

August 25, 2026

Subject: APHIS Reissues Systems Approach for the Interstate Movement of Tomatoes from a Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantined Area

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reissuing this Federal Order with the conditions for the interstate movement of regulated fresh tomato fruit from Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*, Medfly) quarantine areas nationwide. APHIS previously included these conditions in Federal Order DA-2016-05. APHIS is not changing the conditions of the systems approach, but is separating out the conditions for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from a Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*, Mexfly) quarantine in Texas that APHIS had also included in DA-2016-05 and that were revised in Federal Order DA-2025-38. APHIS is also updating the language and format of this Federal Order. This Federal Order does not change the requirements necessary to export tomato fruit and it supersedes the requirements in Federal Order DA-2016-05 for the interstate movement of tomato fruit from a Medfly quarantine area.

APHIS regulates the interstate movement of Medfly host articles from all areas quarantined for Medfly in the United States in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.32 through 301.32-10](#) and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

The [APHIS Exotic Fruit Flies webpage](#) contains a description of all current Federal fruit fly quarantines, regulated articles/host lists, and this Federal Order.

For additional information you may contact:

Catherine A. Marzolf  
National Policy Manager  
386-666-9932  
[catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov](mailto:catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov)

Glorimar Marrero  
Assistant National Policy Manager  
240-577-4633  
[glorimar.marrero@usda.gov](mailto:glorimar.marrero@usda.gov)



Matthew A. Rhoads  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**FEDERAL ORDER**

**APHIS Reissues Systems Approach for the Interstate Movement of Tomatoes from a Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantined Area**

DA-2026-31  
August 25, 2026

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reissuing this Federal Order with the conditions for the interstate movement of regulated fresh tomato fruit from Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*, Medfly) quarantine areas nationwide. APHIS previously included these conditions in Federal Order DA-2016-05. APHIS is not changing the conditions of the systems approach, but is separating out the conditions for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from a Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*, Mexfly) quarantine in Texas that APHIS had also included in DA-2016-05 and that were revised in Federal Order DA-2025-38. APHIS is also updating the language and format of this Federal Order. This Federal Order does not change the requirements necessary to export tomato fruit and it supersedes the requirements in Federal Order DA-2016-05 for the interstate movement of tomato fruit from a Medfly quarantine area.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [7 U.S.C. 7701 through 7786](#). Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act ([7 U.S.C. 7712\(a\)](#)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by [7 U.S.C. 7754](#) allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act. This Federal Order is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.32 through 301.32-10](#) (hereafter referred to as “the regulations”).

APHIS regulates the interstate movement of Medfly host articles from all areas quarantined for Medfly in the United States in accordance with the regulations and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

Federal Order DA-2016-05 provided a degree of regulatory relief for tomato producers in Medfly quarantines without contributing to the further dissemination of these plant pests in the United States. With this current Federal Order, APHIS is maintaining the two systems approach options established in Federal Order DA-2016-05, which are based on fruit ripeness:

- Green and breaker stage (pink) tomatoes from areas within a Medfly quarantine (including the core areas), but outside of the chemical eradication treatment zone in the core areas.
- Tomatoes that are riper than breaker stage from areas within a Medfly quarantine (including the core areas), but outside of the chemical eradication treatment zone in the core areas.

The attached protocol provides the conditions for the interstate movement of tomatoes harvested from Medfly quarantines nationwide for both system approach options.

The [APHIS Exotic Fruit Flies webpage](#) contains a description of all current Federal fruit fly quarantines, regulated articles/host lists, and this Federal Order.

For additional information, you may contact APHIS PPQ National Policy Manager, Catherine Marzolf, at [catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov](mailto:catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov) or 386-666-9932 or APHIS PPQ Assistant National Policy Manager, Glorimar Marrero, at [glorimar.marrero@usda.gov](mailto:glorimar.marrero@usda.gov) or 240-577-4633.

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**Protocol for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Tomato Fruit from a Mediterranean Fruit Fly Quarantine Area  
August 25, 2026**

This protocol provides conditions for the interstate movement of tomato fruit harvested from a Medfly quarantine under a systems approach. The systems approach includes two options that are differentiated by the degree of fruit ripeness. Tomato fruit from within the chemical eradication treatment zone (as part of the core area) is not eligible for these systems approach options. This protocol is based on a USDA APHIS PPQ systems approach risk assessment document entitled “[Systems Approach for Managing Risk Associated with Movement of Fresh Tomatoes during a Medfly Outbreak](#).”

