

§ 319.56-2p Administrative instructions prescribing treatment and relieving restrictions regarding importation of okra from Mexico, the West Indies, and certain countries in South America.

(a) *Conditions for issuance of permits.*

(1) Under § 319.56-2, okra may be imported under permit and in compliance with the regulations in this subpart, from Mexico, the West Indies, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela and any other South American country specified in the permit, upon presentation of evidence that it has been treated in accordance with the procedure prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) Further, it is hereby determined, pursuant to § 319.56, that existing conditions as to the pest risk involved in the importation of okra from such countries make it safe to make less stringent the restrictions contained in § 319.56-2, by allowing the importation of okra, as provided in paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of this section without routinely requiring such treatment.

(3) As used in this section—(i) *West Indies* means the foreign islands lying between North and South America, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean, divided into the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles (including the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, and the islands north of Venezuela);

(ii) *Inspector* means an inspector of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(iii) *Enter into the United States* means to introduce into the commerce of the United States after release from government detention;

(iv) *Import into the United States* means to bring within the territorial limits of the United States;

(v) *Port of arrival* means the first place at which a carrier containing okra stops to unload cargo after coming within the territorial limits of the United States;

(vi) *Permit* means a document issued for an article by Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, stating that

the article is eligible for importation into the United States; and

(vii) *United States* means the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and all other territories and possessions of the United States.”

(b) *Authorized treatment procedure.* (1) The treatment shall consist of fumigation with methyl bromide at normal atmospheric pressure, under supervision, in a fumigation chamber which has been approved for that purpose, as prescribed in this section. This treatment is specific for the pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders)) which is known to occur in Mexico, the West Indies, and South America. Under certain cultural conditions this pest will infest okra.

(2) *Approval of fumigation chambers.* (i) Fumigation chambers in the United States or elsewhere will be approved only if they are properly constructed and adequately equipped to handle and treat okra. Within the United States the chambers must be located within the practicable supervisory range of inspectors of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs stationed at the ports of entry authorized in permits for the importation of okra. Approval of fumigation chambers outside the United States will depend upon the availability of qualified inspectors for assignment to supervise the treatment and posttreatment handling of okra.

(ii) Determination of eligibility for approval under this section of fumigation plants will be made by an inspector of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs.

(3) *Fumigation schedule.* Such fumigation shall be in accordance with the following fumigation schedule:

Temperature (° F.)	Dosage (pounds of methyl bromide per 1,000 cubic feet)	Exposure period (hours)
90-96	1.0	2
80-89	1.5	2
70-79	2.0	2
60-69	2.5	2
50-59	3.0	2
40-49	3.5	2

(4) *Fumigation procedure.* Okra to be fumigated may be packed in slatted crates or other gas-permeable containers. The fumigation chamber shall

not be loaded to more than two-thirds of its capacity. The containers may be stacked one on top of another, but a 3- to 4-inch space must be provided between all containers throughout the load. Good air circulation above and below the load shall be provided as soon as the okra is loaded and must be continued during the full period of fumigation and until the okra has been removed to a well-ventilated location. Strong blasts of air should not be directed against the okra. Fumigation at temperatures in excess of 90° F. may result in injury to okra and should be avoided if possible. Past experience indicates that injury may also result from excess moisture, such as residual moisture from harvesting when dew-covered.

(5) *Supervision of fumigation*—(i) *Other than interior of Mexico.* Inspectors will supervise the fumigation of okra at approved fumigation plants in locations other than those in the interior of Mexico and will specify safeguards in specific cases for the packing, other handling and transportation of the okra before and subsequent to fumigation, if, in the opinion of the inspector, this is necessary to assure that there will be no risk of introducing plant pests into the United States associated with the treatment and importation of the okra. The final release of the okra for entry into the United States will be conditioned upon compliance with the specified safeguards. Such supervision at plants within the United States will be carried on as a part of normal port inspection activities.

(ii) *Interior of Mexico.* Inspectors will supervise the fumigation of okra at approved fumigation plants in the interior of Mexico and will prescribe safeguards in specific cases for the packing and other handling of the okra at the treating plant and the transportation of the okra from the time it leaves the treating plant until it reaches the U.S. port of entry, if in the opinion of the inspector this is necessary to assure that there will be no risk of introducing plant pests into the United States associated with the treatment and importation of the okra. The final release of the okra for entry into the United States will be conditioned upon

compliance with the prescribed safeguards.

