



## Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic invasive pest of ash trees. It is now established in numerous other states and was first found in Georgia in 2013 in DeKalb and Fulton Counties. EAB has killed 10's of millions of ash trees across the U.S., and is a serious threat to the ash component in Georgia's forests. EAB is a federally regulated pest and to combat the spread of EAB, a regional quarantine has been established to prevent human-assisted transport of EAB to areas where the beetle has not yet been detected.

Native to Asia, EAB is a small bullet-shaped, ½ to ¾ inch long, emerald colored beetle. In Georgia from March to November, adult beetles emerge from ash trees and females search for and lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. The larvae burrow into and feed on the inner bark of ash trees until the following spring. It is difficult to determine if ash trees, logs, and products are infested because EAB larvae may continue to feed under the bark and develop within ash logs long after they have been cut or processed. For this reason, human-assisted transport of potentially infested ash must be regulated to slow the spread of EAB throughout our state.

The state has been divided into two different zones based on the year-round risk of EAB emergence. With a warmer climate, southern portions of Georgia are at a risk for EAB emergence year round (flight zone); while in the northern portions of the state, the probability of EAB emergence is very low from November 1 to March 1 (non-flight zone). See EAB Activity Map at: <http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm> .

Since its initial detection in 2013, EAB has been found in 23 Georgia counties to date and is now in 29 states. Ash materials from these counties plus others in the region have been placed under the EAB quarantine to slow the spread of this pest. As EAB is detected in new counties, the quarantined areas may be updated. Please check the EAB Quarantine Map on the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) website to for the most up-to-date quarantine map: [www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm)

Regulated ash materials include the Emerald Ash Borer in any life stage, firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species, ash nursery stock, green (non-heat treated) ash lumber, other living, dead, cut, or fallen, material of the genus *Fraxinus*, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, and composted and uncomposted chips that have not been ground to a small enough size to destroy EAB in any life stage.

A few quick details about the EAB quarantine:

- **Ash materials and products from EAB quarantined areas may be moved freely within quarantined areas.**
- **Facilities/Companies that process and ship ash products originating inside a quarantined area or receiving untreated ash materials from quarantined areas must obtain a Compliance Agreement. Chipping operations fit in this category. Each load of treated ash products must be accompanied by a Certificate.**



## Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



- In the northern region (non-flight zones), untreated ash materials from quarantined areas can only be moved outside of a quarantined area from November 1 to March 1, and each load must be accompanied by a Limited Permit to a facility that has a Compliance Agreement. These materials must be processed by March 1.
- In the southern region (flight zones), untreated ash materials from quarantined areas must remain within quarantined areas year-round.

**Compliance Agreements** verify that a facility meets the criteria for the treatment of ash materials for EAB. (See Addendum to PPQ Form 519 for treatment processes that meet EAB Quarantine criteria.) A Compliance Agreement will be issued by a regulatory agent once a site inspection has been conducted and he verifies that the facility meets the criteria for treatment.

To request a Compliance Agreement visit: <http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm>

Information needed to complete the application includes:

- Contact name, mailing address, and phone number
- Physical location of receiving mill
- Type of ash material being treated (i.e. logs, green lumber, firewood, chips)
- Type of treatment (i.e. debarking, fumigation, heat treatment, chipping)

Requests for Compliance Agreements will be taken on a first come, first served basis and responded to as calendars allow.

**Limited Permits** allow movement of untreated ash materials from a quarantined area to a non-quarantined area to be treated. In Georgia, Limited Permits will only be assigned on a load by load basis from November 1 – March 1 and only in the northern region of the state. Please contact a Georgia Forestry Commission Forest Health Specialist to request a Limited Permit.

**Certificates** are attached to loads of ash products to verify that they have been treated in a way that prevents the movement of EAB. In some instances, an e-certificate may be issued to a company with a Compliance Agreement for mulch/chipped material or firewood.

Transporting untreated ash materials from quarantined to non-quarantined areas or knowingly selling ash materials from a quarantined area in a non-quarantined area without an accompanying Certificate or Limited Permit violates federal and state regulations.

**Thank you for doing your part to keep Georgia's forests healthy!**



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



## Explanation of How to Handle Ash Logs, Products, and Waste Materials

### Harvesting Ash Logs

Ash logs cut in **non-quarantined counties** may be moved throughout Georgia year round.

Ash logs cut **within quarantined areas** can be transported within the quarantined areas year round.

In the southern region (flight zone), ash logs cut **within quarantined areas** must remain in quarantined areas.

However, in the northern region (non-flight zone), **ash logs cut in quarantined areas can only be moved into non-quarantined areas from November 1 to March 1, and must be accompanied by a Limited Permit.** Processing facilities receiving those ash logs must have a current Compliance Agreement.

Once harvested, ash logs in quarantined areas may be either loaded separately in ash only loads or in mixed loads, the butts of all round ash logs must be painted in a manner that distinguishes them from the other logs. Loads containing ash logs cut from quarantined areas must also be accompanied by a Limited Permit, to verify the untreated ash will only be transported to a receiving mill that has a Compliance Agreement.

