

Circular From GARD

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Asian gypsy moth season 2016

Spring marks the beginning of the Asian gypsy moth (AGM) season in many countries and vessels that visit ports in East Russia, Northern China, Korea, and Japan may be classified as “*high risk of AGM*” when arriving in countries where the pest is not native.



Asian gypsy moth (AGM) is an exotic pest with established populations only in Asia Pacific countries such as Russia, China, Korea, and Japan. If introduced to countries where it does not exist naturally, it has the potential to seriously affect the country’s agricultural and forest resources. Adult moths frequently lay their egg masses on vessels and shipping containers in Asia Pacific during May to September, and, since these egg clusters often survive to hatch at ports of call around the world, exclusion efforts are considered a priority by many port authorities.

Countries currently known to regulate and inspect arriving vessels for AGM are: the *United States (US), Canada, Chile, Australia and New Zealand*. However, even if these countries agree on the objectives of AGM regulation, there are still differences in the requirements and port-of-entry processes between the countries. Gard’s recently published “[Frequently asked questions - managing Asian gypsy moth risks](#)” provides answers to some of the questions raised by our Members and clients. The FAQ summarises the requirements set forth by each of the regulating countries and provides links to relevant government websites. Guidelines for how the crew can carry out systematic self-inspections onboard the vessel while en route are also included.

Source of Information: Gard P&I Club