

Many countries that import animal products from the United States require a certification from APHIS that the United States is free of certain diseases. They may also require that our certification statement contain additional declarations regarding the U.S. animal products being exported. This certification must carry the USDA seal and be endorsed by an APHIS representative (e.g., a Veterinary Medical Officer). The certification process involves the use of information collection activities including an animal products export certificate and request for a hearing. An exporter may request a hearing to appeal an APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) decision not to grant a certificate because an exporter is not meeting certain requirements in part 156 of the regulations or if a certificate is denied or withdrawn by VS if it is determined that an issued certificate has been altered or parts imitated.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.32 hours per response.

Respondents: Exporters of U.S. animal products.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 32,687.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 5.5.

Estimated annual number of responses: 179,318.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 58,165 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual

number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of February 2023.

Anthony Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-03137 Filed 2-14-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2022-0028]

Addition of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia to the List of Regions Affected With African Swine Fever

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we added the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia to the list of regions that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service considers to be affected by African swine fever (ASF). We have taken these actions because of confirmation of ASF in the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia.

DATES: The Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia were added to the list of regions APHIS considers to be affected with ASF, effective respectively on January 20, 2022, and February 3, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding ASF in the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia, contact Dr. John Grabau, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Strategy and Policy, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Drive, Venture II, Raleigh, NC 27606; phone: (919) 855-7225; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of specified animals and animal products to prevent the introduction into the United States of various animal diseases, including African swine fever (ASF). ASF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly in swine populations with extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality.

A list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist is maintained on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>. This list is referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) of the regulations.

Section 94.8(a)(3) of the regulations states that APHIS will add a region to the list referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) upon determining ASF exists in the region, based on reports APHIS receives of outbreaks of the disease from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH),¹ or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable, or upon determining that there is reason to believe the disease exists in the region. Section 94.8(a)(1) of the regulations specifies the criteria on which the Administrator bases the reason to believe ASF exists in a region. Section 94.8(b) prohibits the importation of pork and pork products from regions listed in accordance with § 94.8, except if processed and treated in accordance with the provisions specified in that section or consigned to an APHIS-approved establishment for further processing. Section 96.2 restricts the importation of swine casings that originated in or were processed in a region where ASF exists, as listed under § 94.8(a).

On January 14, 2022, the veterinary authorities of the Kingdom of Thailand reported to the WOAH an ASF occurrence in that country. On January 20, 2022, in response to the outbreak, APHIS added the Kingdom of Thailand to the list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist. As a result, pork and pork products from the Kingdom of Thailand, including casings, are subject to APHIS import restrictions designed to mitigate the risk of ASF introduction into the United States.

On January 10, 2022, the veterinary authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia reported to the WOAH an ASF occurrence in that country. On February 3, 2022, in response to the outbreak, APHIS added the Republic of North Macedonia to the list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist. As a result, pork and pork products from the Republic of North Macedonia, including casings, are

¹ The World Organization for Animal Health internationally follows a British English spelling of "organisation" in its name; it was formerly the Office International des Epizooties, or OIE, but on May 28, 2022, the Organization announced that the acronym was changed from OIE to WOAH.

subject to APHIS import restrictions designed to mitigate the risk of ASF introduction into the United States.

With the publication of this notice, we are informing the public that we added: The Kingdom of Thailand to the list of regions APHIS considers to be affected with ASF, effective January 20, 2022, and the Republic of North Macedonia to the list of regions APHIS considers to be affected with ASF, effective February 3, 2022. This notice serves as an official record and public notification of these actions.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of February 2023.

Anthony Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–03134 Filed 2–14–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2021–0074]

Notice of Decision to Authorize the Importation of Fresh Oha Leaves (*Pterocarpus mildbraedii*) From Nigeria Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation of fresh Oha leaves (*Pterocarpus mildbraedii*) from Nigeria into the continental United States. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we have determined that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh Oha leaves from Nigeria.

DATES: Imports may be authorized beginning February 15, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Hesham Abuelnaga, Senior Regulatory

Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2010; email: Hesham.A.Abuelnaga@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart L–Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of fruits and vegetables that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS proposes to authorize the importation of a fruit or vegetable into the United States if, based on findings of a pest risk analysis, we determine that the measures can mitigate the plant pest risk associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable. APHIS then publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS will issue a subsequent **Federal Register** notice announcing whether or not we will authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the phytosanitary measures specified in the notice.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on June 7, 2022 (87 FR 34632–34633, Docket No. APHIS–2021–0074), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk analysis that evaluated the risks associated with the importation of fresh Oha leaves (*Pterocarpus mildbraedii*) from Nigeria into the continental United States. The pest risk analysis consisted of a risk assessment identifying pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh Oha leaves from Nigeria into the

continental United States and a risk management document identifying phytosanitary measures to be applied to that commodity to mitigate the pest risk.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on August 8, 2022. We received no comments by that date.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c)(3)(iii), we are announcing our decision to authorize the importation of fresh Oha leaves from Nigeria into the continental United States subject to the phytosanitary measures identified in the risk management document that accompanied the initial notice.

These conditions will be listed in the USDA, APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database (<https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/>).² In addition to these specific measures, each shipment must be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the recordkeeping and burden requirements associated with this action are included under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 0579–0049.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes. For information pertinent to E-Government Act compliance related to this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS’ Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2483.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

¹ To view the notice, the pest risk analysis, and other supporting documents, go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2021–0074 in the Search field.

² On September 30, 2022, the APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) database was replaced by the ACIR database.