

DATE: February 11, 2015

TO: All County Agricultural Commissioners

FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

SUBJECT: **PEST EXCLUSION ADVISORY NO. 07-2015**
New CDFA Policy for HLB Infected Citrus Fruit

This advisory is being issued to notify County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) offices of a new policy related to HLB infected citrus **fruit**.

Commercially-produced citrus fruit is not a regulated article under [7 CFR 301.76](#) (federal regulation for Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid). The exemption of commercially-produced citrus fruit is based on a risk assessment of pathways for the transmission of Huanglongbing (HLB) and Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP).

In order for HLB to infect a host, it must be inserted into the plant by either an infected insect vector or by grafting material. Infected fruit presents no transmission method for the HLB as the only known vector, ACP, does not feed on the fruit and is removed via the commercial fruit cleaning process. The Federal Domestic Quarantine for Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid still applies to non-commercial fruit as they have not been properly cleaned and ACP are known to hitchhike on the fruit. For this reason, only commercially-cleaned fruit (even when it is HLB positive) is exempt.

Over the course of the last several months, HLB has been intercepted on many shipments of incoming citrus fruit by county inspectors and dog teams working in the parcel terminals. CDFA has conducted an internal review to verify that there are no risks associated with HLB infected citrus fruit without stems and leaves entering California. CDFA's Primary Pathologist agrees that HLB infected citrus fruit without stems and leaves do not pose a risk of introducing HLB into the environment.

Based on these findings, CDFA is notifying the CAC that commercially-produced citrus fruit:

- **Will no longer be tested for HLB by CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostics Center**
- **Should no longer be rejected under 7 CFR 301.76**

However, all future shipments of commercially-produced citrus fruit are subject to inspection, and fruit with disease symptoms should continue to be submitted for testing for other injurious pathogens.

Below is a summary of different scenarios and recommended actions.

- **Commercially-Produced Symptomatic Citrus Fruit *without* stems or leaves**

The Plant Pest Diagnostics Center will no longer test fruit for HLB. County inspectors are still encouraged to send in samples for other detrimental pathogens if the fruit appears unhealthy. Both commercial and non-commercial citrus fruit can still be rejected for lack of certification or presence of other detrimental pests. Certification requirements for citrus in parcels are outlined in Pest Exclusion Advisory [45-2014](#).



- **Citrus Fruit *with* stems or leaves***



If the fruit has stems or leaf material, the **plant material is regulated** under both the Federal Domestic Quarantine for Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid ([CFR 301.76](#)) and the California State Exterior Quarantine for Citrus Diseases ([CCR 3250](#))*. If the plant material appears symptomatic for HLB or other citrus diseases, it should be submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center for HLB testing. Shipments with **plant material** (other than fruit) should be rejected* for violation of the following quarantines:

- Federal Domestic Quarantine for Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid ([CFR 301.76](#))
- California Exterior Quarantine for Citrus Pests ([CCR 3250](#))

- **All Citrus Fruit *with* or *without* stems or leaves**

All citrus fruit shipments are still subject to inspection and all applicable quarantines (i.e. Caribbean Fruit Fly) still apply. Shipments must be properly labeled per [CCR 6421](#) and certified to meet applicable California quarantine requirements. If a shipper fails to properly certify their shipment or if pests other than HLB are found on the fruit, the shipment should be rejected. Certification requirements for citrus can be found in the following pest exclusion advisories (PEAs):

