

movement of the particular fruit or vegetable.

(B) *Determination of risk; factors considered.* The Administrator determined, and announced in the notice referred to in the previous paragraph, that, based on the information available, the application of one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures described in paragraph (b) of this section is sufficient to mitigate the risk that plant pests or noxious weeds could be introduced into or disseminated elsewhere within the United States by the fruit or vegetable. In order for the Administrator to make the determination described in this paragraph, he or she must conclude based on the information presented in the risk analysis for the fruit or vegetable that the risk posed by each quarantine pest associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin is mitigated by one or more of the following factors:

(1) *Inspection.* A quarantine pest is associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin, but the pest can be easily detected via inspection in the State of origin or in the State of first arrival;

(2) *Pest freedom.* No quarantine pests are known to be associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin, or a quarantine pest is associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin but the fruit or vegetable originates from an area that meets the requirements of § 318.13-5 for pest freedom;

(3) *Effectiveness of treatment.* A quarantine pest is associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin, but the risk posed by the pest can be reduced by applying an approved post-harvest treatment to the fruit or vegetable;

(4) *Predeparture inspection.* A quarantine pest is associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin, but the fruit or vegetable is subject to predeparture inspection;

(5) *Commercial consignments.* A quarantine pest is associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin, but the risk posed by the pest can be reduced by commercial practices.

(6) *Limited distribution.* A quarantine pest is associated with the fruit or vegetable in the State of origin, but the

risk posed by the pest can be reduced by limiting distribution of the fruit or vegetable and labeling boxes containing the fruit or vegetable with those distribution instructions.

(ii) *Administrator's decision.* The Administrator will announce his or her decision in a subsequent FEDERAL REGISTER notice. If appropriate, APHIS would begin allowing the interstate movement of the fruits or vegetables subject to requirements specified in the notice because:

(A) No comments were received on the pest risk analysis;

(B) The comments on the pest risk analysis revealed that no changes to the pest risk analysis were necessary; or

(C) Changes to the pest risk analysis were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator's determination of risk.

(d) *Amendment of interstate movement requirements.* If, after February 17, 2009, the Administrator determines that one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures is not sufficient to mitigate the risk posed by any fruit or vegetable authorized interstate movement under this section, APHIS will prohibit or further restrict the interstate movement of the fruit or vegetable pending resolution of the situation. If APHIS concludes that a permanent change to the interstate movement requirements of a particular fruit or vegetable is necessary, APHIS will also publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER advising the public of its finding. The notice will specify the amended interstate movement requirements, provide an effective date for the change, and invite public comment on the subject.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0346)

§ 318.13-5 Pest-free areas.

Certain fruits or vegetables may be moved interstate provided that the fruits or vegetables originate from an area that is free of a specific pest or pests. In some cases, fruits or vegetables may only be moved interstate if the area of origin is free of all plant

pests that attack the fruits or vegetables. In other cases, fruits or vegetables may be moved interstate if the area of origin is free of one or more plant pests that attack the fruit or vegetable and the risk posed by the remaining plant pests that attack the fruit or vegetable is mitigated by other specific phytosanitary measures contained in the regulations in this subpart.

(a) *Application of standards for pest-free areas.* APHIS will make a determination of an area's pest-free status based on information provided by the State. The information used to make this determination will include trapping and surveillance data, survey protocols, and protocols for actions to be performed upon detection of a pest.

(b) *Survey protocols.* APHIS must approve the survey protocol used to determine and maintain pest-free status, as well as protocols for actions to be performed upon detection of a pest. Pest-free areas are subject to audit by APHIS to verify their status.

(c) *Determination of pest freedom.* (1) For an area to be considered free of a specified pest for the purposes of this subpart, the Administrator must determine, and announce in a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER for a public comment period of 60 days, that the area meets the criteria of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(2) The Administrator will announce his or her decision in a subsequent FEDERAL REGISTER notice. If appropriate, APHIS will allow movement of the regulated article from a pest-free area because:

(i) No comments were received on the notice or

(ii) The comments on the notice did not affect the overall conclusions of the notice and the Administrator's determination of risk.

(d) *Decertification of pest-free areas; reinstatement.* If a pest is detected in an area that is designated as free of that pest, APHIS will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice announcing that the pest-free status of the area in question has been withdrawn and that interstate movement of host crops for the pest in question is subject to application of an approved treatment for the pest. If a treatment for the pest is

not available, interstate movement of the host crops would be prohibited. In order for a decertified pest-free area to be reinstated, it would have to meet the criteria of paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section.

(e) *General requirements for the interstate movement of regulated articles from pest-free areas—(1) Labeling.* Each box of fruits or vegetables that is moved interstate from a pest-free area under this subpart must be clearly labeled with:

(i) The name of the orchard or grove of origin, or the name of the grower; and

(ii) The name of the municipality and State or territory in which the fruits or vegetables were produced; and

(iii) The type and amount of fruits or vegetables the box contains.

(2) *Compliance agreement.* Persons wishing to move fruits or vegetables from a pest-free area in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS in accordance with § 318.13-3(d).

(3) *Safeguarding.* If fruits or vegetables are moved from a pest-free area into or through an area that is not free of that pest, the fruits or vegetables must be safeguarded during the time they are present in a non-pest-free area by being covered with insect-proof mesh screens or plastic tarpaulins, including while in transit to the packing-house and while awaiting packaging. If fruits or vegetables are moved through an area that is not free of that pest during transit to a port, they must be packed in insect-proof cartons or containers or be covered by insect-proof mesh or plastic tarpaulins during transit to the port and subsequent movement into or through the United States. These safeguards described in this section must remain intact until the fruits or vegetables reach their final destination.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0346)