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# **USDA-APHIS-PPQ Irradiation Program: Current Status**

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# Outline



- Regulatory summary
- Program types
- Southern states rule
- Process configuration testing
- Other needs
- Phytosanitary irradiation resources



## PPQ Mission

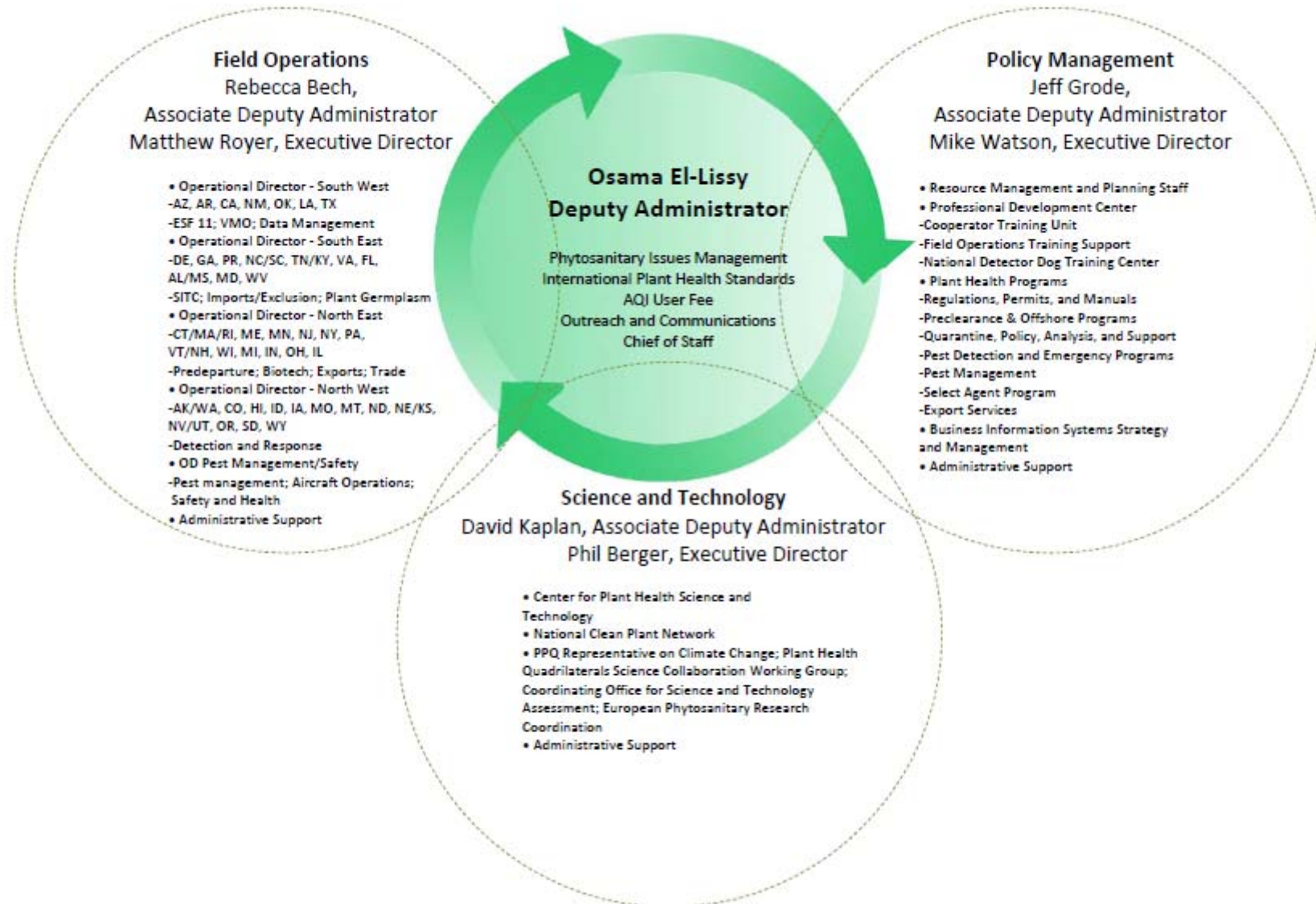
Regulate the movement of any commodity capable of harboring invasive, threatening plant pests, including noxious weeds, in order to protect the “agriculture, environment, and economy of the United States”

