

TITLE 3. DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department of Food and Agriculture amended subsection 3434(b) of the regulations in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations pertaining to Light Brown Apple Moth Interior Quarantine as an emergency action that was effective on March 10, 2010. The Department proposes to continue the regulation as amended and to complete the amendment process by submission of a Certificate of Compliance no later than July 31, 2010.

A public hearing is not scheduled. A public hearing will be held if any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, submits a written request for a public hearing to the Department no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period. Following the public hearing if one is requested, or following the written comment period if no public hearing is requested, the Department of Food and Agriculture, at its own motion, or at the instance of any interested person, may adopt the proposal substantially as set forth without further notice.

Notice is also given that any person interested may present statements or arguments in writing relevant to the action proposed to the agency officer named below on or before June 28, 2010.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Existing law provides that the Secretary is obligated to investigate the existence of any pest that is not generally distributed within this State and determine the probability of its spread, and the feasibility of its control or eradication (Food and Agricultural Code Section 5321).

Existing law also provides that the Secretary may establish, maintain and enforce quarantine, eradication and other such regulations as he deems necessary to protect the agricultural industry from the introduction and spread of pests (Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 401, 403, 407 and 5322). Existing law also provides that eradication regulations may proclaim any portion of the State as an eradication area and set forth the boundaries, the pest, its hosts and the methods to be used to eradicate said pest (Food and Agricultural Code Section 5761).

This amendment expanded portions of a contiguous quarantine area in the counties of Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties by approximately 51 square miles. The quarantine area in the Long Beach area of Los Angeles County was expanded by approximately five square miles. The Gonzales area of Monterey County was expanded by approximately seven square miles and a new quarantine area of approximately 22 square miles was established in the Soledad area of Monterey County. The Los Osos area of San Luis Obispo County was expanded by approximately four square miles. The quarantine area in Healdsburg, Sonoma County was expanded by approximately four square miles and a new quarantine area of approximately 25 square miles was established in the Kenwood area of Sonoma County.

This results in a total of approximately 4,431 square miles under regulation within the State. The effect of this proposed change to the regulation will be to establish authority for the State to perform quarantine activities against LBAM (*Epiphyas postvittana*) in these additional quarantine areas. There is no existing, comparable federal regulation or statute regulating the intrastate movement.

COST TO LOCAL AGENCIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Department of Food and Agriculture has determined that Section 3434 does not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts, except that an agricultural commissioner of a county under quarantine has a duty to enforce Section 3434. No reimbursement is required for Section 3434 under Section 17561 of the Government Code because all of the affected county agricultural commissioners requested the change in the regulation.

The Department also has determined that the amended regulation will involve no additional costs or savings to any state agency, no reimbursable costs or savings under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code to local agencies or school districts, no nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies or school districts, and no costs or savings in federal funding to the State.

EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed actions will not affect housing costs.

EFFECT ON BUSINESSES

The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed actions will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting California businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

COST IMPACT ON AFFECTED PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESSES

The cost impact of the amended regulation on a representative private person or business located within the regulated area may be significant. An average infested ornamental nursery producing plants in one-gallon containers may incur initial costs of \$140 to \$218 per acre in eliminating the light brown apple moth to be in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. Approximately 65,000 one-gallon containers may be placed upon one acre. This translates into an initial increased production cost of \$0.002 to \$0.003 per one gallon container. The actual costs may vary with the type of material used, size and production practices of the affected businesses.

However, nursery stock that is infested with the light brown apple moth does not meet the current requirements of Section 3060.2, Standards of Cleanliness, California Code of

Regulations (CCR), and cannot be sold. Therefore, there are no additional mandated costs of compliance due to this regulation.

ASSESSMENT

The Department has made an assessment that the proposed adoption of the regulations would not (1) create or eliminate jobs within California, (2) create new business or eliminate existing businesses within California, or (3) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Department of Food and Agriculture must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Department or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Department would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the actions are proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed actions.

AUTHORITY

The Department proposes to amend Section 3434 pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 407, 5301, 5302 and 5322 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

REFERENCE

The Department proposes this action to implement, interpret and make specific Sections 5301, 5302 and 5322 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The proposed amendment of this regulation may affect small businesses.

CONTACT

The agency officer to whom written comments and inquiries about the initial statement of reasons, proposed actions, location of the rulemaking files, and request for a public hearing may be directed to is: Stephen S. Brown, Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, 1220 N Street, Room A-316, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-1017, FAX (916) 654-1018, E-mail: sbrown@cdfa.ca.gov. In his absence, you may contact Susan McCarthy at (916) 654-1017. Questions regarding the substance of the proposed regulation should be directed to Stephen S. Brown.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Department has posted the information regarding this proposed regulatory action on its Internet Web site (www.cdfa.ca.gov/cdfa.pendingregs).

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The Department of Food and Agriculture has prepared an initial statement of reasons for the proposed actions, has available all the information upon which its proposal is based, and has available the express terms of the proposed action. A copy of the initial statement of reasons and the proposed regulations in underline and strikeout form may be obtained upon request. The location of the information on which the proposal is based may also be obtained upon request. In addition, when completed, the final statement of reasons will be available upon request. Requests should be directed to the contact named herein.

If the regulations adopted by the Department differ from, but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency officer (contact) named herein.

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