

MEMBER ALERT

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ASIAN GYPSY MOTH: VESSEL INSPECTIONS IN USA AND CANADA

The United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has issued up-dated Ship Inspection Guidelines with regard to the examination of vessels suspected of carrying the Asian gypsy moth (AGM).

Owners are being asked to avoid the charter of vessels destined for the United States or Canada which have called at Russian Far East or certain high-risk Japanese ports during, respectively, the egg-laying and hatching periods of August and September. APHIS may order such infested vessels to leave US waters.

In this context, the US authorities have compiled a list of vessels which have called at Russian and high-risk Japanese ports between July 15 and September 30, 2005. This is known as the AGM Vessel Alert List.

A copy of the Ship Inspection Guidelines can be found at the following website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/gm/guidelines.pdf>.

The list of affected vessels can be found at the following website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/gm/index.html>.

The Russian and Japanese ports considered to be at risk for 2006 can be found at this site by reference to the Vessel Alert List.