Facilitate import, export, and interstate commerce of agricultural products and other commodities that pose a risk of harboring certain plant pests

Plant Protection Act of 2000



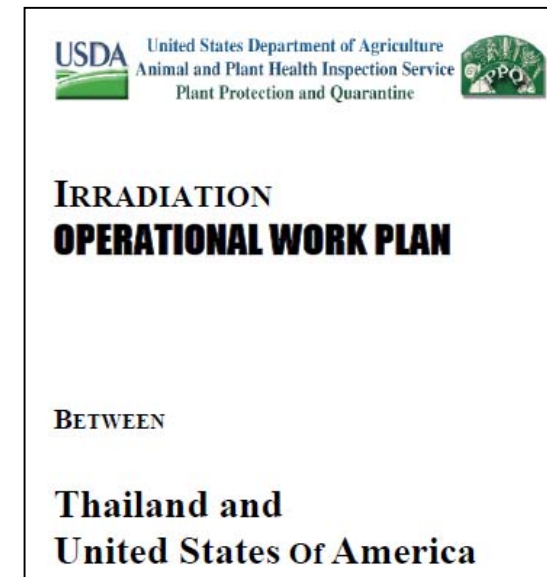
# PPQ Organizational Structure





# Regulatory Summary

- Market access granted
- Framework equivalency work plan signed
- Trust fund established
- Operational work plan signed
- Commodity-specific addendum signed





# Regulatory Summary

- Facility plan approved
- Facility certified
- Importer compliance agreement signed
- Importer permit granted
- Packaging approved
- Process configuration approved

# Phytosanitary Irradiation

- APHIS treatments require absorbed doses between 60 and 400 Gy
- FDA limits fresh fruit and vegetable treatments to 1000 Gy
- Irradiated food products must bear the radura





# Irradiation Program Types

## **Preclearance**

- Offshore irradiation of US imports ★

## **Port of Entry**

- Domestic irradiation of US imports ★

## **Domestic Quarantine**

- Treatment for domestic movement

## **Exports**

- Domestic irradiation of US exports  
(in development)





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# Preclearance: India

## Krushak

- First overseas facility
- Certified 2007
- Re-certified 2010
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Mango



# Preclearance: Thailand

## Synergy Health Ltd

- Certified 2008
- Re-certified 2009
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Mangosteen, longan

## Thai Irradiation Center

- Certified 2007
- Recertified 2012
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Mangosteen, longan



# Preclearance: Vietnam



## An Phu Irradiation

- Certified 2009
- Recertified 2012
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Dragon fruit and rambutan

## Son Son Corporation

- Certified 2008
- E-beam
- Dragon fruit and rambutan



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# Preclearance: Mexico

## Sterigenics

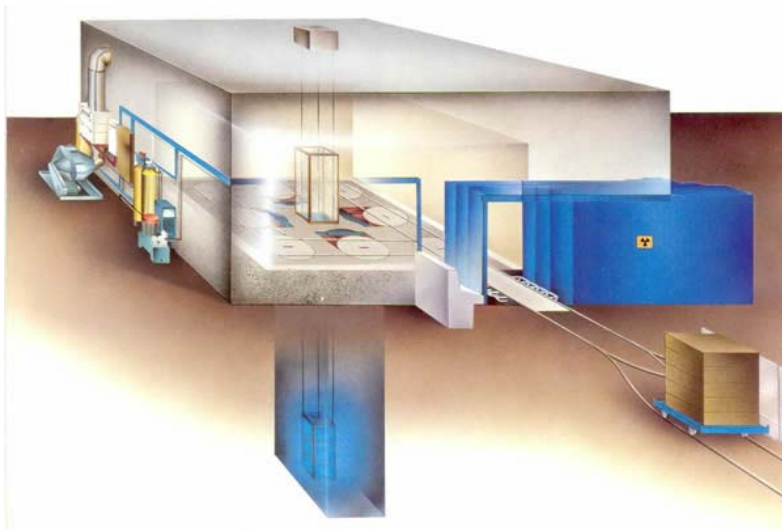
- Certified 2008
- Recertified 2012
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Guava and chile manzano



