



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

Dear Valued Stakeholders:

Recently, APHIS reviewed the emerald ash borer (EAB) regulatory program to ensure resources are focused on the most effective strategies to mitigate the human-assisted spread of EAB. Beginning April 1, APHIS' policy regarding the EAB quarantine regulations will change. Our current understanding of EAB biology, behavior and distribution has led us to shift the regulatory framework to more effectively use the resources available to address EAB. I would like to take this opportunity to explain this policy change and the underlying factors that led us to make this modification.

We are modifying our EAB regulatory policy to focus resources along the perimeter of the quarantine areas in order to maximize our impact on preventing the human-assisted spread of EAB to new locations. Specifically, contiguous regulated areas that cross state borders will be treated as a single regulated area (see attached map); presently each affected State or portion thereof is treated as a separate regulated area.

APHIS reviewed data on the movement of regulated articles originating in EAB quarantine areas and concluded that the vast majority of movement is within contiguous regulated areas. Therefore, the new policy will permit unrestricted movement of regulated articles within contiguous quarantined areas. The conditions for movement of regulated articles out of an EAB-quarantine area remain unchanged. This policy change aligns the EAB program's regulatory framework with other programs that support large, contiguous, multi-state quarantines, such as gypsy moth, pine shoot beetle, and imported fire ant. We anticipate that this will reduce the complexities of our regulatory requirements for affected stakeholders while maintaining measures to prevent human-assisted spread to uninfested areas.

This change in regulatory policy does not reflect a lack of commitment by APHIS to minimize the impacts of EAB. We remain concerned about the threat posed by EAB and look forward to our continued partnership to safeguard our Nation's forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca A. Bech

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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