

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:)	P.Q. Docket No.
)	
Hector Pinto,)	05-0017
)	
Respondent)	DECISION and ORDER

This is an administrative proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty for a violation of the regulations governing the importation requirements for certain types of restricted fruits from Chile into the United States (7 C.F.R. ' 319.56 et seq.) hereinafter referred to as the regulations, in accordance with the Rules of Practice in 7 C.F.R. " 1.130 et seq. and 380.1 et seq.

This proceeding was instituted under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. " 7701 et seq.) (Act), by a complaint filed by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on January 12, 2005, alleging that respondent Hector Pinto violated the Act and regulations promulgated under the Act (7 C.F.R. ' 319.56 et seq.).

The complaint sought civil penalties as authorized by the Act (7 U.S.C. ' 7734) . This complaint specifically alleged that on or about June 7, 2003, at Miami International Airport, Respondent imported into the United States approximately three kilograms of cucurbit fruits and three granadilla fruits from Chile into the United States, in violation of 7 C.F.R. " 319.56(b).

The respondent failed to file an answer within the time prescribed in 7 C.F.R. ' 1.136(a). Section 1.136(c) of the Rules of Practice (7 C.F.R. ' 1.136(c)) provides that the failure to file an answer within the time provided under 7 C.F.R. ' 1.136(a) shall be deemed an admission of the allegations in the complaint. Further, the failure to file an answer constitutes a waiver of hearing. (7 C.F.R. ' 1.139). Accordingly, the material allegations in the complaint are adopted and set forth in this Default Decision as the Findings of Fact, and this Decision is issued pursuant to section 1.139 of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding. (7 C.F.R. ' 1.139).

Findings of Fact

1. Hector Pinto, hereinafter referred to as respondent, is an individual with a mailing address of 342 East 4th Street, Clifton, New Jersey 07015.

2. On or about June 7, 2003, the respondent imported approximately three (3) kilograms of cucurbit fruits and three (3) granadilla fruits into the United States from Chile at Miami International Airport, in violation of 7 C.F.R. ' 319.56.

Conclusion

By reason of the Findings of Fact set forth above, the respondent(s) has violated the Act and the regulations issued under the Act (7 C.F.R. ' 319.56 et seq). Therefore, the following Order is issued.

Order

Respondent Hector Pinto is assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500). This civil penalty shall be payable to the "Treasurer of the United States" by certified check or money order, and shall be forwarded within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Order to:

United States Department of Agriculture
APHIS Field Servicing Office
Accounting Section
P.O. Box 3334
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Respondents shall indicate on the certified check or money order that payment is in reference to P.Q. Docket No. 05-0017.

This order shall have the same force and effect as if entered after a full hearing and shall be final and effective thirty five (35) days after service of this Default Decision and Order upon

respondent, unless there is an appeal to the Judicial Officer pursuant to 7 C.F.R. ' 1.145 of the Rules of Practice.

Done at Washington, D.C.

this 31st day of May, 2005

Marc R. Hillson
Administrative Law Judge