

Eating avocados is good for the heart.



But thanks to trade restrictions, buying them is bad for the pocket book.

After *ninety* years (yes, ninety!) of restricting imports of Mexican avocados, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has just proposed a new rule allowing full importation of Mexican avocados into the United States. Mexican avocados were originally banned due to a risk of pest infestation of the American crop. The proposed rule is based upon a recent pest risk analysis which concluded that there is virtually no risk. Over the last six years, repeated APHIS inspections of Mexican avocados have shown no pest infestation. An examination of over ten million fruit cut open and inspected by Mexican and U.S. Plant Health officials did not reveal even one pest! In addition, an APHIS quantitative model predicts that the most likely number of imported, infested avocados from Mexico to be **zero**.

Current regulations restrict imports of the “Hass” variety of avocado to Alaska and 31 northeastern and north central states and limit distribution from October 15th through April 15th. Unfortunately, U.S. avocado growers have grown accustomed to having their market share protected at the expense of American consumers.

The Mexican avocado’s clean bill of health clearly indicates it is time to remove remaining import restrictions. To continue restrictions when there is no justification causes an artificial market shortage and very high prices for American consumers. In fact, the U.S. price of avocados is triple that of Mexico. ***That is grossly unfair to American consumers!***

Since there is no evidence that Mexican avocados pose a risk,

Consumers for World Trade Encourages APHIS to Swiftly Adopt the Rule Without Changes and Allow Full Importation of Hass Avocados from Mexico



1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1110
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 293-2944
Email: cwt@cwt.org Web site: www.cwt.org