

Southern Currents



Notice to the Area Port of New Orleans Trade Community

Date: February 17, 2012

No.: 12-013

Subject:

Submission of vessel "Ports of Call" list to CBP prior to arrival from foreign

Purpose:

The purpose of this notice is to request from vessel agents a "Ports of Call" list on all foreign arriving vessels to the Tri-Port (New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Gramercy). This list will ensure that CBP dispatches Agriculture Specialists to inspect all high risk vessels for the presence of Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) egg masses. This notice will cover CBP's notification requirements.

Background:

The Department of Homeland Security, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have coordinated efforts to prevent the introduction of harmful insect pests into the United States. One such pest is the Asian Gypsy Moth, an extremely invasive species of moth that has not been introduced into the United States, and is not currently present in North America. This pest is destructive to the ecology, may feed on over 600 plant species, and can seriously affect U.S. agriculture and forest resources. An AGM infestation could result in the defoliation of environmentally important species. Dense populations of AGM could cause economic and environmental damage. AGM is presently known and well established in East Asian ports in China, Japan, South Korea, and Eastern Russia, between 24 and 60 degrees North Latitude. The female AGM deposits egg masses during the high risk flight season between May and October, and these egg masses are the most likely life stage to be found on vessels which have visited or transited high risk ports during the AGM high risk flight season.

An AGM find on a vessel may require that the vessel be:

- Ordered into international waters
- Required to undergo treatment
- Re-inspected
- Refused entry

Procedures:

To ensure that CBP dispatches Agriculture Specialists to conduct AGM inspections on vessels which have visited or transited a high risk AGM port, during the high risk flight season, obtaining the vessel's "Ports of Call" list prior to arrival in New Orleans will allow CBP to target vessels requiring an AGM inspection and enable Agriculture Specialists to focus on high risk vessels, while facilitating the entrance of lower risk vessels.

Currently vessel "Ports of Call" lists are obtained upon boarding the vessel once in port, and subsequently, many vessels that do not require an AGM inspection are boarded by an Agriculture Specialist ahead of high risk vessels that require an intensive AGM inspection.

CBP is requesting that prior to the arrival of *a vessel from foreign* in the New Orleans Tri-Port, the vessel master, agent, owner, operator or designee, fax or e-mail a copy of the vessel's "Ports of Call" list to the CBP's Passenger Analysis Unit (PAU).

- **PAU Telephone Number: (504) 623-6620**
- **PAU Fax: 504-623-6635**
- **PAU Group E-mail: PAU-MSY@dhs.gov**

The vessel "Ports of Call" list will be the list of all ports visited by the vessel over the past calendar year.

Suspect AGM Egg Mass Discoveries by Vessel Crew:

If a suspect AGM egg mass is discovered onboard a vessel before arrival at the Port of New Orleans, the vessel agent/representative should:

- Inform the captain to have a crewmember carefully scrape off the suspect AGM egg mass with a knife or paint scraper and place the egg mass in a Ziploc bag. **Do not add alcohol.**
- Have the crewmember immediately place the specimen in a refrigerator. **Do not freeze.**
- **Notify the CBP Operations Desk at (504) 623-6600**

A CBP boarding team will be dispatched to the vessel to conduct an AGM inspection. If the Agriculture Specialist determines that the specimen is suspect for AGM, normal AGM protocol will be followed. Once the AGM inspection is complete, the Agriculture Specialist will collect the specimen and submit it to the local USDA PPQ identifier for laboratory analysis.

Note: If the suspect AGM infested vessel is diverted to a foreign port before entering the Port of New Orleans, the CBP Operations Desk must be notified and the vessel crew should **place the suspect egg mass in alcohol and/or incinerate the specimen. Never throw a suspect AGM specimen overboard**

Effective Date:

The procedures contained in this notice are effective upon receipt. Please contact Chief CBP Officer Michael J. Ruiz at michael.ruiz@cbp.gov or (504) 623-6651 with questions or concerns.



Mitch Merriam
Area Port Director
New Orleans, Louisiana