

Surveyor's Notebook

ASIAN GYPSY MOTH

— INTRODUCTION

Infestation by Asian gypsy moth (AGM) can pose a serious threat to ships trading from ports in Far East Russia, Japan, Korea and northern China, especially during June to September – and many port authorities are on guard against the menace all year round. Infected ships can be detained and delayed, particularly at ports in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

All masters should be instructed to report immediately to their company if the moth is present.

Asian gypsy moth (named after its home continent) is a highly destructive pest that has defoliated thousands of acres of hardwood forests across the northeastern United States.

— FLIGHT SEASON

Attracted by the lights on ships, the female moths often fly on board and lay eggs on the superstructure and deck cargo. They lay eggs primarily during August and September in Far East Russia and northern Japan; in June and July in southern and central Japan; and from June to September in Korea and northern China (including all ports north of Shanghai).

The United States has, for some time, operated a system of identifying and managing high-risk ships. Other countries have since concluded that the Asian gypsy moth could cause serious economic and ecological damage if introduced to their region, and have also put in place requirements for potentially high-risk ships.

During 2008 and 2009, US and Canadian authorities intercepted 40 ships with live egg masses on board. In many cases, ships were ordered out of the port and into international waters for remedial cleaning and treatment. In other situations, ships also suffered delays of several days.

ACTIONS FOR THE SHIP

1. Ships that have obtained pre-departure certification should forward to their agents a copy of the certification confirming that the ship is free of egg masses and Asian gypsy moths.
2. A ship that is unable to obtain pre-departure certification confirming that it is free of the moth should, five days before arrival at its first US or Canadian port, carry out its own comprehensive self-inspection and confirm to the agents whether the ship is free of infestation.
3. At least two days before the ship's arrival, it should forward to the agent a copy of its past itineraries in order that the agents may provide to the local agriculture inspectors an opportunity to review the ship's history of ports and dates.

— CERTIFICATION

Ships visiting high-risk ports during the flight season will be expected to arrange and undergo an inspection ahead of departure from the port, in order to obtain certification of being free from infestation.

RUSSIA

Certifications from Far East Russian ports must be from The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation. www.fsvps.ru

JAPAN

Inspection and certification must be conducted by one of the following private companies:

- All Nippon Checkers Corporation (ANCC)
- The Japan Cargo Tally Corporation (JCTC)
- Japan Export Vehicle Inspection Center Co., Ltd. (JEVIC)
- Japan Grain Inspection Association (JGIA)
- Nippon Kaiji Kentei Kyokai (NKKK)
- Shin Nihon Kentei Kyokai (SNKK)
- Hokkaido Bouekikunjyo Co. Ltd. (HBKC)
- Kanto Fumigation Co. Ltd (KFCO)
- Kobe Plant Quarantine Association (KOBEPQA)
- Keiyochiku Plant Quarantine Association (KPQA)
- Kyoritsu Sanitary Co. Ltd (KRS)

- Muroran & Tomakomai Plant Quarantine Association (MTPQA)
- Nikkun Co. Ltd (NCL)
- Okayama-Ken Plant Quarantine Association (OKYPQA)
- Osaka Plant Quarantine Association (OPQA)
- Osaka Timber Quarantine Association (OSKTQA)
- Techno Kasei Co. Ltd. (TKL)
- Tokai Plant Quarantine Association (TOKAIPQA)
- Tokyo Plant Quarantine Association (TPQA)
- Yokohama Plant Protection Association (YPPA)

NORTHERN CHINA/KOREA

It is understood that Asian gypsy moth certifications are not yet available in northern China.

Korea does not currently have a formal inspection programme for ships but has agreed to sample a certain number of ships, issuing a monitoring certificate, which will be considered equivalent to Asian gypsy moth certificate at US and Canadian ports of entry. There is no single point of contact for Korea, so it is suggested that inspection is arranged through the National Plant Quarantine Service at the Korean port (agents should advise).

HIGH-RISK SHIPS

High-risk ships without certification originating from Far East Russia during the Asian gypsy moth flight season will be denied entry. These ships will be instructed to proceed to a remote location for inspection.

High-risk ships without certification originating from other countries where Asian gypsy moth is prevalent may be intensively inspected and subject to delays at the berth.

(Article extracted from The Standard Club's publication – Standard Bulletin)