Ash materials must be assembled in a location and a manner to ease the inspection process, so a Limited Permit may be easily issued. Load sheets must state how the logs are marked and the destination of the logs. A separate Limited Permit will be issued for each rail car or truck.

Limited Permits are valid for 4 weeks; extended dates are possible by approval of an EAB inspection agent. Limited Permits are produced in triplicate with the white copy remaining with the EAB inspector, and two copies going with the load to the receiving mill. Once signed, the mill keeps the pink copy and holds the yellow copy for collection by GFC upon inspection.

Receiving facilities must keep copies of Limited Permits for 36 months. Each logger and facility will ensure the Limited Permits are safeguarded from misuse, unauthorized use, and loss. No duplicates of Limited Permits may be created without approval of a federal or state regulatory agent.

**Ash logs brought from a quarantined area into a non-quarantined area between March 1 and November 1 that are not accompanied by the appropriate documentation must be immediately destroyed on site.** An Emergency Action Notification (EAN) may be issued for mandatory destruction of the ash and the date by which the ash must be destroyed.



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



## Sawmill Outside Quarantined Areas

Facilities outside of quarantined areas must sign a Compliance Agreement to receive ash materials from quarantined areas. Processing facilities may only receive untreated ash materials from the northern region (non-flight zone) quarantined areas from November 1 through March 1. Processing facilities outside the quarantined areas may never receive ash materials from southern region (flight zone) quarantined areas.

Each untreated ash load must be accompanied by a Limited Permit when it is received at the facility. All ash materials must be stored separately from other materials until processed.

All ash from quarantined areas must be either:

1. Debarked and removal of additional ½ inch of wood
2. Kiln sterilized (maximum wood thickness of 3 inches)
3. Fumigated
4. Heat treated

See Addendum to PPQ Form 519 for specific treatment schedules.

Ash materials **must be processed before March 1**.

Processing facilities outside quarantined areas may receive treated ash materials accompanied by a Certificate year round.

A Certificate must accompany each shipment of processed ash products.

Ash waste or slab material from a quarantined area may not be sold as firewood or moved outside the facility without a Certificate. Ash waste or slab material may be chipped to 1 inch by 1 inch in two dimensions and leave the quarantine area with a Certificate or be burned on site. Upon inspection, GFC will include the chipped materials on the Compliance Agreement and may issue an e-certificate for chipped materials.

Each facility must keep copies of Certificates and Limited Permits for 36 months. The responsible representative at your facility will ensure the Certificates and Limited Permits are safeguarded from misuse, unauthorized use, and loss. No duplicates of Certificates or Limited Permits may be created without approval of a state regulatory agent.

**Ash materials brought from a quarantined area into a non-quarantined area between March 1 and November 1 that are not accompanied by the appropriate documentation must be immediately destroyed on site by the receiving facility.** (See attached treatment schedules for more details.) An Emergency Action Notification (EAN) may be issued for mandatory destruction of the ash and the date by which the ash must be destroyed.



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



## Sawmill Inside Quarantined Areas

Facilities inside quarantined areas may receive ash materials from any area of the state year-round.

Facilities within quarantined areas must sign a Compliance Agreement for processing ash that will be transported outside the quarantined area.

All ash from quarantined areas must be either:

1. Debarked and removal of additional ½ inch of wood
2. Kiln sterilized (maximum wood thickness of 3 inches)
3. Fumigated
4. Heat treated

See Addendum to PPQ Form 519 for specific treatment schedules.

Ash waste or slab material from a quarantined area may not be sold as firewood or moved outside of a quarantined area without a Certificate. Ash waste or slab material may be chipped to 1 inch by 1 inch in two dimensions and leave the quarantine area with a Certificate or be burned on site. Upon inspection, GFC will include the chipped materials on the Compliance Agreement and may issue an e-certificate for chipped materials.

Each facility must keep copies of Certificates and Limited Permits for 36 months. The responsible representative at your facility will ensure the Certificates and Limited Permits are safeguarded from misuse, unauthorized use, and loss. No duplicates of Certificates or Limited Permits may be created without approval of a state regulatory agent.

## Mulch or Waste Facilities

All mixed hardwood waste materials are included in the quarantine regulations due to the possibility of containing ash materials.

Mulch/Waste facilities **inside** quarantined areas may receive ash materials from any area of the state year-round. Facilities within quarantined areas must sign a Compliance Agreement for processing ash that will be transported outside the quarantined area.

Mulch/Waste facilities **outside** quarantined areas may only receive ash materials from the quarantine area November 1 through March 1 with a Limited Permit. Facilities outside quarantined areas must sign a Compliance Agreement for processing ash that originated inside the quarantined area.

