

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Comparing Tariffs and Non-Tariff Measures for U.S. Imports of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB,) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Since the late 1980's, multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements have reduced tariff rates and created mechanisms to restrain the arbitrary use of non-tariff measures, such as technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Fruits and vegetables imports to the United States are often thought to be particularly vulnerable to SPS measures and some have argued that protectionism of U.S. producers is more easily pursued through import regulations than tariffs. In this same period, however, fruits and vegetable imports to the United States, have risen steadily, more pathways for legal importation to the United States have gained approval, import regulations have been streamlined, and treatment options have been expanded. This report uses inspection data from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to develop both a risk rate – the rate at which imports from a given country are found with a pest during inspection - and an action rate – the rate at which treatments are ordered following an inspection.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 4/26/13 End: 11/5/13 Completed: 11/5/13

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

