

Regulations Governing Spanish Clementine Imports

After nearly one year, Spanish clementines will soon be arriving for distribution within the United States, and regulations are in place for permittees, distributors, trucking companies, and retailers to move the fruit without significant risk to U.S. agriculture. Spanish clementines will not be permitted into Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Puerto Rico, or any other U.S. territory during the first shipping season. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will strictly enforce the regulations governing the importation of clementines from Spain, including requirements preventing distribution to those areas where Spanish clementines are not permitted. Under the Plant Protection Act, violators face high penalties for illegally transporting or distributing imported produce.

Industries are responsible for knowing the regulations governing Spanish clementines. APHIS hopes that this publication will make it easier for distributors, truckers, and retailers to understand and follow the regulations governing this commodity.

Background

To prevent foreign plant pests and diseases from damaging U.S. agricultural resources, Federal regulations require that certain imported plants and plant parts be subject to shipping restrictions. On December 5, 2001, USDA banned the importation of clementines from Spain after several live Mediterranean fruit flies (Medflies) in their larval stage were discovered.

Federal Regulations

The new USDA regulations for the importation of Spanish clementines require that fruit be precleared, as well as sampled, before and after cold treatment. Also, farmers in Spain must grow clementines in accordance with a Medfly management program established by their government. Boxes of Spanish clementines must be clearly marked with a distribution statement listing the areas where the fruit is not permitted.

Each industry in the Spanish clementine import process is responsible for following USDA regulations. Industry employees should be aware of these

regulations and the penalties if the regulations are not followed.

Penalties for violating Spanish clementine distribution and movement regulations may result in fines of up to \$250,000. Violators may also be subject to criminal penalties.

Additional Information

For background information about Spanish clementines, please visit the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov or call Plant Protection and Quarantine at (301) 734-8295.



Under the new regulations, Spanish clementines may not be permitted into Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Puerto Rico, and any other U.S. territory during the first shipping season.

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