## Benébion

- Certified 2011
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Guava, chile manzano, mango, and sweet lime

# Preclearance: South Africa



## High Energy Processing (HEPRO)

- Certified 2012
- Co<sub>60</sub>
- Grape





# Preclearance Totals

(in kg)

	India	Mexico	South Africa	Thailand	Vietnam	Total
2007	0	0	0	195,000	0	195,000
2008	276,000	262,000	0	2,440,000	121,000	3,099,000
2009	132,000	3,559,000	0	2,247,000	117,000	6,055,000
2010	94,000	5,672,000	0	1,540,000	754,000	8,060,000
2011	80,000	5,539,000	0	743,000	1,445,000	7,807,000
2012	217,500	8,349,500	16,500	937,500	1,764,500	11,286,500
2013	283,000	9,526,000	16,500	1,060,500	1,967,500	12,853,500

# Port of Entry



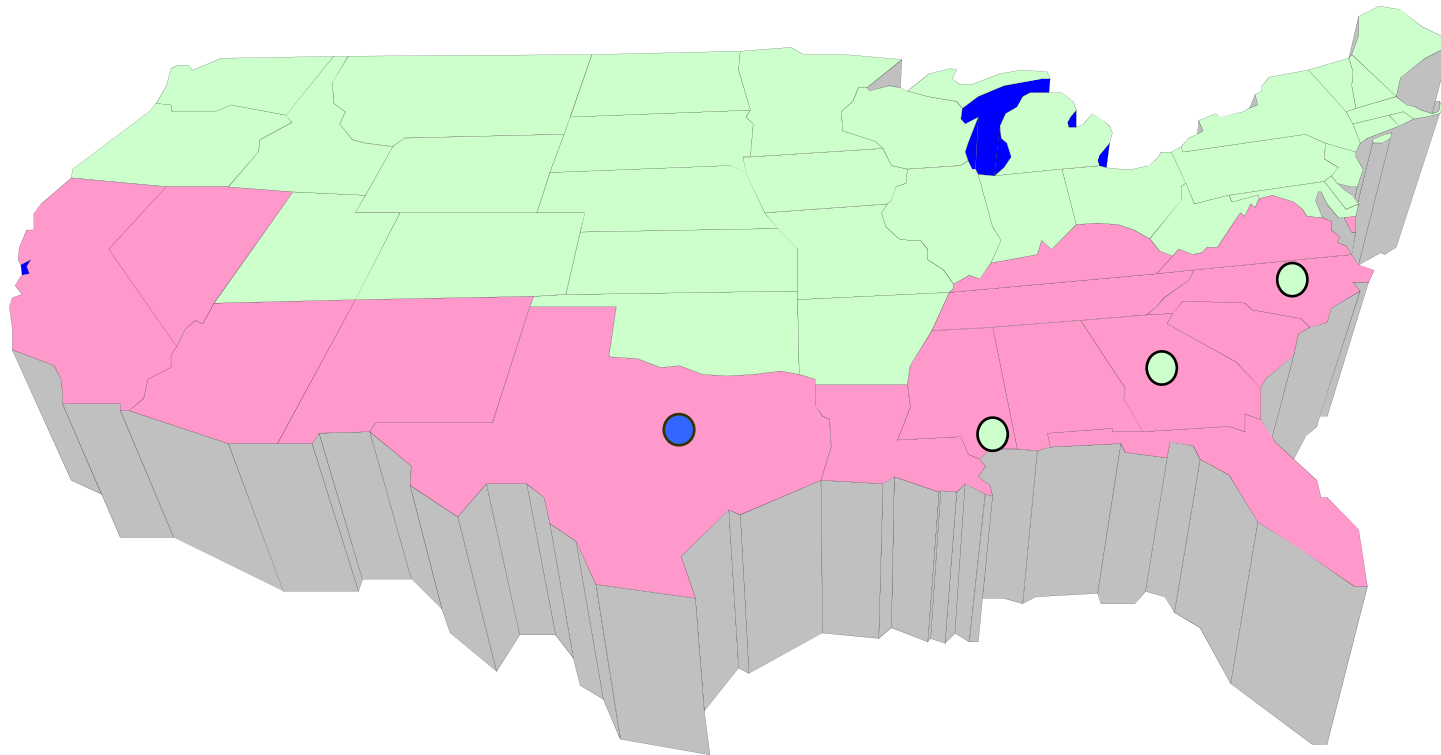
## Sadex Corporation

- Certified 2009
- Sioux City IA
- Pakistan mangos
- E-beam



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# Southern Tier Rule



<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-20/pdf/2012-17725.pdf>





# Southern US: Port of Entry

## NCEBR

- Certified 2012
- College Station TX
- Mexican exports
- E-beam

## Gateway America

- Certified 2013
- Gulfport MS
- South African persimmon
- Co<sub>60</sub>





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# Southern US: Port of Entry

## Test shipment

- South African persimmons
- Gateway America
- MOR USA, Inc



# Southern US: Port of Entry

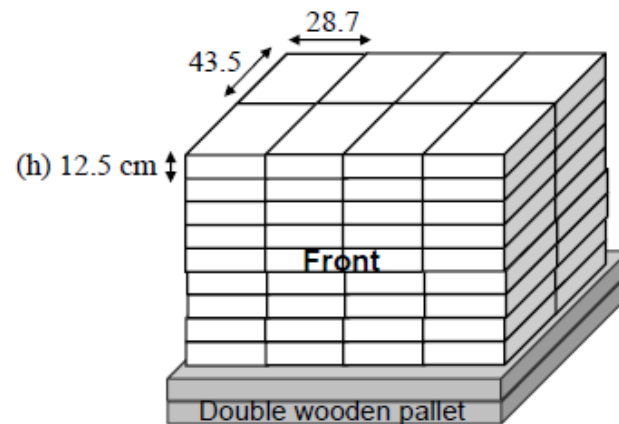
## Port of Entry issues

- Additional safeguarding at the facility
- Pre-approve packaging
- **Process configuration approval upon arrival**



# Process Configurations

Packaging dimensions and orientation are critical when delivering an absorbed dose within a tight range

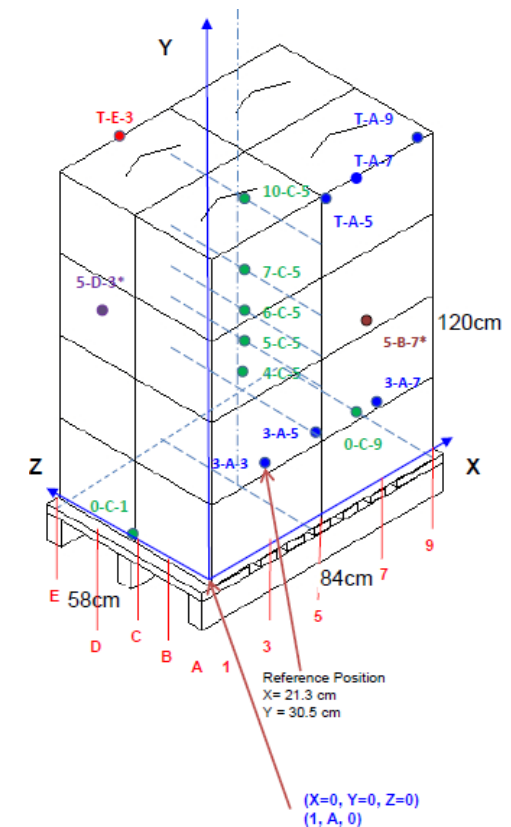


# Dose Mapping

It is important to know what the absorbed dose range will be throughout the configuration

Dose mapping

- Identify areas of high and low absorbed dose
- Determine  $R_f$  (reference dose)





# Research and Regulatory Needs

- Continue Process Configuration Testing
- Generic Doses
- Quality Studies
- Irradiation Treatment Validation ★
- Modified Atmosphere Packaging ★



# Irradiation Treatment Verification

In the event that CBP intercepts a live pest within the pest proof packaging, PPQ needs a tool to verify that an irradiation treatment has occurred.

Ideally, the verification tool would:

- Provide immediate Y/N answer
- Be inexpensive
- Be easy to use
- Not require hazardous reagents
- Have low-maintenance storage requirements
- Work for multiple insect families

According to the Phytosanitary Regulation Act of 1985, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0705-0182 and 0717. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE FOREIGN SITE CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION AND/OR TREATMENT		1. CERTIFICATE NO. 2017 (Pg. 1 of 1)	2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN Viet Nam
3. DATE LOADED 12/15/2011		4. FOREIGN PORT OF EXPORT Tien Son Nhut Airport, VN	
5. CARRIER IDENTIFICATION CX 594		6. U.S. PORT OF ENTRY JFK Airport, NY	
7. SHIPPER (Name and Address - Include Zip Code) ALO GREEN COMPANY LIMITED 2051 NGUYEN GIA THIEU STREET, WARD 6, DISTRICT 3 HO CHI MINH CITY, Ho Chi Minh (republic) Viet Nam		8. CONSIGNEE (Name and Address - Include Zip Code) RESOURCE CREATION LLC 1800 FLORAL DR WILMINGTON, Delaware USA	
9. COMMODITY		10. NO. CONTAINERS (Identify as box, tank, 100 lb drum, etc.)	11. CONTAINER IDENTIFICATION MARKS
1. Dragon Fruit (Hylocereus Spp.) TRT: 3910; Lot: AG1112005 FTID: 2011120023, Dens: 400/36		200 / 400 boxes	AKE 30083 CX (41875 + 41876)
PUC: AA.03.01.03.001 PHC: 001			
2. Dragon Fruit (Hylocereus Spp.) TRT: 3910; Lot: AG1112005 FTID: 2011120023, Dens: 400/36		300 / 400 boxes	AKE 39639 CX (41877 + 41878)
PUC: AA.03.01.03.001 PHC: 001			
12. LOCATION OF INSPECTION AND/OR TREATMENT TFCE 1004, Son Son Corporation, Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh (republic), Viet Nam.		13. DATE 12/15/2011	
This certifies that the shipment described above has been inspected and/or treated in accordance with agricultural requirements for entry into the United States.			
14. SIGNATURE OF PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE OFFICER Robert Guillermo		15. DATE ISSUED 12/15/2011	

Treated with Irradiation

PPQ FORM 203  
(AR, 2007)

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# Irradiation Treatment Verification

CPHST has just initiated a cooperative agreement with the University of Florida to develop a diagnostic assay to verify that a phytosanitary irradiation treatment was performed using commercially available antibodies to biochemical products of irradiation stress.





# Modified Atmosphere Packaging

**MAP is a process that alters the gas composition surrounding a commodity**

- prolongs the shelf-life of perishable goods
- slows the speed of aerobic microorganisms
- low O<sub>2</sub> environments are created by displacing O<sub>2</sub> in the packaging with other gases (e.g. N<sub>2</sub> or CO<sub>2</sub>)



