

Fresh Fruit Shipment Procedures
Effective October 22, 2009
Version 2.0

INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS

The interstate movement of fresh citrus from Florida to domestic markets is currently governed by the Code of Federal Regulation, CFR 301.75 Subpart-Citrus Canker. This subpart establishes a citrus canker quarantine throughout the State of Florida, and outlines requirements for fruit shipped from a quarantine area to other US states and territories.

Shipment Now Permitted to All US States and Territories

Citrus fruit from Florida is now permitted to be shipped to all US states and territories, including AZ, CA, HI, LA, TX and American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands of the United States.

Citrus fruit may be shipped interstate from a quarantine area under a Federal Certificate provided the fruit:

- Is packed in a commercial packinghouse whose owner or operator has entered into a compliance agreement with APHIS
- Is treated according to 7 CFR 301.75-11
- Is free of leaves, twigs and other plant parts, except stems that are less than 1 inch long and are attached to the fruit
- Is accompanied by a Federal Certificate.

The previous requirement that fruit be inspected and found free of citrus canker by APHIS has been eliminated for fruit destined to the interstate market. That requirement remains in effect for fruit destined to some foreign markets. In addition, the requirement that fruit originate in a grove inspected and found free of canker remains in effect for shipments to the European Union. Export shipments, including those to the EU, are addressed later in this document.

Compliance Agreement

Fruit may only be shipped interstate from packinghouses that operate under a signed APHIS Packinghouse Compliance Agreement. All packers will be asked to sign a new compliance agreement modified to reflect the requirements of the new fruit rule.

Harvesting Permit

A fresh fruit Harvesting Permit is not required for interstate movement, but continues to be required for shipments destined to the European Union (see International Shipments on Page 6 below).

Treatment

Fruit shipped under a Federal Certificate must be treated with a USDA-approved disinfectant. The regulated fruit must be treated in accordance with §301.75–11(a), which provides the following treatment options:

(1) Sodium Hypochlorite: The regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted for at least 2 minutes with a solution containing 200 parts per million sodium hypochlorite, with the solution maintained at a pH of 6.0 to 7.5, or

(2) Sodium O-Phenyl Phenate (SOPP): The regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted with a solution containing sodium o-phenyl phenate (SOPP) at a concentration of 1.86 to 2.0 percent of the total solution, for 45 seconds if the solution has sufficient soap or detergent to cause a visible foaming action or for 1 minute if the solution does not contain sufficient soap to cause a visible foaming action.

(3) Peroxyacetic acid. The fruit must be thoroughly wetted for at least 1 minute with a solution containing 85 parts per million peroxyacetic acid.

APHIS inspectors will regularly monitor disinfectant solutions and procedures to ensure the above concentrations and treatment times are met. Any lot being run when a disinfection solution or procedure is found to be non-compliant will be required to be retreated.

It is recommended that lots be physically separated during the treatment and packing process. Lots that are not separated will all be subject to any regulatory action that may be required.

If a portion of a lot has left the packinghouse and the lot is later determined to be ineligible for interstate movement due to a non-compliant treatment, it must be recalled to the packinghouse for retreatment.

Federal Certificate

Fruit shipped for the interstate market must be accompanied by a Federal Certificate. For fruit shipped to non-citrus producing states, that Certificate may be in the form of an approved marked container, an APHIS-issued stamp or PPQ Form 540. For fruit shipped to citrus-producing states, the Certificate may be in the form of an APHIS-issued stamp only. A PPQ Form 540 cannot accompany shipments to citrus-producing states.

The Federal Certificate must be attached during the interstate movement to one of the following:

- (i) The outside of the container in which the fruit is packed, or
- (ii) The accompanying documentation

It is highly recommended that the Federal Certificate be present on both the container in which the fruit is packed and the accompanying documentation.

Authorization for printing of Federal Certificate stamps will not be granted. USDA will print a Federal Certificate stamp for each packinghouse. Custody and ownership of the stamps will remain with USDA, but may be temporarily transferred to packinghouses on a case-by-case basis. Preprinted boxes, labels or bag headers may be authorized only through application and approval by APHIS.

Packinghouse Inspection

APHIS will no longer inspect fruit destined to the domestic market for freedom from citrus canker. APHIS will, however, conduct periodic spot checks to ensure that packed fruit is free of leaves, twigs and other plant parts except for stems that are less than 1 inch long and are attached to the fruit

These spot checks may occur on the belt or roll board or by inspecting fruit in packed boxes upon APHIS request. If needed, it will be the responsibility of the packinghouse to provide manpower to carry packed boxes to and from the inspection table, and to repack fruit after inspection.

