SUBJECT: APHIS Adds Warren County, Illinois, and Loudoun County, Virginia, to the Pine Shoot Beetle Quarantine Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) expanded its pine shoot beetle (PSB), *Tomicus piniperda*, quarantine area to include Warren County in Illinois, and Loudoun County in Virginia. This action is a result of the detection of beetles in the subject counties. All interstate movement of regulated articles out of these counties must comply with the PSB-regulatory requirements as per U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 7 CFR §301.50.

These actions are necessary to restrict the movement of PSB-host material. The attached Federal Domestic Quarantine Order describes the expanded quarantine area, along with the associated reference to the CFR, which lists the provisions for the movement of PSB-host material.

For more information concerning APHIS’ PSB Regulatory Program, you may contact Joseph Beckwith, Regional Program Manager, at (919) 855-7345 or Brendon Reardon, National Program Manager, at (301) 734-5705.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order
This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by 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 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 and is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR §301.50.

This Federal Order quarantines, effective immediately, Warren County in Illinois, and Loudoun County in Virginia, for PSB. This action is in response to detection of PSB in these counties. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate Warren County in Illinois and Loudoun County in Virginia in order to prevent the spread of PSB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of PSB-regulated articles from the counties identified above must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found in 7 CFR §301.50.

APHIS has confirmed detections of PSB in various areas of the United States for which the Administrator has determined that it is necessary to quarantine in order to prevent the human assisted spread of PSB. The quarantined areas are designated in the Federal regulations located at 7 CFR §301.50 and in the Federal Orders located at the following APHIS website: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/psb/index.shtml

The 7 CFR §301.50-3(a) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a PSB quarantined area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire state as a quarantined PSB area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of this pest. In addition, 7 CFR §301.50-3(a) requires that the state adopt and enforce an intrastate PSB quarantine that is equivalent to the Federal PSB regulations. The State Plant Regulatory Officials for Virginia and Illinois have confirmed the establishment of an intrastate quarantine for Warren County in Illinois and Loudoun County in Virginia that mirrors the Federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR §301.50.

The 7 CFR §301.50-3(b) provides for the temporary designation of new quarantine areas pending publication of a rule to add those new quarantine areas to the list shown in 7 CFR §301.50-3(c). The 7 CFR §301.50-3(b) further requires written notification be given to the owners of property in a newly quarantined area, advising them of the quarantine and the necessity of complying with the imposed APHIS requirements for the interstate movement of regulated articles. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or State regulatory personnel responsible for the PSB program in the affected state.
For more information concerning APHIS’ PSB Regulatory Program, you may contact Joseph Beckwith, Regional Program Manager, at (919) 855-7345 or Brendon Reardon, National Program Manager, at (301) 734-5705.

APHIS continues to appreciate the cooperative relationship with the State of Illinois and the State of Virginia in our mutual effort to prevent the spread of quarantine pests, including PSB.