

Questions and Answers: Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

Q: Why has the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanded its emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine to encompass the entire states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio?

A: USDA took this action to prevent the artificial spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB) from infested areas into noninfested areas of the United States. As a result of this quarantine, the interstate movement of regulated articles from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio is restricted. Three years of EAB survey data support the need to implement strict regulations for the movement of host material. Survey tools are not 100% effective for early detection of low density populations of the pest. Given this uncertainty, the possibility of spreading EAB in unprocessed host material presents a serious risk that requires immediate action.

Q: Why quarantine an entire state versus known infested counties?

A: EAB is an extremely destructive plant pest and it is responsible for the death and decline of over 25 million ash trees. Ash in both forested and urban settings constitute a significant portion of the canopy cover in the United States. Current tools to detect, control, suppress and eradicate this pest are not as robust as the USDA would desire. In order to stay ahead of this hard to detect beetle, the USDA is attempting to contain the beetle before it spreads beyond its known positions. These actions will help to mitigate the spread of the pest while the science community continues to investigate biological controls, attractants, traps and pesticides.

Q: What is a regulated article?

A: A regulated article under USDA's quarantine includes any of the following items:

- emerald ash borer
- firewood of all hardwood species, such as ash, oak, maple and hickory
- nursery stock and green lumber of ash
- any other ash material living, dead, cut or fallen including logs, stumps, roots, branches, as well as composted and uncomposted chips of the genus *Fraxinus*

In addition, any other article, product or means of conveyance not listed above may be designated as a regulated article if a USDA inspector determines that it presents a risk of spreading EAB.

Q: Why is all hardwood firewood regulated instead of only ash firewood?

A: Once a log has been cut and split, it is extremely difficult to differentiate between ash wood and other hardwood species. This is especially true for the casual firewood user and homeowners. Therefore, due to the potential risk associated with moving EAB-infested firewood, all hardwood firewood is regulated. There are no restrictions on the movement of coniferous species of firewood, such as pine, spruce and fir.

Q: Are coniferous wood products, including pine, spruce, and fir impacted by the EAB quarantine?

A: No, this species of wood is not impacted by USDA's EAB quarantine. However, there are USDA quarantines for gypsy moth and pine shoot beetle that do restrict the interstate movement of coniferous wood and wood products. For more information on these quarantines, please visit www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq.

Q: Does USDA's EAB quarantine affect the interstate movement of hardwood (non ash) nursery stock or hardwood (non ash) wood products?

A: There are no federal restrictions on the interstate movement of non ash hardwood products such as nursery stock, logs, branches, green lumber or chips. However, the interstate movement of all hardwood firewood is regulated under the Federal Quarantine.

Q: Who does this quarantine affect?

A: This quarantine affects any industry, business, individual that deals with or handles hardwood firewood, ash wood or ash nursery stock. This includes, but is not limited to, the general public, commercial firewood dealers, retail firewood sellers, nursery owners & growers and the timber industry including sawmills, wood haulers, wood brokers, etc.

Q: How can I continue to do business with other States?

A: There are opportunities for the timber, wood, and firewood industries to continue interstate commerce through the use of processing options associated with the issuance of a USDA compliance agreement, certificate, or limited permit. Contact the USDA's Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Program in your State if you have questions or would like more information:

EAB Program 866-322-4512 (toll free)
Michigan 810-844-2705
Ohio 614-387-1095
Indiana 765-446-0267
Illinois 847-299-6939
Maryland 410-224-3452

Q: Will the federal quarantine affect intrastate (within the State) commerce?

A: No, the federal quarantine will only restrict trade between States, or interstate movement. However, there are State quarantines in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois that regulate the movement of firewood and ash wood products within those States. Please contact your State department of agriculture for additional information on their respective local quarantines:

Michigan 866-325-0023 (toll free)
Ohio 888-644-6322 (toll free)
Indiana 812-358-9034
Illinois 815-787-5476
Maryland 410-841-5920

Q: Under the federal quarantine, does it make a difference if a regulated article originates in an area that is not quarantined by the State?

A: No, interstate movement of all regulated articles fall under federal restrictions. Any regulated article moving out of the states of Ohio, Indiana or Illinois must meet the requirements of the federal quarantine to mitigate risk through the issuance of a compliance agreement, certificate or limited permit.

There are opportunities for the timber, wood, and firewood industries to continue interstate commerce through the use of processing options associated with the issuance of a USDA compliance agreement, certificate, or limited permit. Effective treatment options for these regulated articles include removal of bark and one half inch of wood, kiln drying sterilization, and fumigation. Contact the USDA's Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Program in your State if you have questions or would like more information about these options.

Q: Are there different conditions for movement of a regulated article that is moved from a quarantined area across state lines to another quarantined area, versus an article that is moved from a quarantined area across state lines to a non-quarantined area?

A: No, any regulated article moving out of the states of Ohio, Indiana or Illinois must meet the requirements of the federal quarantine to mitigate risk through the issuance of a compliance agreement and certificate or limited permit, regardless of destination.

Q: Who will enforce the quarantine?

A: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program will enforce the Federal quarantine.

Q: Are there civil penalties for breaking the quarantine?

A: Yes. APHIS will assess civil penalties to individuals and businesses that violate restrictions for the movement of regulated articles. Under the Plant Protection Act of 2000, violations of a domestic quarantine may result in monetary fine up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment.

Q: Why has USDA issued a federal quarantine for the States of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois but not the entire State of Michigan?

A: Michigan is currently under a federal quarantine that prohibits the movement of regulated articles out of the lower peninsula. The reason the quarantine does not encompass the entire state is because Michigan's topography at the Mackinaw bridge creates a natural barrier between the upper and lower peninsula. This natural barrier, which is staffed 24 hrs/7 days a week by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, is a formidable roadblock to the artificial spread of EAB. None of the other States have this natural barrier.

Q: Why hasn't the USDA quarantined the entire state of Maryland?

A: Maryland's EAB infestation represents a single point of entry where infested ash nursery stock was shipped from Michigan to Maryland. Since the date and recipient of the infested nursery stock is known, proper detection, control and eradication activities have been initiated by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

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