

A proposed rule concerning this suspension was issued on April 18, 1995, and published in the **Federal Register** on April 24, 1995 (60 FR 60059). That rule provided a 20-day comment period which ended May 15, 1995. Six comments were received, four in support and two opposed to the proposed rule.

Comments received in favor of suspending the regulations for domestic and imported oranges as proposed were submitted by Mr. David M. Cain of the Citrus Board of South Australia (Citrus Board), Mr. N. Perry Hansen of Waverly Growers Cooperative, and Mr. Gregory P. Nelson on behalf of DNE World Fruit Sales and Bernard Egan & Company.

Mr. Cain states that the Citrus Board speaks on behalf of almost 900 South Australian citrus growers. It is his contention that the suspension of the regulation during the months of July and August, when under current arrangements, South Australian oranges arrive in the United States, will remove an unnecessary obstacle to their importation. He points out that there are no maximum decay level restrictions imposed on imports of U.S. oranges into Australia. Mr. Hansen supports the suspension, as proposed.

Mr. Nelson stated that, as president of a major exporter of Florida citrus and a major grower of Florida citrus, it is important that all import requirements in the United States be reasonable and fair. He further stated that he expects no adverse consequences on the domestic industry as a result of implementation of the proposed suspension.

Comments in opposition to the suspension of the orange regulations were submitted by Mr. Dwayne Bair, Chairman of the Texas Valley Citrus Committee and Mr. Bobby F. McKown, Executive Vice President/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual.

Mr. Bair states that the proposal is contrary to the Committee's recommendation which was to relax the Texas orange regulations for a single season rather than suspending them indefinitely as proposed. The Committee recommended relaxing the effective dates of the regulatory period for Texas oranges from July 15 through August 31, 1995, for one year only. As explained earlier in this rule, past and present production and shipping trends support suspending the orange regulations during the period July 1 through August 31 indefinitely. Also as previously stated an annual evaluation will be conducted to determine the impact of this suspension on the Texas orange industry.

Mr. McKown believes that any reduction in the grade, size, quality, or

maturity requirements for fresh oranges, could pose long-term adverse consumer perceptions of the quality of fresh oranges offered for sale in the United States by Florida citrus growers. He further postulates that the suspension of the regulations will further depress returns to Florida citrus growers.

The Department currently has no information to support Mr. McKown's contention that the suspension will depress returns to Florida citrus growers. A review of the impact of the suspension will be conducted annually. If it is determined that the domestic industry has been negatively impacted, appropriate modifications will be proposed to the suspension.

This suspension reflects the Department's appraisal of the need to revise the dates of the regulatory period for imported oranges, as hereinafter set forth, to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

After thoroughly analyzing the comments received and other available information the Department has concluded that its decision to suspend the orange regulations during the above mentioned period is appropriate.

In accordance with section 8e of the Act, the United States Trade Representative has concurred with the issuance of this final rule.

Based on the above, the Administrator of the AMS has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

After consideration of all relevant matter presented, including the information and recommendations submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this suspension, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

It is further found that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this rule until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** (5 U.S.C. 553) because this suspension should be in effect on July 1, 1995. Also, a 20-day comment period was provided for in the proposed rule.

List of Subjects

7 CFR Part 906

Oranges, Marketing agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

7 CFR Part 944

Avocados, Food grades and standards, Grapes, Imports, Kiwifruit, Limes, Olives, Oranges.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR parts 906 and 944 are amended as follows:

PART 906—ORANGES GROWN IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY IN TEXAS

1. The authority citation for both 7 CFR parts 906 and 944 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. In § 906.365, a new paragraph (a)(7) is added, to read as follows:

§ 906.365 Texas Orange and Grapefruit Regulation 34.

(a) * * *

(7) Beginning in 1995, this paragraph (a) is suspended each year from July 1 through August 31 of each year.

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PART 944—FRUITS; IMPORT REGULATIONS

3. In § 944.312, paragraph (a) is amended, by adding a sentence at the end of the paragraph to read as follows:

§ 944.312 Orange import regulation.

(a) * * * Effective July 1 through August 31 of each year this paragraph is suspended.

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Dated: June 22, 1995.

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

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7 CFR Parts 926 and 944

[Docket No. FV95–926–1FR]

Termination of Marketing Order 926 Covering Tokay Grapes Grown in San Joaquin County, California, and Tokay Grape Import Regulation

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Termination order.

SUMMARY: This action terminates the Federal marketing order for Tokay grapes grown in San Joaquin County, California, and the rules and regulations issued thereunder. For Tokay grapes imported into the United States, this order terminates the applicable Tokay grape import regulation under section 8e of the amended Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act). The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the marketing order no longer tends to effectuate the declared policy of the Act because continuance of the program is no longer supported by growers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth G. Johnson, Marketing Order