

MEMBER ALERT



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY - MAY 2010 UPDATE - ASIAN GYPSY MOTH

Reference is made to the June 2009 issue of *Currents* as well as the Member Alert of July 16, 2009 regarding the Asian gypsy moth and measures to prevent infestation of commercial vessels calling at ports in western North America.

The United States Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have recently issued a joint circular addressing the recurrent problem caused by the Asian gypsy moth infestation of vessels calling from ports in China, Korea, Japan, Eastern Russia and Northern China (ports north of Shanghai). The period of risk for the Asian gypsy moth in these regions of Asia is from June 1st through September 30th. For this reason, the US and Canadian agencies referred to above have reiterated their prior requirements to ensure that the risk of incursion by the Asian gypsy moth in North America is reduced as much as possible.

The joint circular, which is attached hereto for Members' ready reference, makes several recommendations for vessels calling at such ports in Asia and which are destined for North America.

First, it is recommended that owners, while vessels are still at the Asian port in question, obtain pre-departure certification stating that the vessel is free of Asian gypsy moth life stages at the port in Asia and that such written certification be sent to their respective agents in North America.

Second, if such pre-departure certification cannot be obtained, owners should ensure that their own inspections are performed on board vessels five days prior to arrival at the North American port pursuant to the attached "Gypsy Moth Inspection Pocket Guide" and advise their agents whether their vessel is free of any infestation.

Third, at least two days prior to arrival in North America, owners must forward to their agents a copy of the vessel's voyage history of ports and dates in order for agents to forward same to the local agricultural inspectors for their consideration.

Because non-compliance with these requirements may cause significant delay, your Managers strongly recommend that the attached circular be given the closest attention, and that the preventive measures discussed at length in last year's Member Alert be carefully implemented.

Should Members have any questions, your Managers would be happy to address them. In this regard, Members should contact George J. Tsimis, Senior Vice President & Head of Claims (Direct Dial: +1-212-847-4501; e-mail: george.tsimis@american-club.com), or Dr. William Moore, Senior Vice President & Loss Prevention Manager (Direct Dial: +1-212-847-4542; e-mail: william.moore@american-club.com).



Asian Gypsy Moth

May, 2010

United States and Canadian authorities have intercepted live Asian gypsy moth (AGM) egg masses on a large number of commercial marine vessels (ships) in 2008 and 2009. Many of these events posed a risk for the spread of this pest and required the vessels to be ordered into international waters. In all cases, delays in cargo loading and in routine clearance were significant. This has resulted in the loss of revenue to the shipping line, as the vessels were unable to conduct cargo operations, missed cargo charters, and have experienced significant schedule delays. These incidents can be avoided by adherence to pre-departure certification and/or performance of vessel self-inspections involving the removal and destruction of all AGM egg masses and other life stages prior to port arrival in the United States and Canada. Please ensure that no egg masses remain on board the vessel on arrival in the U.S. and Canada. The consequences of inadequate preparation are very high.

AGM is a very serious forest pest that hitchhikes on the superstructure of ships and containers. This could directly lead to widespread pest infestations in U.S. and Canadian forests in a relatively short period of time. AGM populations are prevalent in some seaport areas in Far East Russia, Japan, Korea, and Northern China. Populations do fluctuate and some areas in Northeast Asia will experience large flights of moths this summer. It is imperative that the maritime industry collaborates with U.S. and Canadian authorities on measures to remove the risk of AGM incursion.

The shipping industry has improved markedly with increased awareness of necessary quarantine compliance for AGM. This has been vital to maintaining shipping schedules. Both countries are committed to working with industry to support measures that will reduce AGM risk at origin. U.S. and Canadian officials seek increased collaboration with shipping lines, agents, and associations in order to try to minimize these events with support of port monitoring and vessel pre-inspection techniques.

Moth flight occurs especially during night operations for cargo loading and unloading. Bright lights attract the female gypsy moths to the vessels. The periods of risk for Asian gypsy moth flight and infestation range from June 1 to August 10 in southern Japan and July 1 to September 30 in northern Japan and Far East Russia. China and Korea have similar flight periods of risk that range from June until September.

We expect shipping lines to perform intensive vessel self-inspections to look for, remove (scrape off), and properly destroy all egg masses and other life stages of AGM prior to entering U.S. and Canadian ports to avoid facing inspection delays, re-routing and other potential impacts associated with mitigating the risk on entry to North America.

The egg masses and other life stages can be found anywhere on the outside of a vessels superstructure and elsewhere if doors were open while a vessel sits in port. Locations include on: barrel containers used for trash or liquid, lines used to moor the vessel to the dock, lines laying on the deck, the vessel super structure, air intake vents, smoke stack, the tracks used for crane movement, outside of the hull, any container stored on the deck, and anywhere inside a wheel/tool house or room on the aft deck. Egg masses may also be seen throughout the vessel on the aft deck, starboard and port sides of the deck and housing, on the bow, and on the main deck and upper decks of the main super structure, cargo hold framing, and



other vessel framing including safety rails. The outside of containers must also be inspected.

Please note that most AGM egg mass interceptions have been on dry bulk vessels. However, other ship types including, liquid and break-bulk carriers, containerships, car carriers, fishing vessels and cruise ships are also at risk and have been found with AGM egg masses. Vessels found infested by US or Canadian authorities are not authorized to load or unload cargo until they are free of AGM life stages (egg masses, live larvae, pupae, and live adults). Due to North American coordination to prevent entry of this pest, vessels are informed that they cannot redirect to other U.S, Canada, or Mexico ports, but can choose to proceed to other foreign locations.

