

Forestry Emerald Ash Borer Shipping and Hauling Hardwood Firewood

B. Ammerman, J.W. Stringer, C. Fackler, and C. Niman, UK Forestry Extension and J. Collins, UK Entomology

Information contained in this fact sheet is specific to individuals involved in the shipping of hardwood firewood. A certificate will be needed to move any firewood outside of the federal Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine area that covers Kentucky. This fact sheet describes the rules and how to obtain the certificates. For specific information on logging, lumber, and other ash wood products, see the references at the end of this fact sheet.

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

The Emerald Ash Borer (also referred to as EAB) is a small, ½- to ¾-inch, emerald-colored, winged insect that lays eggs in the bark of the branches of all species of ash trees and generally goes undetected until the trees die. EAB larvae can continue to live in the inner bark of firewood



Photo courtesy: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

long after the tree has been cut and processed into firewood; so when EAB is found in an area, a quarantine is put in place to slow or stop the spread of the infestation beyond the quarantined area.

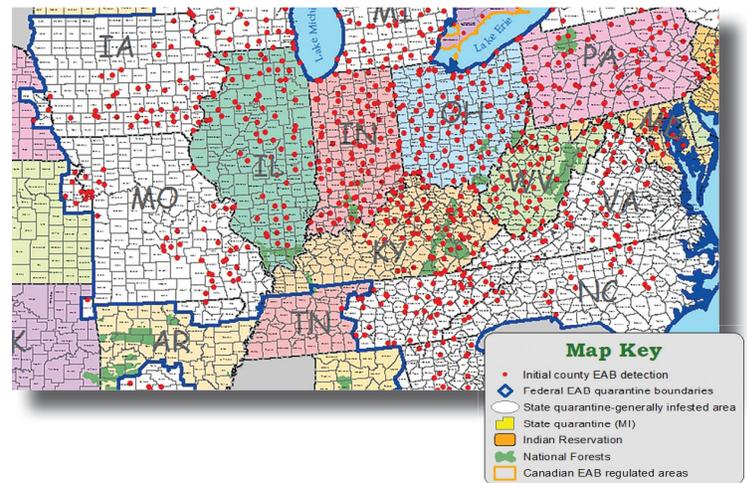
Consequently, a federal quarantine has been established covering all the counties in Kentucky, allowing for free movement of wood anywhere within the quarantine area. If you plan to move or sell firewood outside the state of Kentucky, make sure to consult that state's regulatory official. Consult websites listed at the end of this fact sheet for updates.

Restrictions on the Movement of Hardwood Firewood

Once a quarantine has been issued, it becomes a violation to move hardwood firewood out of the quarantine area without entering into an EAB compliance agreement. All hardwoods species are included in this quarantine since ash firewood is difficult to distinguish from other hardwood species. The compliance agreement is simply a written plan that you agree to follow and is good for one year from the date issued. Not all compliance agreements will include exactly the same things. They are written for each specific operation.

Additionally, there may be restrictions on the movement of hardwood firewood INSIDE the federal quarantine area, as some states have additional regulations pertaining to the movement of firewood. For example, Kentucky State Parks only allow “APHIS certified firewood” into their parks.

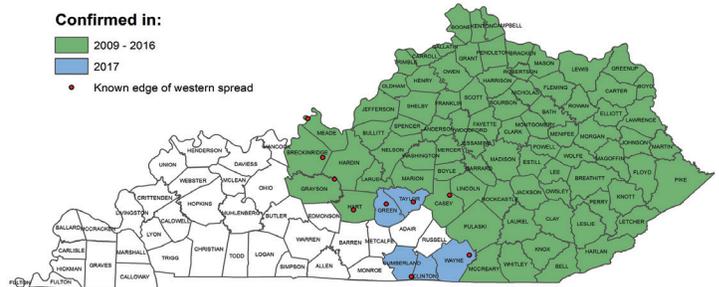
A federal quarantine map (found below) can be found at http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/Multi-State_EABpos.pdf. Visit <http://nationalplantboard.org/membership/> to check with individual state agencies for additional requirements.



Certificates

The compliance agreement is needed to move hardwood firewood out of the federal quarantine area. An inspection is also required by the USDA, APHIS office to ensure that you are meeting the temperature and moisture or fumigation requirements for your firewood.

EAB Infested Counties



Map above shows currently infested counties in Kentucky and is not reflective of the federal quarantine.



Pile of ash firewood showing EAB galleries.

Photo courtesy: Chad Niman

The USDA will coordinate this once you have contacted them for the compliance agreement. Then you are given a certificate for each individual shipment. A certificate is required to ship ash out of the quarantine area at any time of the year. In order to get a certificate the wood has to be treated to kill any EAB larvae that might be in the shipment. Heat treatment is the most common method that is used to treat hardwood firewood for the EAB.

