

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2018-06

February 23, 2018

Subject: APHIS Adds Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita Counties in Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota; Strafford County in New Hampshire; and the entire State of 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 Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita Counties in Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota; Strafford County in New Hampshire; and the entire state of Georgia to the list of regulated areas for the emerald ash borer (EAB). APHIS is taking this action in response to the spread of EAB in these areas.

After extensive discussion with the Georgia Forestry Association, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and other partners and stakeholders, APHIS determined that the EAB quarantine area shall include the entire state of Georgia. Additionally, after discussions with the coinciding state departments of agriculture, APHIS will expand the quarantine area in portions of Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Hampshire.

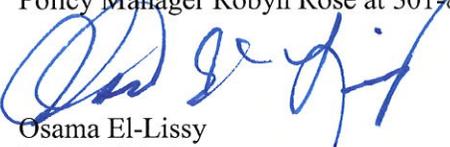
To prevent the spread of EAB to other states, the attached Federal Order outlines specific conditions for the interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from the quarantined area in the entire state of Georgia; Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita counties in Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota; and Strafford County in New Hampshire. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from the quarantined areas in Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Hampshire 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 East 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 7 *Code of Federal Regulations* 301.53-3 and the Federal Orders located at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/eab\\_quarantine](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 Robyn Rose at 301-851-2283.



Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

## FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine of Georgia, and Portions of Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Hampshire for  
Emerald Ash Borer  
(*Agrilus planipennis*)

DA-2018-06  
February 23, 2018

This Federal Order expands the list of regulated areas for emerald ash borer (EAB) to include Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita counties in the States of Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota; Strafford County in New Hampshire; and the entire State of 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 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 301.53.

Effective immediately, this Federal Order quarantines Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita counties in Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota; Strafford County in New Hampshire; and all of the State of Georgia for EAB. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate these areas to prevent the spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita counties in Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota; Strafford County in New Hampshire; and the entire state of Georgia 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 and the Federal Orders located at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/eab\\_quarantine](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 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. After extensive discussion with the Georgia Forestry Association, Georgia Forestry Commission and Department of Agriculture staff, and numerous other partners and stakeholders, it has been determined that the Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia Department of Agriculture will

extend the quarantine area of Georgia to encompass the entire state. Additionally, after discussions with the state departments of agriculture from Louisiana, Minnesota and New Hampshire, APHIS will expand the quarantine area to the following counties: Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, and Ouachita counties in Louisiana; Martin County in Minnesota, Strafford County in New Hampshire.

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 wish more details on the federal EAB regulatory program, you may call EAB National Policy Manager Robyn Rose at 301-851-2283. For information on the regulatory requirements to move articles out of quarantined areas for the States in this Federal order, you may contact the following APHIS State Plant Health Directors: Georgia, please call Bill Kauffman at (770) 860-4020; for Louisiana, Tad Hardy at (225) 298-5410; for Minnesota, Erin Stiers at (952) 814-1071, and for New Hampshire, Stephen Lavallee at (802) 224-1402.

We appreciate the cooperative relationship with Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Hampshire in our effort to prevent the spread of EAB.