Citrus black spot – EU temporary measures on citrus fruit from certain countries

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EU prolongs temporary measures on citrus from Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe to avoid introduction of citrus black spot

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/505 of 19 March 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/632 as regards the prolongation of the temporary measures concerning specified fruits originating in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union territory of the pest Phyllosticta citricarpa (McAlpine) Van der Aa

Update

The European Commission has extended the duration of temporary measures related to citrus black spot (CBS, *Phyllosticta citricarpa*) in citrus fruits imported from Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe.

Impacted products

Citrus fruits: oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruits, tangerines, mandarins and pummelos, kumquats, trifoliate orange, and hybrids

What is changing?

The European Union has extended the duration of temporary measures on citrus fruits to prevent the introduction of CBS into the EU. The temporary measures, introduced in Regulation 2022/632, were originally due to expire on 31 March 2025, and will now apply until 31 March 2028.

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Why?

Since 2022, EU Member States have reported several cases of non-compliance in citrus imports from Argentina, South Africa, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe due to the presence of CBS. Also, as there have been no citrus fruit imports to the EU from Brazil since the temporary measures were introduced, it is not possible to assess its compliance status.

The EU has therefore extended the duration of control measures on citrus fruits from these countries to ensure the phytosanitary risk for the EU is maintained at an acceptable level, and until further technical and scientific evaluations can be conducted.

Timeline

The Regulation applies from **1 April 2025**.

The temporary measures will now apply until 31 March 2028.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe face stricter phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction of CBS into the EU. These include requirements for enhanced pest management practices, regular inspections, and robust certification processes. Non-compliance can result in rejected shipments, financial losses, and additional potential trade restrictions.

Recommended Actions

National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) must work closely with stakeholders to ensure compliance with the additional CBS measures. Persistent non-compliance can damage a country's trade reputation and affect agricultural exports more broadly.

Background

The requirements in Regulation 2022/632 are based on risk, and depend on the country of origin. Key requirements are as follows.

- Citrus fruits must originate from registered and approved sites/places of production where CBS has not been detected. Updated lists of approved production sites must be communicated to the EU before each export season.

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- Phytosanitary certificates must confirm compliance, including inspections and traceability codes, and must contain the following statement under the heading “Additional Declaration”: “The consignment complies with Annex [insert Annex number according to country] of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/632”.
- Fruits must be subject to multiple inspections (field, packing, and export stages), and sampling must be risk based.
- Less strict requirements are applied for fruits destined for industrial processing.

Resources

EFSA (2014) Scientific Opinion on the risk of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (*Guignardia citricarpa*) for the EU territory with identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. EFSA Journal, 12(2): 3557.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/632 setting out temporary measures in respect of specified fruits originating in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe to prevent the introduction into, and the spread within, the Union territory of the pest *Phyllosticta citricarpa*

Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/505 as regards the prolongation of the temporary measures concerning specified fruits originating in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union territory of the pest Phyllosticta citricarpa (McAlpine) Van der Aa

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