There are other methods that can be used—fumigation, bark removal plus an additional ½” of material, and others—however methods generally cost too much to be used on firewood (for a complete list of treating methods and procedures, see the references below). When filling out the compliance agreement form, there is a place to specify which treatment method is going to be used.

Each certificate that is issued requires an inspection. A copy of the certificate must be kept with the load and, wherever possible, attached to the waybill, shipping ticket, or bill of lading.

Applying for a Compliance Agreement

You can apply for a Compliance Agreement by calling USDA, APHIS at (859) 689-2626. It may take several days to process, so plan ahead!

In filling out the application, you are indicating how you are going to treat the firewood to prevent any EAB that might be in the wood from spreading. The compliance agreement application requires the following information:

- The physical address where the firewood (termed “regulated articles” on the form) will be available for inspection. (Make sure that you provide a working phone number so the inspector can call someone to get an exact location.)
- Your mailing address and phone number
- A list of all types of regulated articles. (Type in one or more of the appropriate products: e.g. ash logs, chips containing ash, lumber, and firewood).

- How the firewood will be treated (select one or more). For specific procedures, see fact sheet “Forestry Emerald Ash Borer – Industry Note July 2012 EAB Treatments for Ash Lumber, Firewood, Logs, and Sawmill Residuals” (www.ukforestry.org).



Photo courtesy: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

- Heat treatment (140°F in the center for 60 minutes). This is the typical treatment used for firewood.
- Debarked at least a half-inch into the wood (as indicated by the removal of all inner and outer bark). This is the common method of treating logs, but debarking is usually not practical for firewood or other small-diameter low-grade wood.
- Other acceptable treatments that can be used include fumigation or kiln sterilization to a specific standard. While these treatments can be used for wood products such as lumber or high valued veneer logs, none of these treatments are generally economically feasible for firewood or other low-grade material.

Ash-wood products such as logs, lumber, chips, and other sawmill residuals have different stipulations and requirements. For more information regarding these products see the references below.

Summary

1. Hardwood firewood may move freely within the federal quarantine area, which includes Kentucky. But, make sure there are no state or local restrictions.
2. If you want to ship hardwood firewood from within the quarantine area to a state outside of the quarantine area or sell packaged firewood, you must obtain a Compliance Agreement and certificate from U S D A , APHIS.
3. If all handling of hardwood



D-shaped EAB exit hole on an ash tree.

Photo courtesy: Lee Townsend, UK Entomology

firewood is done outside the quarantine area (i.e. harvesting, hauling, processing, etc.), nothing needs to be done.

4. Hardwood firewood from outside the quarantined area may move freely into the quarantine area as long as the firewood did not originate from or pass through a quarantined area.
5. Hardwood firewood being hauled or shipped through the quarantine area (i.e. going from a non-quarantined area through quarantined area to another non-quarantined area) will need to be under a Compliance Agreement. The load needs to stay covered and the driver can only stop for traffic conditions and refueling.
6. Compliance agreements are the first step in being able to ship hardwood firewood out of the quarantine area. You must then obtain a certificate for each individual load.
7. Compliance agreements are good for one year from when they were issued.
8. A certificate can be used to ship or haul ash products anytime of the year to any location and the receiver does not have to have a compliance agreement to accept the load. Certificates require the hardwood firewood to be treated.
9. There are several ways hardwood firewood can be treated: fumigation, removal of bark and a ½” of additional wood, and heat treating. Heat treating is the one most commonly used for firewood. For specific treating requirements see references below.
10. Do to an APHIS EAB regulatory policy change as of July 1, 2012, hardwood firewood can be transported into contiguous regulatory areas that cross state borders without a limited permit or a certificate as long as the firewood is not being transported through or delivered to protected counties in states outside of the federal quarantine. Use this link, http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf for an updated map of the federal quarantine area. Each state may have their own polices for the movement of hardwood firewood. It is advisable to consult with each state before transporting hardwood firewood across its lines. For more information, contact Kentucky’s Office of the State Entomologist at the University of Kentucky. For shipments out of the state of Kentucky, visit <http://nationalplantboard.org/membership/> to find the proper agency to ensure here are no additional state requirements.



Standing dead ash tree.

Photo courtesy: Chad Niman

For additional information:

- **Federal quarantine map:** http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf
- **Compliance Agreement – Kentucky:** <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/NurseryInspection/phyto/complianceagreementapp.html>
- **All aspects of EAB and the quarantine in Kentucky:** <http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/welcomeeab.html>
- **Overall information on the emerald ash borer insect:** www.emeraldashborer.info
- **Contact information for state agencies when moving firewood outside of Kentucky:** <http://nationalplantboard.org/membership/>
- **Kentucky’s Office of the State Entomologist at the University of Kentucky - official quarantine areas, movement of firewood:** (859) 257-5838 www.KyStateEnt.org
- **Quarantine in Kentucky as it relates to forest industry:**
- **Forestry EAB Industry Fact Sheets at the University of Kentucky Forestry Extension website:** Update once placed on website