

Information Pipeline

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
Detroit Field Office

Number: DFO-20-005

TO: Brokers, Importers, Carriers and Other Concerned Members of the Trade Community

SUBJECT: Northern Border Imports of Tomato and Pepper Shipments with Suspected Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) Symptoms

DATE: July 22, 2020

PURPOSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA APHIS PPQ) issued [Federal Order DA-2019-28](#) for U.S. Imports of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and pepper (*Capsicum spp.*) hosts of ToBRFV with an effective date of November 22, 2019. This order restricts the importation of tomato and pepper hosts of ToBRFV to prevent the introduction of this economically important virus into the U.S. The USDA requires tomato and pepper fruit imported from Mexico, Israel, and the Netherlands to be inspected at the point of origin to ensure it is free of disease symptoms. Because Canada imports tomato and pepper fruit from Mexico that are re-exported to the U.S., APHIS also requires tomato and pepper fruit from Canada to be inspected. An addendum to this Federal Order, [DA-2020-12](#) dated June 3, 2020, adds these restrictions to tomato and pepper fruit from the Dominican Republic, France and Spain. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has increased inspections at U.S. ports of entry to ensure imported tomato and pepper fruit infected with ToBRFV are not imported contrary to the Federal Order.

BACKGROUND:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is committed to facilitating the entry of legitimate cargo while protecting American Agriculture. Our CBP Agriculture Specialists (CBPAS) will continue to perform document reviews and fruit inspections to ensure no produce is introduced into the U.S. contrary to Federal Order DA-2019-28 and Federal Order Amendment DA-2020-12. CBPAS will work in conjunction with the local USDA APHIS PPQ Pest Identifiers to expedite the testing of tomato and pepper importations showing signs of ToBRFV.

ACTION:

Imports that lack the required documentation as outlined in the Federal Order or that have symptoms of ToBRFV will be issued an Emergency Action Notification for immediate re-export of the shipment. Fruit with ToBRFV symptoms will have samples submitted to the local USDA

APHIS PPQ Pest Identifier to test for the presence of the virus. Pallets/boxes sampled for testing will be marked with yellow CBP Agriculture Quarantine tape. No attempt should be made to re-import shipments containing potentially infected fruit prior to final USDA APHIS PPQ Pest ID determination of disease status.

At the Port of Detroit, shipments made available for inspection Monday – Friday prior to noon will be delivered to the local PPQ Pest Identifier before close of business for same day Tobamovirus testing. Shipments made available for inspection after noon Monday – Thursday will be delivered for testing the following day, prior to close of business. Shipments made available for inspection after noon on Friday, or anytime over the weekend, will be delivered to the local PPQ Pest Identifier before the close of business the following Monday for determination of disease status.

At the Port of Port Huron, shipments made available for inspection Monday – Thursday prior to noon will be delivered to the local PPQ Pest Identifier the following day for Tobamovirus testing. Shipments made available after noon Monday – Wednesday will be delivered for testing the second day after arrival, prior to close of business. Shipments that are made available for inspection after noon on Thursday - Sunday, will be delivered to the local PPQ Pest Identifier before the close of business the following Tuesday for determination of disease status.

The USDA APHIS PPQ Pest Identifier is the point of contact for Tobamovirus test results, and can be reached at the below number, Monday – Friday, during normal business hours.

USDA APHIS PPQ Pest Identifier: (734) 542-9005

CBP Ports of Entry are the points of contact regarding any additional questions or concerns at the below numbers, which are staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week:

Port of Detroit: (313) 964-7838 or (313) 964-7840

Port of Port Huron: (810) 989-8812

Importers or their agents are also encouraged to ensure all available shipping, entry and Partner Government Agency (PGA) documents are submitted via the Document Image System (DIS).

Should you have any further questions about this information notice please contact:

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/s/ Tinesha Cherry

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