



**OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Policy and Program Development  
Environmental and Risk Analysis Services, Unit 30  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

**Date Effective:** March 20, 2025

**Expiration Date:** March 20, 2028

**Interim Report(s) Due:** March 20, 2026, March 20, 2027

**Final Report Due:** September 20, 2028

**File symbol:** 25DA02

**Attn:** Samantha Bates, Elias Monastersky

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby grants a quarantine exemption under the provisions of Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended, to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, (USDA-APHIS), for emergency use of citric acid. This exemption permits citric acid disinfectant treatments of sites with hard, nonporous and porous, food/feed and nonfood-contact surfaces that are contaminated or potentially contaminated with African swine fever virus (ASFv), foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDv), high pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV), or low pathogenic avian influenza virus (LPAIV).

Use under this exemption is subject to the conditions and restrictions specified in your request dated February 13, 2025, and the use directions as revised on February 26, 2025, including the following:

1. The USDA-APHIS is responsible for ensuring that all provisions of this quarantine exemption are met. USDA-APHIS is also responsible for providing information required by 40 CFR §166.32(b). Accordingly, a final report summarizing the results of this exemption is to be provided that includes a discussion on the effectiveness of this use, and any monitoring and/or confirmatory data indicating that the treated areas are pathogen free prior to repopulation. This report must be submitted to EPA Headquarters and the appropriate EPA Regional Office(s) within 6 months following the expiration of this quarantine exemption. Interim reports must also be submitted annually by the dates specified above. Additionally, in accordance with 40 CFR §166.32(a), these offices shall be immediately informed of any adverse effects resulting from the use of this chemical in connection with this exemption. Refer to file symbol **25DA02** in any future correspondence regarding this exemption.

2. Use of citric acid as outlined under this quarantine exemption may take place only when there are no suitable EPA-registered products available. In the event of an FMDv, ASFv, LPAIv, or HPAIv outbreak, use may be allowed at any federal, state, or private indoor or outdoor site, on various sites/items including, but not limited to agricultural and non-agricultural equipment and facilities; transportation equipment and facilities; quarantine equipment and facilities; laboratory equipment and facilities; slaughterhouses; food processing plants; and footwear/personal protective equipment associated with these sites. Treatments may be conducted at any location in the United States, including Tribal Lands.
3. Unregistered citric acid products, (99-100% solid formulation), may be used under this exemption. Note that efficacy below 4°C has not been demonstrated.
4. Surfaces must be pre-cleaned by removing extraneous organic matter, such as with detergent, rinsing, and drying. Because porous materials will be the most challenging to disinfect, it is recommended that the removal and destruction (e.g., incineration) of any potentially contaminated porous smaller items be conducted in advance of a large-scale application of the material.
5. A 3% citric acid solution may be used, prepared by dissolving solid citric acid in soft, moderately hard, or hard water, containing no more than 400 ppm soluble salts. A fresh solution must be prepared daily.
6. Completely wet the surface to be treated, reapplying if necessary, so that the surface remains completely wet for the following contact times:
  - a. For porous surfaces, a 30-minute contact time is required.
  - b. For nonporous surfaces, a 15-minute contact time is required.
7. Applicators must wear protective eyewear (goggles, face shield, or safety glasses) and chemical-resistant gloves, during application to minimize exposure.
8. EPA encourages the USDA-APHIS to seek out the most effective virucidal products and cultural practices based on the best scientific data for treating contaminated materials and to support new product efficacy data against the target pathogens, especially on porous materials.
9. This quarantine exemption is effective and expires on the dates given above.

If you have any questions regarding the authorization of this quarantine exemption, please contact Emergency Response Team member Andrea Conrath ([conrath.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:conrath.andrea@epa.gov); 202-566-2568) or the Emergency Response Senior Regulatory Specialist, Jennifer Gaines ([gaines.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:gaines.jennifer@epa.gov); 202-566-2685).

Sincerely,

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Ed Messina, Esq.  
Director, Office of Pesticide Programs

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