

PEST CONTROL. HOW TO PREVENT DAMAGE FROM THE FLIGHTED SPONGY MOTH COMPLEX (FSMC) / ASIAN GYPSY MOTH (AGM) 2023.

The FSMC/AGM, including such subspecies as *Lymantria dispar asiatica*, *Lymantria dispar japonica*, *Lymantria albescens*, *Lymantria umbrosa*, *Lymantria postalba*, are a very destructive forest pest that feeds on both deciduous and coniferous trees. The insatiable appetite of the caterpillars of these moths, combined with the ability of females to travel considerable distances (up to 20 nautical miles), can cause large-scale defoliation (mass leaf fall), as a result of which trees weaken and become susceptible to diseases and other pests.

The FSMC is found mainly in Asia or Russia. A high risk of detection of larvae of these insects is found on ships entering the ports of Korea, Northern China (north of Shanghai), and, in particular, in the Far East of Russia and Japan during the migration of females.

Males of the FSMC/AGM are grayish-brown species with a wingspan of 30 to 40 mm. Females are whitish-pale yellow with noticeable black markings on the wings and are larger than males with a wingspan of 40 to 70 mm.

FSMC females are hardy insects and are attracted to bright light, so their eggs can be found near outdoor lights and floodlights on ships. Also, if powerful coastal lights are directed at the vessel, eggs can be detected throughout the vessel and its cargo.

Checking vessels for the presence of *Lymantria dispar japonica*, their extraction and disposal are the main tools to prevent the spread of these individuals in new regions.

Some destination countries require vessels visiting high-risk countries during the breeding season of FSMC to be checked and certified for the absence of traces

of the presence of a *Lymantria albescens* by the relevant authorities immediately before departure.

If no signs of infection are found, the relevant representative office will issue a certificate to the vessel confirming that there are no traces of larvae. Depending on the authority that issued the certificate, it may be a "Certificate of inspection for the absence of signs of Flighted Spongy Moth/Asian Gypsy Moth" or a "Phytosanitary certificate".

If during the breeding season a vessel visits several ports in the same country or several ports in different countries from a high-risk zone, an official inspection must be carried out immediately before departure from the last port of the above zone during this season.

In order to reduce the risk of pest spread when entering ports in the high-risk zone during the breeding season of the Unpaired Silkworm, regardless of the requirements of official authorities when entering ports in the risk zone, vessels are recommended:

- Immediately before departure, to conduct a thorough visual inspection of the residential superstructure, decks, deck equipment, holds, cargo and cargo equipment. Binoculars can be used to inspect hard-to-reach areas of the ship's superstructure, such as the underside of the bridge wings. Similarly, a small mirror attached to a stick can be used to inspect hard-to-reach places, for example, behind pipelines near the hatch coaming.
- To conduct another thorough visual inspection on the way to the destination port.
- To scrape off all detected pest eggs. Don't paint them over, as it won't kill them. Do not remove them with high-pressure water pistols, as some eggs can be washed overboard, and salt water do not kill them; there have been cases when the FSMC eggs floated ashore and continued to develop and hatch.
- Prior to arrival to destroy any egg masses that have been scraped off. Eggs may be destroyed by placing them in alcohol, boiling them in water, freezing them or by incineration.

- To record details of all visual inspections and the removal and disposal of AGM eggs in the vessel's deck logbook.

Additional information can be found in the [guide](#) on inspections to prevent the spread of the FSMC/AGM.