(6) *Ports of entry.* Okra required to be treated for the pink bollworm may be imported into the United States only at New Orleans or such other South Atlantic or gulf ports with approved treatment facilities as may be named in the permit, except that, in addition, Mexican okra required to be treated for the pink bollworm may be imported into the United States at Mexican Border ports named in the permit.

(7) *Costs.* Persons desiring to import okra required to be treated under this section must make advance arrangements for approval of the fumigation plant and for supervision of the fumigation by an authorized inspector. All costs of constructing, maintaining, and operating fumigation plants and facilities, and carrying out specified pretreatment and posttreatment safeguards, and all additional costs to the Department arising from supervision under this section, by an inspector away from his regular place of official duty or outside of his regular hours of official duty (including as appropriate, base salary, overtime and holiday pay, travel subsistence, transportation, employee benefits, and incidental expenses) shall be borne by the owner of the okra or his representative. Where normal inspection activities preclude the furnishing of supervision during regularly assigned hours of duty, supervision will be furnished on a reimbursable basis. The owner of the okra or his representative must furnish the Deputy Administrator of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs with acceptable assurances that he will provide funds to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to cover all costs of supervision, in accordance with §§354.1 and 354.2 of this chapter and this paragraph.

(8) *Department not responsible for damage.* While the prescribed treatment is judged from experimental tests to be safe for use with okra, the Department assumes no responsibility for any damage sustained through or in the course of treatment or because of pretreatment or posttreatment safeguards. There has not been an opportunity to test these treatments under

all conditions or on all okra varieties or on okra from all areas involved.

(c) *Importations of okra without treatment from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Suriname* Okra produced in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, or Suriname, may be entered into the United States without treatment for the pink bollworm only if:

(1) The okra is imported from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, or Suriname under permit;

(2) The okra is made available for examination by an inspector at the port of arrival and remains at the port of arrival until released by an inspector;

(3) During March 16 through December 31, inclusive, the okra is not moved into California; and

(4) During May 16 through November 30, inclusive, the okra is not moved into Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, or any part of Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, or Virginia south of the 38th parallel.

(d) *Importation of okra without treatment from the West Indies and certain countries in South America.* Okra produced in the West Indies, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, or other South American country, designated in accordance with § 319.56-2 in a permit to import okra, may be imported into the United States through any North Atlantic port with approved treatment facilities, under permit and subject to inspection at the port of arrival but without treatment for the pink bollworm in paragraph (d)(2) of this section if destined to: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, or Wyoming, or the District of Columbia, or any part of Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, or Virginia, north of the 38th parallel.

(e) *Importation of okra without treatment from Andros Island of the Bahamas; and okra without treatment from the West Indies for importation into the American Virgin Islands.* Okra produced in Andros

Island, Bahamas, may be imported into the United States under permit through any port named in the permit, without treatment but subject to inspection at the port of arrival. Okra produced in the West Indies may be imported into the American Virgin Islands without treatment but subject to inspection at the port of arrival.

(f) *Treatment of okra for pests other than pink bollworm.* If, upon examination of okra imported in accordance with paragraphs (c), (d), or (e) of this section, an inspector at the port of arrival finds injurious insects, other than the pink bollworm, that do not exist in the United States or are not widespread in the United States, the okra will remain eligible for entry into the United States only if it is treated for the injurious insects in the physical presence of an inspector in accordance with the Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual. The Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual is incorporated by reference. See § 300.1 of this chapter, *Materials incorporated by reference.* "If the treatment authorized by the Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual is not available, or if no authorized treatment exists, the okra may not be entered into the United States."

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§ 319.56-2q Administrative instructions: Conditions governing the entry of citrus from South Africa.

Clementine (*Citrus reticulata*), grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*), lemon (*Citrus limon*), minneola (*C. paradisi* x *C. reticulata*), navel orange (*Citrus sinensis*), satsuma (*Citrus reticulata*), and valencia orange (*Citrus sinensis*) may be imported into the United States from the Western Cape Province of South Africa only under the following conditions:

(a) The citrus fruit must be grown in, packed in, and shipped from the Western Cape Province of South Africa.

(b) The citrus fruit must be cold treated for false codling moth and fruit flies of the genus *Ceratitis* and *Pterandrus* in accordance with the