

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2014-50
November 14, 2014

Subject: APHIS Adds Clayton, Cobb, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, Walton, and Whitfield Counties in Georgia to the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) Regulated Area

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding Clayton, Cobb, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, Walton, and Whitfield Counties in Georgia to the list of regulated areas for the emerald ash borer (EAB). APHIS is taking this action because of the proximity of these counties to known EAB infestations and because of the known patterns of movement of regulated articles.

To prevent the spread of EAB from Georgia to other states, the attached Federal Order outlines the conditions for the interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from the quarantined areas in Georgia. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from the quarantined areas in Georgia is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species.

EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to China and other areas of eastern Asia. The beetle is present in some portions of the United States, and because of its continuing spread, APHIS has established regulated areas that are designated in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) at 7 CFR 301.53-3 and the Federal Orders located at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/eab_quarantine

The interstate movement of firewood from quarantine areas is an especially high-risk pathway for the spread of EAB. Therefore, APHIS works with state cooperators and foresters to prevent the human assisted movement of EAB, develop biological and other controls for EAB, and raise public awareness about this pest and the potential threats associated with the long-distance movement of firewood.

For more information about the EAB program and federal EAB regulations, please call EAB National Policy Manager Paul Chaloux at 301-851-2064.

/s/

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine of Clayton, Cobb, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, Walton,
and Whitfield Counties in Georgia for Emerald Ash Borer
(*Agrilus planipennis*)

DA-2014-50

November 14, 2014

This Federal Order expands the list of regulated areas for emerald ash borer (EAB) to include Clayton, Cobb, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, Walton, and Whitfield Counties in Georgia.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53.

Effective immediately, this Federal Order quarantines the aforementioned nine counties in Georgia for EAB. APHIS is taking this action because of the detection of EAB in eight of these counties, proximity of the additional county to known infestations of EAB, and known patterns of movement of regulated articles. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate these counties in Georgia to prevent the spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from said counties must be done in accordance with any applicable provisions of this Federal Order and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53 et seq. The areas quarantined due to the continuing spread of EAB are designated in the federal regulations located at 7 CFR 301.53-3 and the Federal Orders located at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/eab_quarantine

Section 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) allows the designation of less than an entire state as an EAB quarantined area only when the APHIS Administrator of APHIS has determined—as in this case—that the designation of less than an entire state as a quarantined EAB area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of EAB. In addition, 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) requires that the state enforce an intrastate EAB quarantine that is equivalent to the federal EAB regulations. The state plant regulatory official for Georgia has confirmed the establishment of an intrastate quarantine for the regulated area that mirrors the federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR 301.53.

Section 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) provides for the temporary designation of new quarantined areas pending publication of a rule to add counties to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.53-3(c). Section 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) further requires written notification to the owner or person who possesses a

newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the federal and/or state regulatory personnel who are responsible for the EAB program in the affected state.

Previous Federal Orders pertaining to the expansion of quarantined areas in the EAB domestic regulations have been necessary due to the continuing spread of EAB. This Federal Order further expands the quarantined areas as described in the previous EAB Federal Orders.

If you would like more details about the federal EAB regulatory program, you may call the EAB National Policy Manager Paul Chaloux at 301-851-2064. For information on regulatory requirements for the movement of articles out of quarantined areas in Georgia, please call the APHIS State Plant Health Director Bill Kauffman at 770-860-4023.

We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with Georgia in our effort to prevent the spread of EAB.