

## PEER REVIEW PLAN

Title of Review: Risk Assessment for the [ X ] **Influential Scientific Information**  
Importation of Fresh Lemon  
(*Citrus limon* (L.) Burm. F.)  
Fruit from Northwest  
Argentina into the  
Continental United States.

Agency: USDA, Animal and Plant [ ] **Highly Influential Scientific Assessment**  
Health Inspection Service

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Subject of Review: This document is an assessment of the plant pest risk associated with the importation  
of fresh commercially grown and packed lemon fruit from Northwest Argentina.

The methodology used for the assessment is mainly qualitative, based on the USDA  
Guideline for Pathway-Initiated Pest Risk Assessment, Version 5.02. The assessment  
draws from an extensive collection of scientific evidence and other information  
regarding the pests of lemon in Argentina, much of this information was provided  
directly by the national plant protection organization of Argentina. It involves an  
evaluation of the pests for their status as quarantine pests for the United States, and  
their potential to be associated with fruit exported to the United States based on the  
cultivation, harvesting and packing practices described by Argentina. Pests found to  
be potential hazards for the United States are analyzed for the probability and  
consequences of their introduction.

Key pests of concern identified by the assessment are two fruit flies, two armored  
scales, and three plant diseases, including *Guignardia citricarpa* (Citrus black spot),  
and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (Citrus canker). The diseases of concern are  
reported to be associated with the fruit in Argentina and could be present in export  
shipments, although the assessment finds the likelihood of introduction to be low.  
Certain armored scales that may be associated with the exported fruit were also found  
to have a low likelihood of introduction. The plant pest risk associated with fruit  
flies, including *Ceratitidis capitata* (Medfly) is discussed in the context of extenuating  
conditions which may lead to infestation.

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Purpose of Review: The purpose of review is to confirm that the scientific information is sufficiently  
complete to support the conclusions, that the conclusions are consistent with the  
evidence, and that the rationale supporting conclusions is clear and convincing.  
Reviewers should also evaluate the assessment for conformity with internationally  
accepted guidelines.

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Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [ X ] Individual Reviewers  
[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 08/13/2007 End: 09/21/2007 Completed: 09/24/07

Number of Reviewers:  3 or fewer  4 to 10  More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Risk Assessment, Plant Pathology, Entomology, International Standards

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Reviewers selected by:  Agency  Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name: RTI International

Opportunities for Public Comment on the Scientific Document?  Yes  No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How: By publication on Regulations.gov

When: August, 2007 to December 11, 2007

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?  Yes  No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?  Yes  No

Location of Document Being Reviewed A draft of "Risk Assessment for the Importation of Fresh Lemon (*Citrus limon* (L.) Burm. F.) Fruit from Northwest Argentina into the Continental United States" is available on Regulations.gov with the associated *Federal Register* notice and by clicking [HERE](#).

