



# JAPAN P&I NEWS

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To the Members

## **US and Canada – Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) – Reminder of requirements for vessels entering North America**

In response to reports of high population levels of AGM in some countries regulated for AGM, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian food Inspection Agency (CFIA) jointly published attached bulletin to remind vessel operators of requirements for entering U.S. and Canada safely.

According to the bulletin, it is highlighted that “possessing a valid certificate in no way precludes a ship from being ordered out of port if AGM detected.” It is also recommended that following measures should be taken to avoid any delays to port entry or refusal of entry in North America;

- Arrange for AGM inspection, removal of all AGM life forms and certification as close as possible to departure from areas regulated for AGM to avoid re-infestation
- Ensure that all vessel activities in regulated areas (e.g. bunkering) are concluded or in the process of being concluded prior to obtaining AGM certification
- Conduct vessel self-checking while en route to North America to remove and destroy all egg masses and other life forms of AGM detected
- Ensure vessels are in good repair and decks are clear of debris and unnecessary obstacles to allow for thorough inspection both in AGM regulated areas and upon arrival in North America.

In this regard, we have obtained information that Japan have a large volume of AGM in the Inland sea this year following the previous year. In these areas of high population level of AGM flying to port, it is reported that the vessels, which had obtained the required pre-departure certificate after AGM inspection conducted on the day before departure from port, were exposed to AGM flying during the overnight hours and finally allowed moths to intrude and stay on board when departure next morning.

In addition, there is a case where the bulker vessel having called at Russia failed to enter port in Canada three times due to AGM detection and was prohibited from entering Canada for two months. Having obtained the approved certificate at the port, the vessel finally gained the permission to enter the port at the fourth examination.

Members calling at the AGM regulated Asian areas should be aware of the above and ensure vessel’s self-inspection as soon as possible after departure to be free from of AGM egg masses. Please refer to Japan P&I News [No. 1014](#) regarding requirements set forth by U.S. and Canada in 2019 AGM flying season.

We wish you a pleasant voyage.

## **The Japan Ship Owners’ Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association**

Attachment: USDA-CFIA Joint-AGM-Pre-Season Bulletin (July, 2019)



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# Asian Gypsy Moth

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July 2019

The United States and Canada have received reports of **high population levels** of Asian gypsy moth (AGM) in some countries regulated for AGM. AGM has recently been detected, in some instances in high numbers, on vessels arriving in North America. These detections have led to delayed entry to ports in the United States and Canada and could result in refusal of entry.

**Possessing a valid certificate in no way precludes a ship from being ordered out of port if AGM is detected.**

This notice is issued as a reminder for vessel operators that, to avoid potential delays to port entry or even refusal of entry in North America, they should:

- **Arrange for AGM inspection, removal of all AGM life forms and certification as close as possible to departure from areas regulated for AGM to avoid re-infestation**
- **Ensure that all vessel activities in regulated areas (e.g. bunkering) are concluded or in the process of being concluded prior to obtaining AGM certification**
- **Conduct vessel self-checking while en route to North America to remove and destroy all egg masses and other life forms of AGM detected**
- **Ensure vessels are in good repair and decks are clear of debris and unnecessary obstacles to allow for thorough inspection both in AGM regulated areas and upon arrival in North America.**

Additionally, vessel operators are reminded that inspection and certification must be provided by a recognized source of AGM certificates as outlined in Appendix 4 of *D 95-03 Plant protection policy for marine vessels arriving in Canada from areas regulated for Asian gypsy moth* (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/directives/date/d-95-03/eng/1321945111492/1321945344965>)

and for the United States located on page 3 of Special Procedures for Ships Arriving from Areas with Asian Gypsy Moth:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gypsy\\_moth/downloads/AGM\\_Procedures.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gypsy_moth/downloads/AGM_Procedures.pdf)

Please be advised that, although the U.S. and Canada are fully harmonized on the requirement for AGM pre-departure certification and for vessels arriving free from all AGM life forms (egg masses, pupae, adults), due to sovereign regulations and policies, there are some differences in port-of-entry processes between the two countries. For further questions or information, please visit the webpages of both agencies, where contact information can be found for AGM programs.

Canada: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/directives/date/d-95-03/eng/1321945111492/1321945344965>

U.S.:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gypsy\\_moth/downloads/AGM\\_Procedures.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gypsy_moth/downloads/AGM_Procedures.pdf)