



# EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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Burlington, Vermont

## FEDERAL CERTIFICATION FOR THE SAFE MOVEMENT OF FIREWOOD

In March 2010, the National Firewood Task Force (NFTF), comprising representatives from the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, the National Association of State Foresters, the National Plant Board and USDA APHIS, released a set of recommendations for a comprehensive strategy to address the firewood pathway.

Key among the recommendations in the NFTF document was adoption by USDA-APHIS of regulations on recordkeeping and labeling for the interstate movement of firewood, while at the same time evaluating possible options for treatment requirements that would be developed in a separate regulation.

In January 2011, a “Risk Assessment of the Movement of Firewood within the United States”, published by USDA APHIS focused on the immediate risk posed by the movement of firewood as a high-risk pathway for spreading both non-native, and native forest pests throughout the United States.

Major retailers have come to recognize firewood marked with a USDA APHIS quarantine compliance shield as a safe product

Currently firewood suppliers may only obtain a federal shield/label if they are operating from within areas under regulation due to the presence of a pest of federal concern. Firewood suppliers located outside federally regulated areas, in areas where pests of federal regulatory concerns have not been found, are not eligible to obtain a quarantine compliance shield/label.

Retailers are now demanding a recognized label on firewood; paradoxically, businesses sourcing firewood in areas where pests of federal concern are present have a market advantage over businesses operating in areas that do not contain such pests, because they display the APHIS quarantine compliance shield.

**RESOLVED**, by the Eastern Plant Board (EPB) at its 87th annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont, April 19, 2012, that USDA- APHIS is urged to move forward and institute labeling requirements for firewood being moved in interstate commerce as a critical step in protecting the health of our national forest, wild land and urban tree resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that USDA- APHIS should continue to evaluate possible options for treatment requirements that would be adopted in a separate regulation as recommended by the NFTF.

**Distribution:**

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