsequent follow-up reports to WOA, as well as epidemiological reports submitted to APHIS from Costa Rica's National Service for Animal Health, indicated further detections of screwworm in livestock, including cattle and sheep. Therefore, on August 21, 2023, APHIS added Costa Rica to the list of regions APHIS considers affected with screwworm.

As a result, horses, ruminants, swine, and dogs from Panama and Costa Rica are subject to APHIS import restrictions designed to mitigate risk of screwworm introduction into the United States. This notice serves as an official record and public notification of these actions.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622 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 13th day of January 2025.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The U.S. Codex Office

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: U.S. Codex Office, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on Feb 5, 2025. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV), which will meet in Mexico City, Mexico, from February 25–March 1, 2025. The U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius and the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 23rd Session of the CCFFV and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025, from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. eastern time.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place via video teleconference only. Documents related to the 23rd Session

of the CCFFV will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFV&session=23>.

Mr. Dorian LaFond, U.S. Delegate to the 23rd Session of CCFFV, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Dorian.LaFond@usda.gov.

Registration: Attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following link: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscOihRD8uGX42lENVyIB4gIMrjrf_SE. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For further information about the 23rd Session of the CCFFV, contact U.S. Delegate, Mr. Dorian LaFond, International Food Standards Coordinator, Fruits and Vegetables Program, Specialty Crops Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, phone: +1 (202) 690–4944, email: Dorian.LaFond@usda.gov. For additional information regarding the public meeting, contact the U.S. Codex Office by email at: uscodex@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through the adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) are:

(a) To elaborate worldwide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables

(b) to consult, as necessary, with other international organizations in the standards development to avoid duplication

The CCFFV is hosted by Mexico. The United States attends the CCFFV as a member country of Codex.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items from the Provisional Agenda for the 23rd Session of the CCFFV will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other committees;
- Matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables;
- Draft standard for fresh dates;
- Proposed draft standard for fresh curry leaves;
- Discussion paper on the review of existing FFV standards;
- Consideration for proposals for new work;
- Other Business.

Public Meeting

At the February 5, 2025, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Mr. Dorian LaFond, U.S. Delegate to the 23rd Session of the CCFFV, at dorian.lafond@usda.gov. Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 23rd Session of the CCFFV.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, the U.S. Codex Office will announce this **Federal Register** publication online through the USDA Codex web page located at: <https://www.usda.gov/codex>, a link that also offers an email subscription service providing access to information related to Codex. Customers can add or delete their subscriptions themselves and have the option to password-protect their accounts.

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