

Overview of NAPPO RSPM 33

Guidelines for Regulating the Movement of Vessels from Areas Infested with the Asian Gypsy Moth



Purpose: Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) is a serious pest that is absent from North America. It feeds on the foliage of over 600 plant species and, if established in our region, could do serious harm to the environment and to commerce dependent on forestry resources. RSPM 33 provides guidance for regulating shipping vessels originating in AGM-infested areas (Russian Federation, Japan, South Korea, and parts of China) that are bound for North America to prevent the entry and establishment of AGM in our region.

Contents: RSPM 33 has two parts: **Part 1** discusses the basis for regulating this pest. It includes background information on AGM and on areas infested by this pest. **Part 2** describes risk management options including which entities are responsible for risk management at origin, in transit, and upon vessel arrival in North America, and indicates actions to be taken in cases of non-compliance.

Summary of Part 1 – Basis for Regulating: After reviewing AGM interception data, a NAPPO Pest Risk Analysis Panel (2008) recommended the adoption of harmonized risk management measures for shipping vessels originating in AGM infested areas that are bound for North America during period(s) of high risk including the period of AGM female flight and of larval spread through ballooning.

Summary of Part 2 – Risk Management: Managing risk at ports located in AGM-infested areas is crucial to prevent AGM introduction into North America. Measures that may be employed by NPPOs include vessel inspection and certification and issuance of phytosanitary certificates (PCs) or other documents attesting to AGM freedom, use of systems approaches to reduce AGM populations and establishment and maintenance of pest free areas to facilitate vessel and cargo movement.

Risk management measures on vessels and at ports located in AGM-infested areas is the responsibility of the shipping line. The ship's master ensures that pre-departure inspection and certification is completed, and that the vessel's AGM-free status is maintained *en-route*. Prior to arrival in North America a valid PC or other document attesting to AGM freedom must be presented. Inspection and cleaning of cargo and containers at ports in AGM-infested areas by the private sector (e.g., shipping agents, exporters, freight forwarders) will avoid costly delays and cargo rejections at North American ports. NAPPO NPPOs may inspect the vessel and cargo upon arrival to verify AGM freedom.

When non-compliance is verified by a NAPPO member country the following actions may be taken: If certification documents are absent or incomplete the vessel may be refused entry, redirected to other destinations, or be assessed a penalty. If signs of AGM are found on the vessel, the vessel may be required to leave the port, be redirected, or be assessed a penalty. Re-entry of the vessel may be allowed after cleaning and re-inspection. In the case of contaminated cargo, the vessel may return only after the cargo has been cleaned or treated and re-inspected.

Please read RSPM 33 for a more complete description of the guidelines for regulating vessels infested with AGM.

Photo by Stephanie Bloem