

**Regulatory Protocols for the Giant African Snail**  
**(*Lissachatina fulica*)**  
**April 13, 2012**

No person may move interstate from any quarantined area any regulated article except in accordance with the Federal Order: Domestic Quarantine for the Giant African Snail [DA-2012-12] posted at the APHIS website:  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gas/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gas/index.shtml)

This document describes the regulatory protocols for moving regulated articles interstate from a quarantined area with certificates issued by an inspector or person operating under a compliance agreement.

**Interstate Movement of Regulated Articles from Quarantined Areas**

Maps and descriptions of the quarantined areas for GAS are posted at the APHIS website:  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gas/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gas/index.shtml)

The following regulated articles may be moved interstate from a quarantined area if accompanied by a certificate:

- a. Plants;
- b. Plant parts;
- c. Yard waste;
- d. Any article capable of transporting or harboring plant feeding snails, including, but not limited to, soil, debris, compost, and building materials (e.g., bricks, tiles, concrete).

Any regulated article may be moved interstate from a quarantined area if accompanied by a certificate issued in accordance with Section A - **Issuance and Cancellation of Certificates** and Section B - **Attachment and Disposition of Certificates and Recordkeeping** within these protocols, and provided that the regulated article is moved through the quarantined area without stopping except for refueling, rest stops, emergency repairs, and for traffic conditions, such as traffic lights or stop signs.

Section A - Issuance and Cancellation of Certificates

- a. An inspector may issue a certificate for the interstate movement of regulated articles from a quarantined area if the inspector determines that articles:
  - i. Are shipped from a nursery in a quarantined area that has been inspected in accordance with the inspection described in Section C - **Inspection and Sampling Protocols**, and regulated articles and the nursery are free of evidence of *Lissachatina fulica* infestation; and
  - ii. Have not been grown in, or moved from, other areas within a quarantined area except nurseries that are annually inspected for *Lissachatina fulica* in accordance

with Section C - **Inspection and Sampling Protocols**, and that have been found free of evidence of *Lissachatina fulica*.

Certificates may also be issued by any person engaged in the business of growing, processing, handling, or moving regulated articles or nursery stock provided such person has entered into and is operating under a compliance agreement in accordance with Section D - **Compliance Agreements**. In addition, any such person may execute and issue a certificate for the interstate movement of regulated articles or nursery stock if an inspector has previously made the determination that the article is eligible for a certificate.

- b. Any certificate that has been issued may be withdrawn, either orally or in writing, by an inspector if he or she determines that the holder of the certificate has not complied with all conditions for the use of the certificate.

#### Section B - Attachment/ Disposition and Recordkeeping of Certificates

- a. A certificate required for the interstate movement of a regulated article must, at all times during the interstate movement, be:
  - i. Attached to the outside of the container containing the regulated article; or
  - ii. Attached to the regulated article itself if not in a container; or
  - iii. Attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill. If the certificate is attached to the consignee's copy of the waybill, the regulated article must be sufficiently described on the certificate and on the waybill to identify the regulated article.
- b. The certificate for the interstate movement of a regulated article must be furnished by the carrier to the consignee listed on the certificate upon arrival at the location provided on the certificate.
- c. All nurseries and stock dealers that are operating under compliance agreements must maintain records of all incoming shipments of plants for a minimum of 24 months and must make them available to inspectors upon request. In addition, all nurseries that are operating under compliance agreements, except retail dealers, must maintain records of outgoing shipments for a minimum of 6 months and must make them available to inspectors upon request.

#### Section C - Inspection and Sampling Protocols

- a. To meet the requirements of Section A - **Issuance and Cancellation of Certificates**, nurseries and stock dealers located in the quarantined area and that move regulated articles interstate must comply with the following inspection and sampling protocols. Nurseries in quarantined areas that do not meet the requirements are prohibited from moving regulated articles interstate.

- i. Annual inspection – The nursery must be inspected annually for *Lissachatina fulica* by an inspector. Inspectors will visually inspect for presence of snails throughout the nursery, and inspection will focus on, but not be limited to, regulated articles.
  - ii. Pre-shipment inspection – During the 30 days prior to interstate movement from a nursery, regulated articles intended for interstate movement must be inspected for *Lissachatina fulica*. Inspection will focus on, but not be limited to, regulated articles. No inspections of shipments will be conducted unless the nursery from which the shipment originates has a current and valid annual certification.
- b. For entities, other than nurseries and stock dealers, that would like to move regulated articles listed in this regulatory protocol from a quarantined area interstate, a limited permit may be issued by Federal personnel.

#### Section D - Compliance Agreements

- a. Any person engaged in growing, processing, handling, or moving regulated articles may enter into a compliance agreement when an inspector determines that the person understands the provisions and agrees to comply with all the provisions contained in the compliance agreement.
- b. Any compliance agreement may be canceled, either orally or in writing, by an inspector whenever the inspector finds that the person who has entered into the compliance agreement has failed to comply with the provisions.

#### Section E - Availability of Inspectors

- a. Any person (other than a person authorized to issue certificates under Section A - **Issuance and Cancellation of Certificates**) who desires to move a regulated article accompanied by a certificate must notify an inspector as far in advance of the desired interstate movement as possible, but no less than 48 hours before the desired time of inspection.
- b. The regulated articles must be assembled at the place and in the manner the inspector designates as necessary.

#### Section F - Definitions

**Administrator.** The Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or any person authorized to act for the Administrator.

**Certificate.** An official stamp or imprint, form, or other document authorized by the Administrator to affirm that a specified regulated article is eligible for interstate movement *to any destination*.

Compliance agreement. A written agreement between an inspector and a person engaged in growing, handling, or moving regulated articles, wherein the person agrees to comply with the conditions stipulated in the agreement and in the Federal Order for the domestic quarantine for GAS.

Giant African Snail. Any life stage of *Lissachatina fulica*, formerly *Achatina fulica*.

Inspector. Any employee of APHIS or other person authorized by the Administrator to perform the duties required.

Limited permit. A document in which an inspector affirms that the regulated article identified on the document is eligible for interstate movement *only to a specified destination and only in accordance with specified conditions*.

Plant. The term “plant” means any plant (including any plant part) for or capable of propagation, including a tree, a tissue culture, a plantlet culture, pollen, a shrub, a vine, a cutting, a graft, a scion, a bud, a bulb, a root, and a seed.

Quarantined area. Any area within which a quarantine pest is present and is being officially controlled.