Changes to Union quarantine pest list, and new citrus phytosanitary requirements for China

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EU proposes to add two citrus pests to the Union quarantine pest list; and to introduce new phytosanitary requirements for China related to citrus fruit midge

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards measures to prevent the entry into the Union territory, and the spread within it, of *Resseliella citrifrugis*, *Chrysobothris femorata*, *Chrysobothris mali*, *Citripestis sagittiferella* and Begomoviruses as regards the name of *Dendroctonus micans* (Kugelann), and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards *Resseliella citrifrugis*

Draft Annex

Update

The European Commission has informed the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee that it intends to amend the Union quarantine pest list, and to introduce new phytosanitary import requirements for citrus fruits, *Poncirus* fruits, and their hybrids originating in China to prevent the citrus fruit midge *Resseliella citrifrugis* (G/SPS/N/EU/958).

Impacted products

Citrus fruits, pomelo, Poncirus fruits (trifoliate oranges), and their hybrids

What is changing?

Proposed changes to Union quarantine pest list

The EU proposes to amend the Union quarantine pest list as follows.

Additions

Two pests associated with citrus fruits are added to the list:

- citrus fruit midge (Resseliella citrifrugis), a citrus gall midge affecting Citrus species and Poncirus trifoliata

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- citrus fruit borer (Citripestis sagittiferella), a moth whose larvae develop inside citrus fruits, particularly pomelo (Citrus maxima).

Removals

Two Begomoviruses are removed from the list:

- honeysuckle yellow vein virus
- cotton leaf curl Gezira virus.

New phytosanitary import requirements

The draft Regulation also introduces new phytosanitary import requirements for citrus fruits, *Poncirus* fruits, and their hybrids originating in **China** to prevent the introduction of **citrus fruit midge** (*R. citrifrugis*). Consignments exported to the EU will in future have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate confirming that the fruits have been produced according to *one of* the following options:

- originate from a pest-free area or pest-free place of production;
- have been produced under an approved systems approach; or
- have undergone an effective post-harvest treatment.

If China uses a systems approach or post-harvest treatment, it must communicate this in advance to the European Commission, and certain additional information must be included in the phytosanitary certificate. For more details see the Draft Annex. When completing the phytosanitary certificate, the exact text from the legislation (for the selected option) must be copied and pasted into the Additional Declaration. For an illustration, see the AGRINFO Guide Exporting fresh capsicum to the European Union.

Although *C. sagittiferella* is added as a Union quarantine pest affecting citrus, no additional import requirements are introduced at this stage as interceptions have been limited, and larval damage is detectable during inspections.

Other proposed new requirements mainly concern plants for planting and wood.

Why?

Updated and new information from pest risk assessments, pest risk categorisations, or pest risk analyses conducted by the European Food Safety Authority, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), and EU Member States provides a scientific basis for listing new EU quarantine pests or for updating the lists (EFSA 2023).

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Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be published in the fourth quarter of 2026, and will enter into force 20 days after publication. There will be a transition period of 6 months before the new requirements are applied.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

China will need to adapt its citrus export certification and pest management procedures to meet the new requirements for *Resseliella citrifrugis*. Consignments found to contain any listed Union quarantine pest may be refused entry into the EU.

Recommended Actions

The WTO consultation closed on 18 August 2026 (G/SPS/N/EU/958).

Background

Resseliella citrifrugis will now be removed from Regulation 2022/1941 on the prohibition of introduction and movement of certain pests; instead it will be listed as a Union quarantine pest under Regulation 2019/2072.

Resources

EFSA (2023) Risk assessment of *Resseliella citrifrugis* for the EU. EFSA Journal, 21(5): 8005.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 on the prohibition of introduction, movement, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests

Sources

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards measures to prevent the entry into the Union territory, and the spread within it, of *Resseliella citrifrugis*, *Chrysobothris femorata*, *Chrysobothris mali*, *Citripestis sagittiferella* and Begomoviruses as regards the name of *Dendroctonus micans* (Kugelann), and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards *Resseliella citrifrugis*

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Draft Annex

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