USDA and CFIA officials are not, however, recommending avoidance of any specific foreign ports. We are strongly recommending that vessels calling at ports in Far East Russia, Japan, Korea, and Northern China (ports north of Shanghai) during designated AGM flight periods address the AGM risk by either 1) obtaining certification that the vessel is free of AGM life stages prior to departure from countries in which pre-departure certification is available (currently certifications are only available in Far East Russian and participating Japanese ports) or 2) performing a comprehensive vessel self-inspection well in advance to entering U.S. and Canadian ports. Canada and the US are taking a phased-in approach to full enforcement of certification to allow China and Korea to put systems in place. Beginning 2012, strong enforcement action will be taken on vessels entering the US or Canada without certification. During the transition period of 2010, vessels without certification will be subject to intensive inspection which may have associated delays, while vessels entering the US or Canada with certification will be able to enter the US or Canada and unload or load cargo without delay.

The following measures are recommended:

Asian Gypsy Moth Interception Season on Commercial Vessels at U.S. and Canadian Ports concerns ships which have called ports in CHINA; KOREA; JAPAN, & Far East RUSSIA ANYTIME during period of JUNE through SEPTEMBER.

ACTIONS:

1. Vessels that have obtained pre-departure certifications should forward to their agents a copy of the CERTIFICATION that the vessel is free of Asian Gypsy Moth life stages.
2. Vessels that were unable to obtain pre-departure certifications that the vessel is free of Asian Gypsy Moths should, five days prior to the vessel's arrival at its first US or Canadian port, perform their own comprehensive self-inspection according to the attached GYPSY MOTH INSPECTION POCKET GUIDE and confirm to the agents whether their vessel is free of any infestation.
3. At least two days prior to the vessel's arrival to please forward to agent a copy of the vessel's voyage memo in order agents may provide to the local agriculture inspectors an opportunity to review the vessel's history of ports and dates.

Please contact the officials listed below for further information or questions.

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GYPSY MOTH INSPECTIONAL POCKET GUIDE



Adult Female (top) and Male (bottom)

Photo – Courtesy of USDA-APHIS-PPQ, www.forestryimages.org



Gypsy Moth egg mass next to penny

Photo – Courtesy of Sue Lane, USDA- APHIS- PPQ

Background

The Gypsy Moth is a highly destructive forest pest which can enter the United States by laying eggs on vessels and/or cargo while in foreign ports. The females may fly and lay eggs between May 15 and October 15, and can literally cover a vessel during that time.

Resources: One officer/specialist (an average of 2-hours/inspection). Document results of Gypsy Moth inspection on Ship Inspection Form 288.

Inspectional Equipment:

Binoculars - to look at unreachable areas of the ship.

Flashlight - to look in darkened areas such as between containers.

Mirror on a stick - to look under vehicles, around confined corners, etc.

Vials - to collect adults, larvae or egg masses.

Knife, paint scraper, or putty knife - to scrape the eggs from the structure.



A vessel covered with egg-laying Gypsy Moths in a Russian Port

Photo – Courtesy of Weyman Fussell, USDA- APHIS-PPQ

High-Risk Ships:

Ships originating in or transiting Europe, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Turkey and the Mediterranean may have been exposed to Gypsy Moths. It is unlikely you will find a live adult Gypsy Moth on these vessels, but you may find egg masses.

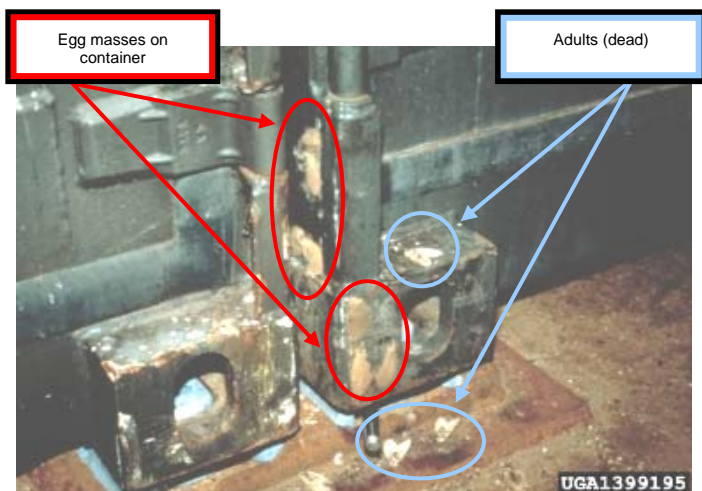


Photo – Courtesy of Manfred Mielke, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.org

Inspection

Where to Look:



Photo – Courtesy of USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.org



Photo – Courtesy of Manfred Mielke, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.org

- Egg masses are normally deposited in sheltered locations such as in crevices or cavities, under tarps, behind walls and doors, and underneath the hold rims.
- Binoculars may allow you to see unreachable areas of the ship.



Photo – Courtesy of Weyman Fussell, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

- Female Gypsy Moths are attracted to light; therefore, the female moths could lay their egg masses on surfaces of the ship that are exposed to lights. However, if the ship was lit with shore-based flood lights while in a high risk port, egg masses could be found in all locations.
- Look for evidence of fresh paint covering scrapes on walls or painted over egg masses.



Photo – Courtesy of Hannes Lemme, www.forestryimages.org



Photo – Courtesy of Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.org

- Viable egg masses on ships may be weathered, darkened, and appear old. Look for hatching larvae that may be blowing on silk strands from the ship. Peak hatching of eggs is in the morning. Larvae move toward vertical structures and climb rapidly.

Presence of egg masses:

Remove egg masses from the ship. Using a knife, paint scraper, or putty knife, scrape a few eggs from the surface and place into a vial.

Do not drop egg masses into the water. Salt water will not kill the eggs or larvae.



Photo – Courtesy of Hannes Lemme, www.forestryimages.org