If leaves, twigs and other plant parts except for stems that are less than 1 inch long and are attached to the fruit are found during a spot check, that lot will be required to be re-graded to remove the plant parts. If any portion of that lot has already left the packinghouse, it will be required to be recalled for re-grading to remove the plant parts.

Packing Containers and Container Labeling

Citrus is no longer required to be packed in APHIS-approved containers, but all applicable Department of Citrus regulations must still be met.

Existing inventories of containers marked with a USDA Limited Permit or Limited Distribution Statement (“*Not for distribution in AZ, CA, HI, LA, TX, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands*”) may continue to be used, but packers do so at their own risk. USDA

accepts no responsibility or liability for shipments mishandled or misdirected due to the presence of a Limited Permit or Limited Distribution Statement.

APHIS no longer requires specific container labeling, but containers *may* be marked with a Federal Certificate (see “Federal Certificate” above).

To prevent the accidental shipping of ineligible fruit under a Federal Certificate, the Certificate language may not be pre-printed on Fruit & Vegetable manifests. **Shipping ineligible fruit under a Federal Certificate, even if by accident, would be a violation of Federal regulations. Such a violation could result in the loss of use of a Certificate stamp by the packinghouse, the issuance of a civil penalty, or both.**

INTRASTATE SHIPMENTS

7 CFR 301.75 does not regulate the sale or movement of citrus wholly within the State of Florida.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS

Important Note: The fruit rule published on October 22, 2009, applies to interstate movement of citrus only. For the 09/10 season, there will be no change in how fruit destined for foreign markets is certified. Shipments moving to any foreign market that requires a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate AND considers citrus canker to be an “actionable” disease must still be inspected by APHIS. Packers must give their local APHIS office advance notice when fruit is being run that will require a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate, especially if an inspection is needed outside of normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM. See “Overtime Requests” for information on requesting export inspections on overtime.

A Harvesting Permit is required for fruit destined to the European Union. A Harvesting Permit is issued only when a grove has received a pre-harvest survey and has been found to be free of citrus canker.

A Limited Permit for Export Only stamp is required only for fruit not eligible for a Federal Certificate that is being shipped under APHIS seal overland for export from ports outside of Florida, including fruit destined to Canada. A Limited Permit for Export Only is **not** required if fruit not eligible for a Federal Certificate is destined for an export market and is being shipped **direct** from Florida.

To receive a Phytosanitary Certificate, all fruit exported from Florida must be inspected.

- If the destination country considers citrus canker to be of quarantine significance or “actionable,” the fruit must be free of citrus canker
- If the destination country does not consider canker to be of quarantine significance or “actionable,” the fruit is not required to be free of citrus canker

Inspection of Export Fruit

Although fruit destined to the domestic market will no longer be routinely inspected by APHIS, fruit destined to countries that require a Phytosanitary Certificate and consider citrus canker to be of quarantine significance or “actionable” will still be inspected.

- For the 09/10 season, fruit destined to the EU will continue to be inspected using the inspection protocol in use for domestic and EU fruit during the 08/09 season
- Fruit destined to other foreign markets may be inspected at a rate of approximately 2% per shipment or using the EU inspection protocol

Canker Finds in Packinghouse During Export Inspections

USDA will attempt to provide pathology determination for suspect citrus canker lesions found by an APHIS inspector within three (3) hours to any packing facility that provides the inspector access to a computer with Windows XP software (or equivalent), and a high-speed internet connection. USDA-APHIS will provide pathology determinations within 24 hours if an onsite visit is required.

If a citrus canker suspect is found during an export inspection, the packer may:

1. Accept with “no contest” that the suspect lesion is citrus canker
2. Request an on-site confirmation by a Plant Pathologist

Options for Export Fruit Found Infected with Canker

Fruit found infected with canker during a packinghouse inspection may be:

1. Shipped to any US state or territory, provided it has been properly treated, is free of leaves, twigs and other plant parts, and is accompanied by a Federal Certificate.
2. Diverted to juice
3. Exported to any country that does not consider citrus canker to be an actionable pest
4. Reconditioned and reinspected for export to countries that require a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate and consider citrus canker to be an actionable pest, provided no canker is found during the reinspection. If

canker is found during reinspection after reconditioning, it is no longer eligible for export

Note: Fruit destined to the EU that is found infected with citrus canker is no longer eligible for shipment to the EU under any circumstances. All other fruit harvested under the same Harvesting Permit will be prohibited from export to the EU as well, including fruit in transit that has not yet entered the EU..

