

# Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 84, No. 142

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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## OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

### 5 CFR Part 1800

[OMB Control No. 3255–0005]

#### Filing of Complaints of Prohibited Personnel Practices or Other Prohibited Activities and Filing Disclosures of Information

**AGENCY:** U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

**ACTION:** Final rule; confirmation of effective date.

**SUMMARY:** On June 9, 2017, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) published a final rule revising its regulations regarding the filing of complaints and disclosures with OSC, and updated OSC's prohibited personnel practice provisions. The rule's effective date was delayed indefinitely on July 14, 2017. This document establishes the effective date for the rule.

**DATES:** The effective date of the final rule published at 82 FR 26739 on June 9, 2017, delayed at 82 FR 32447, July 14, 2017, is August 26, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan K. Ullman, General Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, by telephone at 202–804–7000, or by email at [sullman@osc.gov](mailto:sullman@osc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 14, 2017 (82 FR 32447), OSC published an indefinite delay of its June 9, 2017, final rule revising its regulations regarding the filing of complaints and disclosures with OSC and updating OSC's prohibited personnel practice provisions. This document confirms the effective date of August 26, 2019, for that final rule.

Dated: July 18, 2019.

**Bruce Gipe,**  
Chief Operating Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019–15656 Filed 7–23–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

#### 7 CFR Part 319

[Docket No. APHIS–2015–0053]

#### Notification of Decision To Authorize the Importation of Fresh Raspberry Fruit From Morocco Into the Continental United States

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rulemaking action; notification of decision to import.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation into the continental United States of fresh raspberry fruit from Morocco. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment, 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 raspberries from Morocco.

**DATES:** The articles covered by this notification may be authorized for importation after July 24, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Claudia Ferguson, M.S., Senior Regulatory Policy Coordinator, Regulatory Policy and Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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) 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 of the regulations contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis (PRA), 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 publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the PRA that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS may begin issuing permits for importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the identified designated measures if: (1) No comments were received on the PRA; (2) the comments on the PRA revealed that no changes to the PRA were necessary; or (3) changes to the PRA were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator's determination of risk.

On August 26, 2016, we published in the **Federal Register** (81 FR 58867–58869, Docket No. APHIS–2015–0053) a proposal<sup>1</sup> to amend the regulations to allow the importation of fresh raspberry fruit from Morocco into the continental United States.

We solicited comments on the proposed rule for 60 days ending on October 25, 2016. We received six comments by that date, from members of the public and from a State agriculture agency. Two commenters supported the proposed rule. A third commenter generally opposed importing fresh raspberry fruit and all other commodities, but did not offer any comments on the specific provisions of the proposed rule. The remaining comments are discussed below.

One commenter requested that shipments of fresh raspberry fruit from Morocco not be allowed into the State of Florida due to the “high” risk rating assigned to the fungus *Monilinia fructigena* in the PRA. The commenter acknowledged that while raspberry fruit is not considered a major host of this fungus, apples, peaches, plums, and apricots are, and if *M. fructigena* were to follow the pathway of importation into the United States, it could have devastating effects on Florida's agricultural industry, especially on commercial peach production and on the native plums that serve as a major food source for wildlife in that State.

As stated in the risk management document (RMD) that accompanied the

<sup>1</sup> To view the proposed rule, supporting documents, and the comments we received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=APHIS-2015-0053>.