



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service (APHIS)

Plant Protection and
Quarantine (PPQ)

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

Voice: 301-851-2046

August 29, 2024

Mr. Wondale Habtamu
Deputy Director General for Plant Regulatory
Plant Health and Regulatory Director General (PHRDG)
Ministry of Agriculture
PO Box 62347
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dear Mr. Habtamu,

APHIS is writing to provide PHRDG with our certification decision along with a copy of the three closed corrective action requests (CARs) from the Minimum Sanitation Protocol for Offshore Geranium Cutting Production audit conducted on July 25, 2024, at Florensis Abyssinia (ETOESLUREF202402).

APHIS acknowledges that Florensis Abyssinia addressed the CARs, which were resolved, verified by PHRDG, and closed by APHIS on August 19 and 20, 2024 (see enclosed). For future reference, APHIS requests that the facility manager and the PHRDG representative sign Step 1 and Step 2 in the CAR as acknowledgement of the proposed corrective action.

Therefore, APHIS is pleased to report that Florensis Abyssinia is compliant with the United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 7 §319.37-21 and the Minimum Sanitation Protocol for Offshore Geranium Cutting Production and is authorized to continue shipping *Pelargonium* sp. unrooted cuttings to the United States. The certification is valid through December 31, 2024.

All shipping documentation must be consistent with the facility information as follows:

- Florensis Abyssinia PLC,
PO Box 5739
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Since the plants observed during the audit are growing for the 2024-2025 shipping season, APHIS may extend the certification until March 1, 2026, if PHRDG provides evidence that Florensis Abyssinia has implemented the new *Ralstonia* Exclusion Program (REP) framework requirements by October 1, 2024. Please provide the requested information in the attachment by **December 1, 2024**. Once received, APHIS will review and provide a certification decision for the remaining 2024-2025 shipping season.

APHIS appreciates our collaboration with PHRDG's on this program, and we look forward to continuing our relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer R. Jones".

Ms. Jennifer R. Jones
Associate Deputy Administrator
Phytosanitary Issues Management
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Enclosures (4)