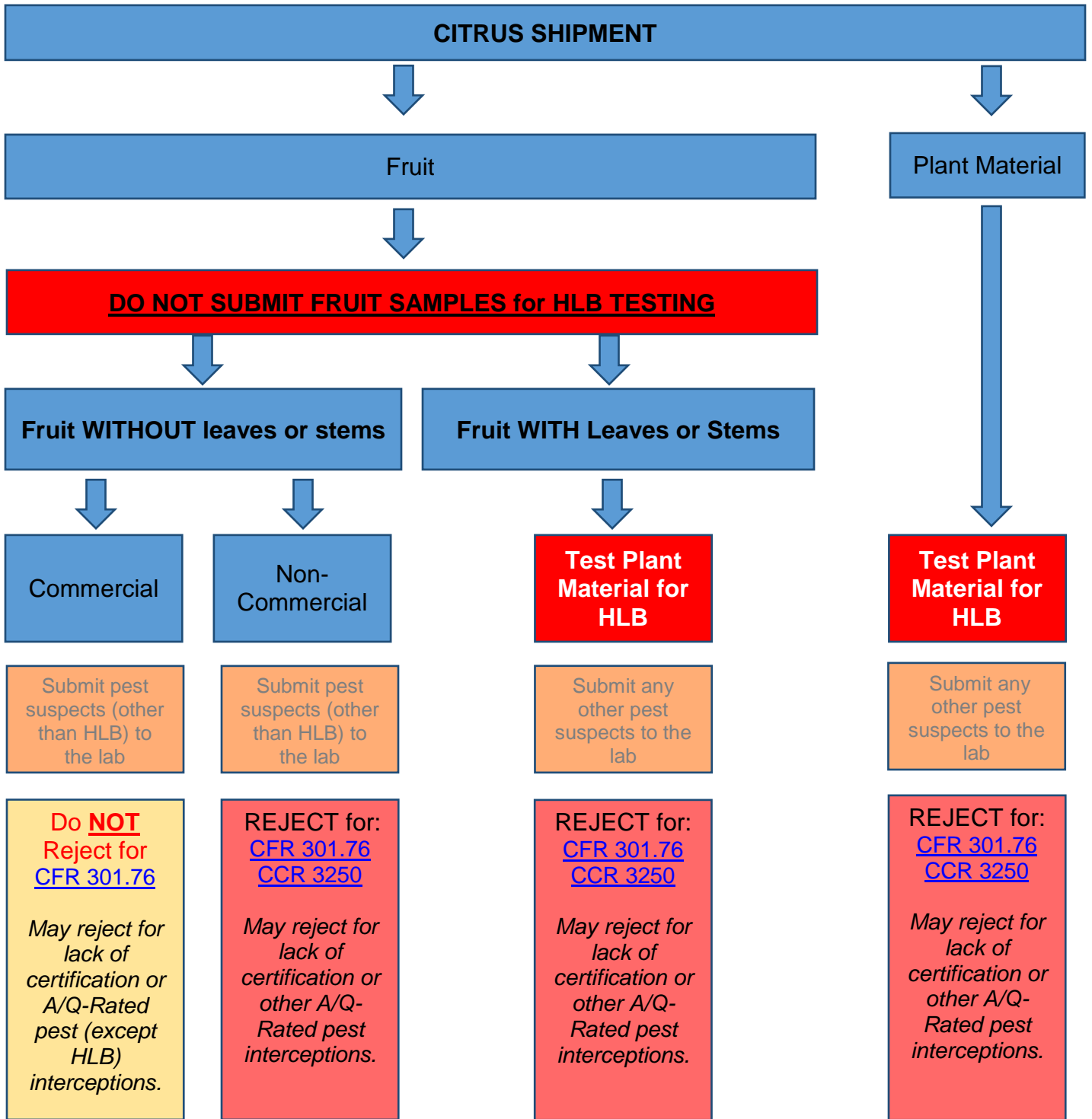
- Citrus in Parcels: [PEA 45-2014](#)
- Commercial Citrus Shipping Requirements: [PEA 04-2012](#)
- Mandarins with Leaves and Stems: [PEA 42-2014](#)

- **Citrus Plants *with* or *without* fruit**

This advisory applies only to citrus fruit. Interstate shipments of citrus plants are prohibited and should be rejected under [CCR 3250](#) and [7 CFR 301.76](#). Plant material symptomatic for HLB or other citrus diseases should be submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center for HLB testing.



*Per [Pest Exclusion Advisory 42-2014](#), mandarin fruit with leaves and stems are permitted to move intrastate under the stipulations outlined in [Master Permit QC 1386](#).



For questions regarding this advisory, please contact Katie Fillippini (Katherine.Filippini@cdfa.ca.gov) or Terra Walber (Terra.Walber@cdfa.ca.gov) by email or at (916) 654-0312.

