



PATRIOT MARITIME COMPLIANCE, LLC

23 March 2020

PMC CLIENT ADVISORY 07-2020

Subject: Asian Gypsy Moth Policy for Ships Unable to Obtain an AGM Certificate Due to COVID-19

To: All Clients

All ships visiting ports within the Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) regulated areas during that areas specified risk period must have an approved certification body inspect and certify the vessel free of AGM prior to calling on U.S. ports. A list of regulated areas, the specified risk periods, and list of approved certification bodies is included with this Advisory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service recently reported they've become aware of ships being diverted to North America due to COVID-19 concerns. They also report shipping companies are having difficulty obtaining AGM certificates after leaving the regulated ports.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service advises:

- If a vessel remains in the AGM regulated area, obtain a certificate at the last regulated port visited,
- If a vessel has departed the regulated area and is unable to call on a port with approved certification bodies, contact the approved certification bodies to arrange for inspectors to travel to the vessel,
- If not possible to obtain an AGM certificate, ship's crew should thoroughly self-inspect for AGM enroute to U.S. ports,
- U.S. authorities will order ships with detections of excessive AGM out of port for additional cleaning,
- CBP may require alternative boarding strategies such as boarding at anchor for ships not obtaining certification.

Vessels headed to Canada from AGM regulated areas should follow the same procedures and expect the same measures by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.



Self-inspection procedures are found in both of the documents provided with this Advisory. PMC recommends the officers and crew of any ship that has been to an AGM regulated area during its specified risk period inspect their vessel carefully before arriving in the USA or Canada regardless of their ability to obtain a certificate.

Please [contact our office](#) if you have any questions for PMC.

Yours Truly,



Richard M. Naccara
President

