

The USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Office of Quarantine Policy, Analysis, and Support published the 2008 requirements for the Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) and has forwarded the following information for distribution:

Compliance with this certification requirement will prevent unnecessary delays and inspections.

Compliance with the new certification requirements for Japan were generally very good in 2007. Due to serious pest risk of AGM, vessels arriving without required AGM certificates from Japan and Far East Russia will be subject to increased inspection and possible delays for berthing and cargo operations.

**The following is an update of the regulatory status for Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) in Japan and Far East Russia. Please circulate to appropriate shipping interests.**

### **Background**

Asian gypsy moth *Lymantria dispar* (AGM) is a destructive invasive pest species that attacks a wide variety of trees and is a major threat to natural resources in the United States. It is native to Asia and has been intercepted at ports arriving on ships and containers from Asian ports. Vessel superstructures and cargo containers are pathways for potential introduction of AGM. There has been much pressure by Federal, state, and resource officials to prevent this pest from becoming introduced and established into the U.S.

AGM detections in the U.S. have increased significantly in the past three or four years, from a historical average of one detection every two years to now two or three detections each year. Currently, Customs and Border Protection inspects the superstructure of arriving ships for egg masses. However, due to the large volume of maritime vessels that arrive at U.S. ports and resource limitations, adequate inspection for AGM has not been possible.

Field evidence has demonstrated that female AGM moths oviposit egg masses on vessel superstructures and on the containers at their ports of origin. When the vessels arrive at U.S. ports with egg masses or hatching larvae, the vessels themselves pose a threat that is currently being partially addressed by a number of initiatives that target the vessel proper at origin and at arrival. Shipping interests are strongly advised to remove any and all egg masses that are visible on vessels and on cargo and containers. Due to incidents of AGM egg masses and lifeforms found on vessel from Far East Russia and Japan, measures have been enacted to reduce risk to natural resources in the U.S. and Canada.

### **Japan Certification Requirements are unchanged for 2008**

Commercial vessels that transit the regulated, conditional ports during high-risk periods listed in the below attachment will be required to have certification of freedom from Asian gypsy moth if they intend to visit U.S. and Canada ports before the start of the next high-risk season the following year. The certification system began in 2007. Compliance with the new certification requirements for Japan were generally very good in 2007. Due to serious pest risk of AGM, vessels arriving without required AGM certificates from Japan and Far East Russia will be subject to increased inspection and possible delays for berthing and cargo operations.

Shipping interests destined to the U.S. and Canada U.S. and Canada must contact the below Japanese inspection entities directly in order to facilitate the scheduling of certification. This is consistent with the program in Far East Russia, except that the system in Japan is operated by selected private companies, not government entities.

The following are a listing of six approved and trained companies that provide AGM certification in Japan:

**Nippon Kaiji Kentei Kyokai (NKKK)**

**SK Surveyors & Sworn Measurers' Association**

**All Nippon Checkers Corporation**

**The Japan Cargo Tally Corporation**

**Japan Export Vehicle Inspection Center Co., Ltd. (JEVIC)**

**Japan Grain Inspection Association**

The following is the list of six regulated, conditional ports with the high-risk periods. If vessels that berth in these ports are destined to U.S. and Canada during high-risk periods sometime within the next year, U.S. and Canada will require AGM certificates. Certification should be scheduled for the last regulated port visited prior to departure from Japan or at a Japan port after visiting that last port. The exception is if the vessel is scheduled to travel to Far East Russia after Japan, where it would receive certification at that location. All vessels are strongly encouraged to comply with these requirements to prevent any disruption or delays on arrival into U.S. ports. Vessels that arrive without certification are subject to offshore inspection or inspection in alternate, remote locations. This is likely to result in schedule delays. Vessels with certificates will not be subject to additional, non-routine agricultural inspection.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture are committed to a harmonized approach to regulating vessels from ports in Japan that are considered high risk for Asian gypsy moth based on port surveillance data. This includes uniformly accepting certificates verifying freedom from all life stages of Asian gypsy moth issued by Japanese inspection entities, as well as cooperation between Canadian and American inspection entities carrying out vessel inspections. Designated conditional ports are subject to annual change dependent upon monitoring results.

#### **Far East Russia requirements are unchanged**

The long-standing requirements from Far East Russia remain the same. Cooperators in Russia reported huge amounts of egg masses in surrounding forest areas over the past winter. Regarding Russia, the large majority of the vessel inspections are conducted in Vladivostok, Nakhodka, and Vostochnyy. The other ports that we use to make up the high-risk list for Russia: Olga, Slavyanka, Zarubino, Plastun, Vanino, and Posyet. The high risk period for all of the Far East Russia ports remains July 15- September 30.

## **2008 Japanese Regulated Ports**

**The below ports require conditional certification for freedom from Asian gypsy moth for vessels transiting during the designated periods of risk.**

**Table 1. Japanese Regulated AGM Ports**

<b>Japan Ports</b>	<b>Period of Risk</b>
<b>Ooita</b>	<b>June 1 – August 15</b>
<b>Hiroshima</b>	<b>June 1 – August 15</b>
<b>Hannon</b>	<b>June 1 – August 15</b>
<b>Sakata</b>	<b>July 1 – September 15</b>
<b>Hachinohe</b>	<b>July 15 – October 1</b>
<b>Hakodate</b>	<b>July 15 – October 1</b>

Please refer to information on the AGM procedures which is located at the following USDA-APHIS-PPQ website:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gypsy\\_moth/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gypsy_moth/index.shtml). The procedures were amended to reflect the new Japan requirements.

Please contact me at 301-734-4374 or E-Mail at [michael.simon@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:michael.simon@aphis.usda.gov) if you have any further questions and concerns.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

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