**A. General Requirements: Compliance Agreements, Certificates, and Inspection**

1. Facilities engaged in processing, handling, and packaging of fresh tomato fruit produced in a Medfly quarantine must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS and/or the state department of agriculture and comply with any other requirements in [7 CFR 301.32 through 301.32-10](#) before shipping under the applicable systems approach options. The compliance agreement will specify the relevant systems approach option from the protocol that applies to the producer. APHIS and/or the state department of agriculture must conduct an evaluation of the local quarantine situation prior to the initiation of the compliance agreement.
2. Growers, packing houses, and shippers must agree to all terms and conditions of the compliance agreement and must adhere to all other relevant conditions of the regulations to ship tomato fruit pursuant to this Federal Order. If APHIS or the state department of agriculture determines that a producer has failed to continually adhere to any of the terms or conditions of the compliance agreement, or any of the relevant conditions of the regulations, APHIS or the state department of agriculture may cancel the compliance agreement, orally or in writing, and the producer may not ship tomato fruit under its conditions. See [7 CFR 301.32-6\(b\)](#).
3. Any person whose compliance agreement has been canceled may appeal the decision in writing to the APHIS Administrator within 10 days of receiving the written notification of the cancellation. The appeal must state all the facts and reasons upon which the person relies to justify the wrongful cancellation of a compliance agreement. The Administrator will grant or deny the appeal, in writing, stating the reasons for the decision, as promptly as circumstances allow. If there is a conflict as to material fact, a hearing will be held to resolve the conflict. Rules of practice concerning the hearing will be adopted by the Administrator. See [7 CFR 301.32-6\(b\)](#).
4. A certificate issued by an APHIS or state department of agriculture inspector, verifying that the shipment meets all conditions of this protocol and any additional requirements stipulated in the compliance agreement, must accompany the fresh tomato fruit intended for consumption and found eligible for interstate movement under the systems approach. The fresh tomato fruit intended for consumption may be shipped interstate to all U.S. states. A copy of the certificate must be attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill. See [7 CFR 310.32-5](#) and [7 CFR 310.32-8](#).
5. The adoption and use of this protocol are subject to monitoring by an inspector who is responsible for documenting inspection and compliance.

**B. Requirements for Each System Approach Option for the Movement of Fresh Tomato Fruit Harvested from the Medfly Quarantine Area**

1. **System Approach for green and breaker stage tomatoes** – This system approach option is applicable to growers and packers who harvest and pack only green and breaker stages of tomatoes and may only be utilized for tomatoes grown within the quarantine (including the core areas), but outside the chemical eradication treatment zone.

- a. Tomatoes must be moved to an approved packinghouse within or outside of the quarantine only under currently approved safeguards in [301.32 through 301.32-10](#). The product can then be treated with ethylene to ripen, store, and/or ship before or after the fruit ripens.
  - b. Culled fruit moved to packinghouses outside of the quarantine must be:
    - 1) Moved to an approved landfill under PPQ or state cooperators supervision; or
    - 2) Moved back to the quarantine for immediate use as animal feed; or
    - 3) Mitigated using the application of other approved mitigations.
2. **System Approach for tomatoes riper than breaker tomatoes** – This system approach option is applicable to growers who harvest tomatoes riper than breaker tomatoes that include cherry and grape tomato varieties, and various types of round tomatoes that are packed and generally sold for wholesale distribution. This includes certified producers that harvest fruit for immediate sale at certified farmers' markets by the producer (or agent). This applies only to tomatoes grown within the quarantine (including the core areas), but outside the chemical eradication treatment zone.
- a. The grower must participate in a regulatory trapping program on the grower's production site.
  - b. The regulatory trapping must consist of the following:
    - 1) There must be two traps per five acres with at least two traps per tomato growing site.
    - 2) One of the traps (per five acres or per growing sites) must utilize a Trimedlure and the other must use a food lure (3 component lure or torula yeast pellets).
    - 3) The two traps must be placed at separate locations from each other.
    - 4) Regulatory trapping in an area subject to either Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) or aerial bait spray may be reduced by one half using the trap that is most conducive to the treatment strategy.
    - 5) Traps must be in place for at least seven days prior to harvest for tomatoes grown within the quarantine but excluding the core square mile area.
    - 6) Traps must be in place for 30 days prior to harvest for tomatoes produced in the core square mile area but outside the chemical eradication treatment zone around a given fruit fly find.
  - c. Culled fruit moved to packinghouses outside of the quarantine must be:
    - 1) Moved to an approved landfill under APHIS or state department of agriculture supervision; or
    - 2) Moved back to the quarantine for immediate use as animal feed; or
    - 3) Mitigated using the application of other approved mitigations.

## C. Definitions

*Chemical Eradication Treatment Zone.* The area in the immediate vicinity around a fruit fly find where fruit removal (within 200-meter radius) and ground treatment (within 400-meter radius) occur.

*Core Area.* The area within a circle surrounding each site where fruit flies have been detected using a ½-mile radius with the detection site as a center point.

*Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).* A method of biological insect control whereby overwhelming numbers of sterile insects are released into the wild. Wild females that mate with a sterile male produce no offspring, thus reducing the next generation's population.