



Asian Gypsy Moth

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Asian gypsy moth (AGM) is a serious pest that can be carried on ships and cargo. AGM populations are prevalent in some seaport areas in Far East Russia, Japan, Korea, and China. If introduced, AGM would pose a significant risk to the North American plant resource base, businesses that rely on plant resources, and to market access. **Vessels must arrive in North American ports with required pre-departure certification and free of AGM.** It is vital that the maritime industry and the United States (U.S.) and Canadian authorities collaborate on measures to minimize the risk of AGM incursion.

Although the agricultural agencies of the United States and Canada are independent and have variances in their laws, AGM risk mitigation and exclusion efforts are a joint effort and considered a high priority. In this effort, APHIS and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have determined that vessels arriving in the United States without the required AGM documentation will be issued a penalty. This is consistent with U.S.-Canadian requirements, and harmonizes a penalty component, as a consequence for non-compliance for ensuring freedom of AGM.

Beginning **January 1, 2015** CBP will begin issuing penalties to any vessel arriving without a valid AGM certification from a valid certification body during the high risk period, as well as the two year ports of call data for the vessel. Any vessel that does not present the required documentation prior to January 1, 2015, and has in fact visited an AGM port during the high risk season will be issued a warning.

Monetary penalties issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), for non-compliance with the AGM requirements, remain unchanged. Monetary penalties are typically issued when notification of arrival of a regulated vessel is not made or when required certification is not presented.

Actions

For vessels which have called on areas regulated for AGM during the specified periods, as outlined below, the following measures are required:

1. Vessels must be inspected and obtain pre-departure certification from a recognized certification body in Russia, Japan, China, or Korea and forward a copy of the certificate, stating that the vessel is free of Asian gypsy moth life stages, to their U.S or Canadian agents. The inspections should be performed as close to departure time from the regulated port as possible.
2. Vessels must provide two year port of call data, at least 96 hours prior to arrival at a North American port, to the Canadian or U.S. agent. The agent will ensure that this information is provided to U.S. and Canadian officials.

It is the responsibility of the shipping lines to meet all requirements for entry to the U.S. and Canada for freedom from AGM and other pest concerns. We strongly urge maritime interests to take all possible precautions.

Please be advised that, although the U.S. and Canada are fully harmonized on the requirement for AGM pre-departure certification and for vessels arriving free from all AGM life forms (egg masses, pupae, adults), due to sovereign regulations and policies, there are some differences in port-of-entry processes between the two countries. Please contact local inspection authorities in the port of entry if you have any questions regarding AGM import requirements or clearance procedures.