

Forestry Emerald Ash Borer – Cutting and Hauling Ash Logs

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Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

The emerald ash borer (also called EAB) is a small, ½- to ¾-inch, emerald-colored, winged insect from Asia that lays eggs in the bark of ash tree branches and generally goes undetected until trees start to die. Detection may take one or two years. The larvae will create s-shaped galleries under the bark and when they emerge will



create D shaped holes on the outside of the tree. EAB larvae can continue to live in the inner bark of ash logs after they have been cut, so when EAB is found, a quarantine is put into place to stop the movement of infested wood out of the quarantined area. Once infestation has occurred ash wood quality can decrease rather rapidly. Other insects, such as the ambrosia beetle, can infest the tree causing further damage and speeding up decomposition. This can make cutting dead and dying ash trees more dangerous than other trees. EAB has been found in Kentucky and has spread since its initial detection in 2009. As this occurred, individual counties were added to the quarantine. However, the spread quickly became extensive enough that the entire state is now under a federal quarantine, allowing free movement of wood within the Kentucky state boundary. When transporting ash logs (including pulpwood) from Kentucky, special procedures may be required. If the portion of the state next to Kentucky that are you are hauling to or through, is also under a federal EAB quarantine, then no special provisions are needed. If you are hauling through an area that does not have a federal quarantine, then you will need a Compliance Agreement for that state (see below). Consult the updated federal quarantine information prior to hauling logs out of state (see Additional Information section).

No Restrictions in Kentucky

The entire state of Kentucky is now under a federal quarantine, allowing for free movement of ash logs from one county to another in the state. This means that ash can be cut and transported anywhere within Kentucky without the need for a Compliance Agreement. There are many areas in Kentucky that do not yet have an EAB infestation. However, we have limited means of tracking the insect as it moves across Kentucky and effectively no means of restricting ash-log movement in Kentucky. The county-by-county

quarantine approach did not prove to be effective in other states. This led to the inclusion of all counties in Kentucky in a quarantine. While this allows for the movement of untreated ash logs anywhere in Kentucky, it may lead to an increase in the rate of spread of EAB.

Logging Restrictions for Out-of-State Hauling

If an adjacent state also is under a federal quarantine, you can cut ash timber in Kentucky and haul to that area without a Compliance Agreement. However, if you are transporting ash logs from Kentucky to or through an area not under federal quarantine, there may be additional requirements, such as obtaining both a Compliance Agreement and a certificate. An EAB Compliance Agreement is a legally binding document that requires you to follow the stipulations in the agreement. A certificate is issued once you have been inspected and found that you are meeting the requirements in the Compliance Agreement. While this may sound daunting, it is not. You start by obtaining an EAB Compliance Agreement that is easily obtained online (see “Applying for a Compliance Agreement” section). Ash wood with bark includes all types of logs (saw, veneer, stave, ties, cants) and pulp or chip wood. Requirements specified in the Compliance Agreement differ depending upon the time of the year the ash logs or pulpwood are hauled. Read the following carefully so that you fully understand the process of applying for and obtaining an EAB Compliance Agreement.

Applying for a Compliance Agreement

The Compliance Agreement is valid for one year from the time that it was issued. In filling out the application, you are indicating where your ash logs are going, when you are hauling them, and how you are going to debark or treat them if you are hauling them outside of the quarantine

EAB Infested Counties



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

area from April 1 to September 30. No special treatment is needed if you are hauling from October 1 to March 31. The information that you provide when you fill out the online application will form the basis of your final approved EAB Compliance Agreement, so make sure the information is correct. Again a Compliance Agreement is not necessary if you are only moving ash logs or roundwood within Kentucky or from Kentucky directly into another area inside of the federal quarantine area.

The Compliance Agreement application is completed online <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/NurseryInspection/phyto/complianceagreementapp.html>. As you fill out the application, it uses the term “regulated item.” It is asking what you are hauling, which will be either logs or pulpwood containing ash.

The application requires the following information:

- **Your Physical Address:** Address of where the logs (or other wood products, termed “regulated articles” on the form) will be available for inspection (typically the log deck or a distribution yard). Most logging operations or log decks won’t have a street address. Input the name of the road that the logging job is on and make sure that you provide a working phone number so the inspector can call someone to get an exact location.
- **Mailing Address:** Your mailing address if different from above (which is needed for all cases, except if you are logging the property where you live).
- **Destination of Regulated Articles:** Regulated articles are the logs or pulpwood or chipwood you are hauling. You must include city, state, and county.
- **List All Regulated Articles:** Type in one or more of the appropriate products: i.e. ash logs, pulpwood containing ash.
- **How Are You Moving the Regulated Articles?:** Select whether you are using truck or rail.
- **Regulated Materials Accepted MUST Receive ONE of the following treatments:** Do not check any of the treatments if you are hauling October 1 to March 31. If you are hauling April 1 to September 30, then select one or more of the treatments:
 - Logs debarked at least a ½ inch into the wood (as indicated by the removal of all inner and outer bark). This is the common method of treating logs.
 - