



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
1220 N Street, Room A-372
Sacramento, CA 95814

PEST EXCLUSION ADVISORY

NO. 17-2007

DATE: July 18, 2007

TO: All Border Station Inspectors and County Agricultural Commissioners

FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

SUBJECT: **Armored Scale (Diaspididae) on Commercial Produce for Consumption**

Effective immediately, inspectors should no longer reject commercial shipments of produce for consumption due to the presence of armored scales (Diaspididae). This change in policy is the result of an updated pest risk analysis for armored scales conducted by USDA-APHIS-PPQ. The analysis concludes that commercial produce shipments for consumption present a low-risk pathway for the introduction of armored scales. The Federal Code of Regulations defines commercial shipment as "a shipment containing fruits or vegetables that an inspector identifies as having been produced for sale and distribution in mass markets."

Non-commercial shipments of consumptive produce, such as those found in private vehicles or private parcels, have not necessarily been through any cleaning or culling process. Because these processes were significant factors in determining that commercial shipments present a low risk, non-commercial shipments should still be rejected if actionable armored scale pests are found. Additionally, inspectors should continue to reject any shipments of propagative plant material (commercial or non-commercial) infested with actionable armored scales.

If there are questions concerning this advisory, county inspectors should contact Amber Morris at (916) 654-0312, or by email at amorris@cdfa.ca.gov; border station inspectors should contact Gary Leslie at (916) 654-0312, or by email at gleslie@cdfa.ca.gov.