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E-003001/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.9.2025)

Cold treatment was introduced in 2022 for oranges produced under a systems approach due to the number of non-compliances of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (False Codling Moth) for all countries where the pest is present¹. This measure has drastically reduced the number of non-compliances due to this pest. As the number of non-compliances due to False Codling Moth on other citrus fruits has remained low, there is no sufficient risk-based evidence that would justify that the EU imposes an obligatory cold treatment on other citrus fruits.

In relation to cold treatment, the EU legislation prescribes two options: a cold treatment of 0 °C to – 1 °C for at least 16 days during which the temperature is measured at the core of the fruit as per the mentioned International Standard, ISPM 42², or a cold treatment for at least 20 days at a set temperature between – 1 °C and +2 °C, provided that a pre-cooling step of the pulp of the fruit to the set temperature has been applied. In the second option only the temperature during the pre-cooling step is measured on the fruit.

In both cases, the legislation requires that the cold treatment, and the pre-cooling step where relevant, are documented and checked for each consignment by the exporting third country and when the cold treatment has been applied during transport, that the records are kept and made available upon request, giving the possibility to the EU competent authorities which carry out the import controls to verify the correct application of the cold treatment. The Commission has carried out a series of audits on plant health import controls³ between 2021 and 2023 and they have not revealed any significant shortcoming as to the way Member States carry out import controls.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/959/oj.

² <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c233701c-7257-4b59-9738-888141c5403e/content>.

³ Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands and Poland.