

FOR INFORMATION/ACTION
DA-2008-69
October 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Treatment of Firewood of All Hardwood (non-coniferous) Species From Canada

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The purpose of this SPRO is to provide notification that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will be requiring all firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species from Canada to be heat treated at 71.1° Centigrade (minimal core temperature) for 75 minutes. For commercial and noncommercial shipments, the effective date will be October 17, 2008.

This action is to follow up the concerns expressed by State representatives and Customs and Border Protection personnel during the National Plant Board Meeting in August 2008. The movement of firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species can be a source of introduction and dissemination into or within the United States of certain pests of hardwood that are present in Canada such as Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*), gypsy moth, and Japanese beetle. These pests are present in the United States, but they are either not widely distributed or have limited distribution therein. The problem of the movement of such hardwood is increased when it is cut into firewood since it is difficult to identify the species of tree from which the firewood is derived. In addition, we have found that, although movements of commercial hardwood firewood can be certified, the same is not practical or possible for hardwood firewood that is defined as noncommercial, e.g., personal use for camping. Lastly, there have been instances where we were unable to definitively determine whether the firewood transited areas in Canada that were known regulated areas for the listed pests. Firewood transiting through areas of Canada known to be regulated for pests can become infested if not properly safeguarded and segregated during movement.

For all of the reasons stated above, certain regulatory requirements are necessary to safeguard and ensure that firewood entering the United States from Canada has been properly treated in accordance with the Federal Order. Therefore, we will immediately require as of the date of the Federal Order that each commercial shipment must be accompanied by a treatment certificate and each noncommercial shipment must be accompanied by a treatment certificate or an attached commercial treatment label.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact John T. Jones, at (301) 734-8860.

/s/ John H. Payne for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment

FEDERAL IMPORT QUARANTINE ORDER
Firewood from Canada

October 17, 2008

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry of certain pests of hardwood from Canada into the United States. This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation or entry of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction or dissemination of a plant pest into or within the United States.

There are certain pests of hardwood that are present in Canada such as Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), gypsy moth, and Japanese beetle. These pests are present in the United States, but they are either not widely distributed or have limited distribution therein. We currently have regulations in place to protect the United States from the introduction of these pests from Canada through movements of certain commodities. However, we are finding that the movement of firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species can be a source of introduction and dissemination of these pests. The problem of the movement of such hardwood is increased when it is cut into firewood since it is difficult to identify the species of tree from which the firewood is derived. In addition, we have found that, although movements of commercial hardwood firewood can be certified, the same is not practical or possible for hardwood firewood that is noncommercial, e.g., personal use for camping. Lastly, firewood transiting through areas of Canada known to be regulated for pests can become infested if not properly safeguarded and segregated during movement. There have been instances where we were unable to definitively determine whether the firewood transited areas in Canada that were known regulated areas for the listed pests.

For all of the reasons stated above, certain regulatory requirements are necessary to safeguard and ensure that firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species imported from Canada does not introduce certain plant pests into the United States. Therefore, we are immediately requiring as of the date of this Federal Order that firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species from Canada being imported into the United States must be heat treated in accordance with Title 7, *Code of Federal Regulations*, 319.40-7(c), which is a heat treatment requirement of 71.1° Centigrade (minimal core temperature) for 75 minutes.

As verification that firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species entering the United States has been properly treated in accordance with this Federal Order, we will require that each commercial shipment be accompanied by a treatment certificate and each noncommercial shipment be accompanied by a treatment certificate **or** an attached commercial treatment label.

This Federal Order is effective on October 17, 2008, for commercial and noncommercial shipments of firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species from Canada.