All loads containing ash materials from a quarantine area must be stored separately from other materials and processed by March 1. Ash material received for mulch or waste must be:



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



1. Chipped to 1 inch in two dimensions, or
2. Composted

See the Addendum to PPQ Form 519 for a more detailed explanation of treatment procedures.

A Certificate must accompany each shipment of processed mulch products. GFC will work with the facility to create an e-certificate that will be valid for one year for all loads leaving the facility.

Ash waste or slab material from a quarantined area may not be sold as firewood or moved outside of a quarantined area without a Certificate. Ash waste or slab material may be treated as stated above and leave the quarantine area with a Certificate.

Receiving facilities must keep copies of Certificates and Limited Permits for 36 months. Each facility will ensure the Certificates and Limited Permits are safeguarded from misuse, unauthorized use, and loss. No duplicates of Certificates or Limited Permits may be created without approval of a state regulatory agent.

**Ash materials brought from a quarantined area into a non-quarantined area between March 1 and November 1 that are not accompanied by the appropriate documentation must be immediately destroyed on site by the receiving facility.** (See attached treatment schedules for more details.) An Emergency Action Notification (EAN) may be issued for mandatory destruction of the ash and the date by which the ash must be destroyed.

Waste facilities that do not have a physical product leaving the facility (i.e power generation) do not need a Compliance Agreement.

## **In-Woods Chippers/Grinders**

All in-woods chippers and grinders shipping materials outside the quarantine area must be under a Compliance Agreement. Multiple chippers or grinders may be included on one Compliance Agreement. All mixed hardwood material must be chipped to 1 inch in two dimensions. After inspection, companies will be issued an e-certificate that will be valid for one year. A copy of this e-certificate must be kept in each truck and on file at the receiving facility.

## **Pallet Stock**

Facilities **inside** quarantined areas may receive ash materials from any area of the state year-round. Facilities within quarantined areas must sign a Compliance Agreement for processing ash that will be transported outside the quarantined area.

Facilities **outside** quarantined areas may only receive ash materials from the northern quarantine area November 1 through March 1 with a Limited Permit. Ash materials from southern quarantine areas must remain in the quarantine area year round. Facilities outside quarantined areas must



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



sign a Compliance Agreement for processing ash that originated inside the quarantined area. All loads containing ash materials from a quarantine area must be stored separately from other materials and processed by March 1.

All ash from quarantined areas must be either:

1. Debarked and removal of additional ½ inch of wood
2. Meet ISPM-15 Standards for wood packing materials. Heat treatments must achieve a minimum of 56°C (132.8°F) for a minimum of 30 minutes. See Addendum to PPQ Form 519 for details on heat treatment.

A Certificate must accompany each load shipped to non-quarantined areas which contain pallets made from ash materials originating from a quarantined area.

Ash waste or slab material from a quarantined area may not be sold as firewood or moved outside of a quarantined area without a Certificate. Ash waste or slab material may be chipped to 1 inch in two dimensions and leave the quarantine area with a Certificate or burned on site.

## Firewood

**All hardwood firewood** leaving a quarantined area must be under a Compliance Agreement and be treated by one of the following methods:

1. Debarked and removal of additional ½ inch of wood
2. Kiln dried
3. Fumigated
4. Heat treated

See the Addendum to PPQ Form 519 for a more detailed explanation of treatment procedures.

Firewood must be bundled and each bundle must have a unique Certificate to verify it has been properly treated.

## Nursery Stock

There is no approved treatment / mitigation for ash nursery stock.

Ash nursery stock **within quarantined areas** must remain in quarantined areas.

Ash nursery stock in **non-quarantined counties** may be moved throughout Georgia year round.



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language



## Treatment Procedures to Remove EAB from Ash Logs and Products

The following is a simplified list of treatment options for ash logs and ash materials. Review the Addendum to PPQ Form # 519 - Treatment Options attached to your Compliance Agreement for specific details regarding the procedures listed below.

### Ash Logs

There are four different ways to treat ash logs:

1. Chip to 1 inch in two dimensions
2. Debark and remove an additional ½ inch of wood
3. Fumigate
4. Heat treat

### Green/Untreated Ash Lumber

There are four different ways to treat ash lumber:

1. Debark and remove an additional ½ inch of wood
2. Kiln sterilize – maximum thickness of wood 3”
3. Fumigate
4. Heat treat

### Pallets with Ash Boards

There are two different ways to treat ash materials for pallet stock:

1. Debark and remove an additional ½ inch of wood
2. Meet ISPM-15 Standards for wood packing materials and be heat treated at 132.8° F core temperature for 30 minutes.

### Ash Wood Chips & Mulch

There are two different ways to treat ash materials:

1. Chip to 1 inch in two dimensions
2. Compost

### Hardwood Firewood

There are four different ways to treat hardwood firewood:

1. Debark and remove an additional ½ inch of wood
2. Kiln sterilize – maximum thickness of wood 3”
3. Fumigate
4. Heat treat



# Emerald Ash Borer Regulations in Plain Language