APHIS Seals

If fruit destined for export is not eligible for a Federal Certificate (that is, does not meet requirements of 7 CFR 301.75-7 for interstate movement – see Page 1), the fruit must be shipped in a container sealed by APHIS if transiting other states for export. No transloading will be permitted at the port of export.

Because USDA has to be physically present to seal the trailers, USDA will apply a “Limited Permit for Export” stamp to the paperwork at the same time. Sealing of trailers should be scheduled to occur while the USDA inspector is on-site conducting regulatory oversight or inspecting fruit for export. Inspectors will not be available for the sole purpose of sealing of trailers for export outside of normal business hours (M-F, 8:00-5:00).

APHIS seals may be broken ONLY by an APHIS inspector, including breaking of seals to add to a partial shipment.

Canada

Canada considers citrus fruit an “unrestricted product” and does not consider citrus canker to be of regulatory significance, therefore:

- No Federal Phytosanitary Certificate is required.
- No Federal Phytosanitary inspection is required, but fruit that does not meet the requirements for a Federal Certificate must travel under APHIS seal and be accompanied by a Limited Permit for Export.

Note: No Florida-origin citrus that is exported to Canada will be allowed back into the US under any circumstances, including as “Returned US Goods.”

European Union

The EU will accept citrus from Florida with a Phytosanitary Certificate verifying that “in accordance with an official control and examination scheme, no symptoms of citrus canker have been observed in the field of production and in its immediate vicinity since the beginning of the last cycle of production and that

none of the fruits harvested in the field of production have shown symptoms of citrus canker.”

USDA interprets this requirement to mean that the grove, block or subblock, and a surrounding buffer must be inspected no more than 120 days prior to the beginning of harvest and found to be free of citrus canker. The buffer will be determined as follows:

- If a block is divided into contiguous subblocks for inspection purposes, the buffer will be the first 50 feet of the adjacent subblock on all sides.
- If a block is separated from other blocks or subblocks by a clearly visible and host-free separation such as a road, canal or wide middle, that separation will serve as the buffer.

As long as harvesting begins within 120 days of survey, the Harvesting Permit is good for the remainder of the harvesting season. If harvesting does not begin within 120 days, the grove will require another survey before harvesting can begin.

To obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate for shipment to the EU, the following statement is required on manifests for fruit to be certified for the EU:

"Fruit is from groves in which required grove and buffer inspections have been conducted and found free of citrus canker, has been treated with SOPP, chlorine, or peroxyacetic acid, meets European Union import requirements, and is eligible for phytosanitary certification."

Note: This statement replaces previously required language to the effect that "This fruit does not originate from a quarantine area and did not transit a quarantine area."

Packinghouse lot numbers are required on each box and associated manifest in order to trace the origin of the fruit, and ensure that segregation between lots is maintained within the packinghouse. All fruit must be traceable back to the grove block of origin.

Multi-Block numbers, TRS, and/or the canker website URL are no longer required on the Fruit & Vegetable manifest. Including them could cause confusion, and it is therefore recommended that these items be omitted from the manifests.

The county and State of origin should be indicated in the Place of Origin block on the F&V Manifest.

Shipments being exported to the EU direct from Florida ports do not need to travel under a Certificate to the port for export, but the container will be sealed by F&V at the packinghouse.

Fruit that is eligible for interstate movement is not necessarily eligible for the EU, but fruit that meets EU requirements is eligible for interstate movement if accompanied by a Federal Certificate. For this reason, manifests accompanying shipments of fruit to the EU that are transiting other states should be stamped with a Federal Certificate. No APHIS seal is required on the trailer, however the trailer will be sealed by Fruit & Vegetable Inspection.

A fresh fruit Harvesting Permit is required for EU shipments. Any grove block found positive for canker after July 1 will be disqualified for EU markets for the remainder of that harvesting season. If a grove certified for EU shipments is found positive for canker, all fruit from that grove, including fruit that was inspected at a packinghouse and is in transit but has not yet entered into the EU, will be denied entry into the EU.

The Harvesting Permit number(s) must be recorded on trip-ticket(s) to verify the grove block has been surveyed and found free of citrus canker.

A Record of Survey will be issued to void a Harvesting Permit if citrus canker is found in a grove during a preharvest inspection or during inspection in a packinghouse. Fruit that has been issued a Record of Survey is ineligible for shipment to the EU.

