bulletin boards, internal agency mail distribution systems, electronic bulletin boards and other means of informing agency employees about meetings and activities) in accordance with appropriate General Services Administration regulations contained in title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The mere provision of such support to any organization is not to be construed as Federal sponsorship, sanction, or endorsement of the organization or its activities.

Subpart C—Dues Withholding

§ 251.301 Associations of supervisors and management officials.

Dues withholding for associations of supervisors and/or management officials is covered in 5 CFR 550.331.

§ 251.302 All other organizations.

Under 5 CFR 550.311(b), an agency may permit an employee to make an allotment for any legal purpose deemed appropriate by the head of the agency. Agencies may provide for the allotment of dues for organizations representing Federal employees under that section.

[FR Doc. 95–24387 Filed 9–29–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6325–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Parts 300 and 318 [Docket No. 95-028-1]

Sharwil Avocados From Hawaii

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA. **ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We are proposing to allow Sharwil avocados to be moved interstate from Hawaii after undergoing cold treatment for fruit flies under the supervision of an inspector of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Currently, the only authorized treatments for avocados to be moved interstate from Hawaii are methyl bromide fumigation and a combination of methyl bromide fumigation and refrigeration. This proposed action would facilitate the interstate movement of Sharwil avocados from Hawaii while continuing to provide protection against the spread of injurious plant pests from Hawaii to other parts of the United

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before November 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 95–028–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 95–028–1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter M. Grosser or Mr. Frank E. Cooper, Senior Staff Officers, Port Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 139, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Hawaiian Fruits and Vegetables regulations, contained in 7 CFR 318.13 through 318.13–17 (referred to below as the regulations), govern, among other things, the interstate movement from Hawaii of avocados in a raw or unprocessed state. Regulation is necessary to prevent the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), the melon fly (*Dacus cucurbitae*), and the Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*). These types of fruit flies are collectively referred to as Trifly.

The current regulations allow avocados to be moved interstate from Hawaii to any destination in the United States only if, among other things, they have been treated in accordance with a treatment specified in either § 318.13–4d or § 318.13–4e of the regulations. The regulations allow untreated avocados from Hawaii to be moved interstate to Alaska only, provided that they meet conditions specified in § 318.13–4g to ensure that avocados moved to Alaska are free from Trifly.

Section 318.13–4d provides for treatment of avocados by fumigation with methyl bromide. This treatment causes pitting and internal and external discoloration, and reduces the shelf life of the avocado by 2–4 days, all of which adversely affect the marketability of the avocados. Section 318.13–4e provides for treatment of mature green avocados by fumigation with methyl bromide followed by refrigeration for 7 days. This treatment is not commercially feasible, because after avocados are refrigerated for 7 days the remaining shelf life is not sufficient for marketing

purposes. For these reasons, avocados from Hawaii are not being treated and shipped interstate.

We are proposing to amend the regulations governing the interstate movement of Hawaiian fruits and vegetables to allow the interstate movement of Sharwil avocados from Hawaii provided they undergo cold treatment for Trifly. The authorized cold treatment would be as follows:

Treatment	Exposure period (days)
32 °F (0.00 °C) or below	10 11 12 14

This treatment has been determined to be effective against the insects listed above, based on research evaluated and approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Information on this research may be obtained from the Oxford Plant Protection Center, AQI Branch, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, USDA, 901 Hillsboro Street, Oxford, NC, 27575. Pest risk analyses conducted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have determined that any other injurious plant pests that might be carried by Sharwil avocados would be readily detectable upon examination by an inspector of Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ),

Cold treatment of avocados generally causes discoloration and pitting. However, the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has tested a method of pretreatment conditioning for Sharwil avocados that induces tolerance to cold treatment, making cold treatment for the Sharwil variety commercially feasible (HortScience 29(10):1166-1168.1994.). Only the Sharwil variety of avocado would be approved for cold treatment. since the pretreatment conditioning has been tested only on the Sharwil variety. Pretreatment conditioning would be recommended but not required.

The cold treatment procedures for Sharwil avocado would be added to the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Treatment Manual, which has been incorporated by reference into the Code of Federal Regulations at 7 CFR part 300.1.

Sharwil avocados moved interstate from Hawaii would continue to be subject to other applicable provisions of the regulations. These include, among other things, that a certificate issued in accordance with § 318.13–4(b) must be attached to the container of the