

Moving and processing ash logs potentially infested with emerald ash borer within quarantined counties of Wisconsin.

8/21/12

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is one of the few invasive species that is both a federally quarantined pest and an invasive insect listed on the Wisconsin Invasive Species Code, Chapter NR40 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Loggers and mills may be familiar with quarantine restrictions on moving ash logs from quarantined to unquarantined areas but may not be familiar with what actions are needed to comply with NR40 when moving ash logs within a quarantined area.

Chapter NR 40 states that “. . . no person may transport, possess, transfer or introduce a prohibited invasive species . . .”, but also states that that provision “does not apply . . . if the department determines that the transportation, possession, transfer or introduction was incidental or unknowing, and was not due to the person’s failure to take reasonable precautions.” The purpose of this document is to spell out some best management practices (BMPs) that the Department considers to be “reasonable precautions” in the handling of logs that may be infested with EAB within a quarantined area. These BMPs are not all inclusive but are a representative example of BMPs that may minimize the risk of transfer of EAB.

Individuals who follow the BMPs listed below may demonstrate to the Department that they have taken reasonable precautions to avoid the possession, transport and transfer of EAB. These BMPs are not requirements, but individuals in possession of a species prohibited under Ch. NR 40 may be deemed to have taken reasonable precautions to avoid possession if the BMPs have been followed, provided that the importation is also in compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, and orders of state and federal agencies, including quarantine orders.

Best management practices for handling potentially EAB-infested logs within a quarantined area:

1. Chipping is done according to the following procedures:
 - a. Chipping completed as soon as possible during April 1 – Sept 30.
 - b. Infested wood cut or received during the period of Oct-March 31 is chipped by April 30.
 - c. It is not necessary to chip below 1 inch on two sides if the chips are not going out of the quarantine.
2. If logs must be moved to where they will be processed, move them during the period of Oct 1-March 31.
3. Mills receiving ash logs known or suspected to be infested, during the period of Oct 1-March 31, should process them by April 30 and destroy the bark by chipping or burning by this date.

If you have additional actions you think could also prevent spread of EAB within the quarantined area from infested logs, please contact Andrea Diss-Torrance (andrea.disstorrance@WI.gov) for assessment of your proposal and possible addition to this list of BMPs for EAB infested logs.