A Harvesting Permit for citrus destined to the EU is valid for the remainder of the harvesting season, provided that harvesting begins within 120 days of the date of preharvest survey.

Fruit exported to the EU must be treated with a USDA-approved disinfectant. The regulated fruit must be treated in accordance with §301.75–11(a), which provides the following treatment options:

(1) Sodium Hypochlorite: The regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted for at least 2 minutes with a solution containing 200 parts per million sodium hypochlorite, with the solution maintained at a pH of 6.0 to 7.5, or

(2) Sodium O-Phenyl Phenate (SOPP): The regulated fruit must be thoroughly wetted with a solution containing sodium o-phenyl phenate (SOPP) at a concentration of 1.86 to 2.0 percent of the total solution, for 45 seconds if the solution has sufficient soap or detergent to cause a visible foaming action or for 1 minute if the solution does not contain sufficient soap to cause a visible foaming action.

(3) Peroxyacetic acid. The fruit must be thoroughly wetted for at least 1 minute with a solution containing 85 parts per million peroxyacetic acid.

Other Foreign Countries

The international movement of fresh citrus from Florida to foreign markets is governed solely by the importing country's requirements. These vary depending

on the country. Below is a chart that summarizes the requirements for a few of the larger Florida export markets.

Harvesting permits are not required for Japan or markets that accept fruit where canker is endemic. It should be noted that while canker is endemic in some countries accepting fruit from Florida, individual shipments of fruit may be rejected by some countries if found to be infected with citrus canker. Both China and Japan have citrus canker but will take action if canker is found in a shipment.

Fruit ineligible for a Certificate that meets another country's import requirements may transit overland for export from any US port provided the shipment moves under APHIS seal under a Limited Permit for Export and is not transloaded at the port of export. The APHIS seal must remain unbroken while in the United States.

Fruit that is eligible for a Federal Certificate may be land-bridged to US ports in any state and transloaded at the port of export. Similarly, fruit that is eligible for a Federal Certificate may be transported overland to any state and held in cold storage for export at a later date.

Although some of the following countries do not specifically consider citrus canker to be "actionable" or a disease of regulatory significance, they may still take regulatory action if canker-infected fruit is found in a shipment. It is of utmost importance that only asymptomatic fruit be shipped, regardless of the destination market.

Note: The information contained in this document refers to **citrus canker restrictions only** and does not apply to import permits which may be required by some countries, or to current Caribbean Fruit Fly Protocol requirements in place for China, Japan, Korea or the Philippines. Additionally, this information is **subject to change** based on the importing countries regulations and should always be verified with an APHIS export certification official prior to shipment.

Overtime Requests

For the 09/10 shipping season, fruit destined for export will be inspected by APHIS only if the importing country requires a Federal Phytosanitary Inspection AND considers citrus canker to be an "actionable" disease. Those countries are shown in **bold** in the following chart.

Packers are strongly urged to run fruit requiring an export inspection by APHIS during normal business hours (M-F, 8:00-5:00). Advance notice is required for any inspection that must be performed outside of these hours. Advance notice should be provided to the local APHIS CHRP office no later than 2:30 PM on weekdays for inspections requested that night, and no later than 2:30 PM on Friday for inspections requested during the weekend.

FLORIDA EXPORT MARKET INFORMATION

Country	Phytosanitary Certificate Required	Canker "Actionable"	Special Notes
Argentina	Yes	Yes	
Aruba	Yes	No	
Barbados	Yes	No	
Belize	Yes	No	
Bermuda	Yes	Yes	
Brazil	Yes	Yes	
Canada	No	No	
Chile	Yes	Yes	
China	Yes	Yes	
Colombia	Yes	No	
Dominican Republic	Yes	No	
Egypt	Yes	Yes	
El Salvador	Yes	No	
European Union*	Yes	Yes	*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom,
Hong Kong	No	No	
Japan	Yes	Yes**	**Japan does not list canker as an actionable pest, but also does not list as non-actionable pest, therefore it is treated as an actionable pest.
Korea, Republic of	Yes	Yes	Grapefruit, orange only. Will not accept Tangelos
Malaysia	No	No	
Norway	Yes	No	
Pakistan	Yes	No	
Russia	Yes	No	
Saudi Arabia	Yes	No	
Singapore	No	No	
South Korea	Yes	Yes	
Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Import requirements same as EU
Taiwan	Yes	No	
Thailand	Yes	No	
Turkey	Yes	Yes	
United Arab Emirates	No	No	

Note: Anything not addressed in these guidelines may be addressed at a later date as an Addendum to the Packinghouse Compliance Agreement.