

STANDARD SAFETY

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ASIAN GYPSY MOTH SPECIAL EDITION



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▼ 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.

This edition of *Standard Safety* outlines how the Asian gypsy moth can be identified, and advises on the action to be taken if this pest is found on board. 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.

Throughout the year, authorities in the US, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia take a particular interest in ships that have visited the ports of Far East Russia, Japan, Korea and northern China any time from June to September. Authorities in other countries are also likely to be vigilant.

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 certification 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.

Ships presenting an itinerary that cannot adequately verify the location of the ship between 15 May and 15 October will be considered high-risk.

Ships that have visited a port where the Asian gypsy moth is considered prevalent during the high-risk flight period and that have not obtained moth-free certification will be considered high-risk.

CONDUCTING A SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE SHIP

Ships will be expected to perform an intensive self-inspection to look for, remove (scrape off) and properly destroy all egg masses and Asian gypsy moths before entering US and Canadian ports. In this way, they can hope to avoid inspection delays, rerouting and other impacts associated with mitigating the risk, on entry to North America.

∨ Egg masses are the most likely life stage to be found on a ship. Egg masses are velvety in texture and range in colour from light tan to dark brown.



IDENTIFYING THE ASIAN GYPSY MOTH

Both sexes fly. The males are greyish brown. The females are larger, whitish in colour, with prominent black marks on the wings.



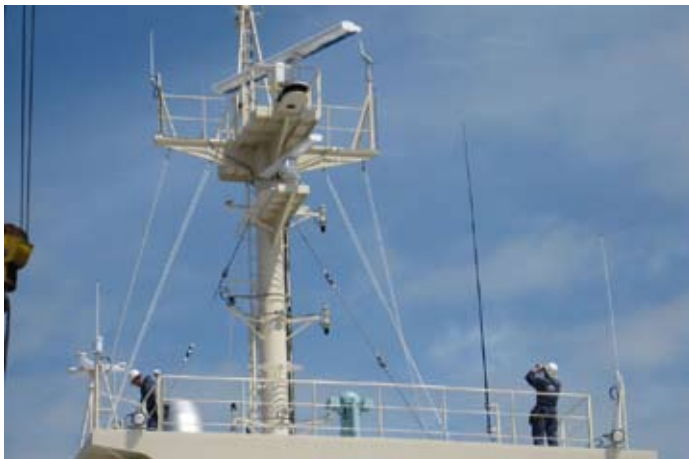
∨ Larvae or caterpillars normally hatch from eggs in early spring and are about 1.6 mm in length. They disperse by blowing on silk strands.



CONDUCTING A SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE SHIP CONT.

INSPECTION EQUIPMENT:

Ships trading to high-risk ports during the high-risk period should be equipped with the following equipment for the purposes of Asian gypsy moth inspection and removal:



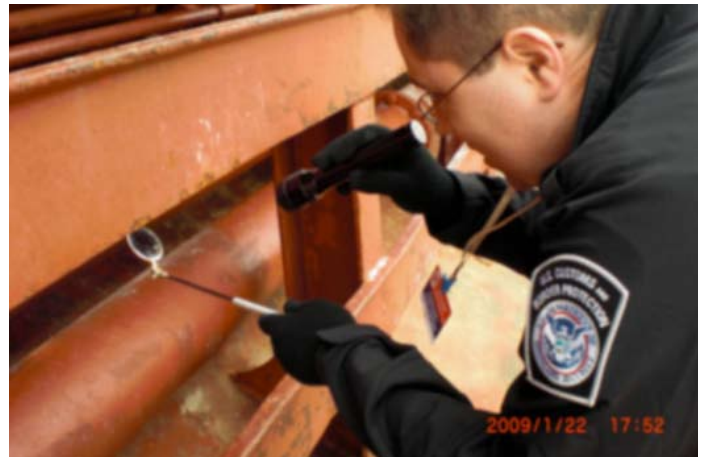
^ Binoculars (additional to bridge equipment)
To inspect inaccessible areas.



^ Knife, paint scraper or putty knife
To scrape the egg masses from the structure.



^ Mirror on a stick
To look around corners and under edges.



^ Flashlight
To help locate moths and eggs in dark places.

Perform a 'walk-around' visual inspection of the superstructure, all surfaces, equipment and cargo on deck.

EXAMPLES OF AREAS TO INSPECT:



^ On hatch covers and coamings



^ Areas exposed to bright lights.
Female moths tend to lay eggs near light sources



^ On decks



^ Sheltered locations
Such as behind pipe fittings



^ On tarpaulin covers

CONDUCTING A SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE SHIP CONT.

EXAMPLES OF WHERE AGM EGG MASSES AND OTHER LIFE STAGES MAY BE FOUND:



^ On the outside of the hull



^ On containers stored on deck



^ On mooring lines



^ On safety rails and supports



< On storage cans and barrels



^ Corners of ships structure

Containers brought on board may have been lying for some time in storage where the Asian gypsy moth is active. Ship's crew should be alert to cargo coming on board hosting egg masses, and request that affected containers be put ashore so that the egg masses can be removed.

COLLECTING AND DESTROYING EGG MASSES

DESTROY EGG MASSES BY DOING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- place egg masses in alcohol
- boil the egg masses in water
- incinerate the egg masses

DO NOT

- paint over the egg masses
- use high-pressure water to remove egg masses
- throw egg masses overboard

The main reason why egg masses should never be discarded by throwing overboard is that there have been instances where they have floated to shore and have continued to develop, hatch and spread.



^ Scraped egg mass



^ Destroying AGM egg masses in boiling water.

FIND OUT MORE

Further information can be obtained via the following organisations:

US – Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service determines inspection procedures and provides risk-related data on countries hosting the Asian gypsy moth.

www.aphis.usda.gov

US – Customs & Border Protection conducts ship inspections

www.cbp.gov

Canada – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

www.inspection.gc.ca

Australia – Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

www.daff.gov.au/aqis

New Zealand – MAF Biosecurity New Zealand

www.biosecurity.govt.nz

Guidance is also available from the website

www.asiangypsymoth.org

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

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