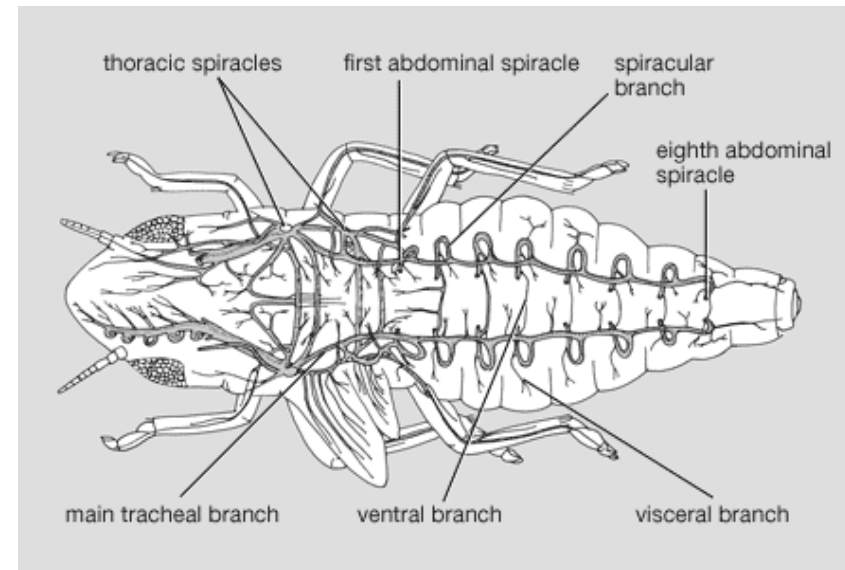
**In the past few years, requests to use MAP for phytosanitary treatments have dramatically increased.**

# Modified Atmosphere Packaging

Most MAP creates a low  $O_2$  environment

Respiration slows, resulting in reduced  $O_2$  concentrations in the hemolymph

In hypoxic environments, higher absorbed doses may be necessary to achieve same physiological effects





# Modified Atmosphere Packaging

Commodity	Temperature	Humidity	Modified atmosphere %	
	[°C]	[%]	O <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<b><i>Fruit</i></b>				
Apricot	0-5	90	2-3	2-3
Orange	3-9	90-95	5-10	0-5
Banana	13-15	90-95	2-5	2-5
Persimmon	0-5	90-95	3-5	5-8
Cherry, sweet	0-5	90-95	3-10	10-15
Strawberry	0-5	90-95	4-10	15-20
Apple	0-5	90	1-3	1-3
Blueberry	0-5	90-95	5-10	15-20
Peach	0-5	90-95	1-2	3-5
Pear	0-5	90-95	2-3	0-1
<b><i>Vegetables</i></b>				
Asparagus	0-5	95-100	aria	5-10
Broccoli	0-5	95-100	1-2	5-10
Cauliflower	0-5	95-98	2-5	2-5
Cucumber	8-12	90-95	3-5	0
Lettuce	0-5	95-100	1-5	0
Corn, sweet	0-5	95-98	2-4	10-180
Green pepper	8-12	90-95	3-5	2-8
Tomato, partly	8-12	90-95	3-5	0-3
Spinach	0-5	95-98	7-10	5-10

Table 8: MAP recommended conditions for fresh fruit and vegetable



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# Modified Atmosphere Packaging

CPHST is funding University of Florida research to characterize the effects of modified atmospheres on irradiation treatments

- Determine whether irradiation in modified atmospheres affects survival or fertility (Lepidopteran pests)





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# Pest Proof Packaging





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## PPQ Irradiation Treatment Site

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis\\_content\\_library%2Fsa\\_our\\_focus%2Fsa\\_plant\\_health%2Fsa\\_import%2Fsa\\_quarantine\\_treatments%2Fct\\_irradiation\\_treatment](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_plant_health%2Fsa_import%2Fsa_quarantine_treatments%2Fct_irradiation_treatment)

## Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Import Manual

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/fv.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/fv.pdf)

## FAVIR

<https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/manual/index.cfm?ACTION=pubHome>

## PPQ Treatment Manual

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf)

## PPQ Stakeholder Registry

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new>



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# **Final Thoughts & Questions**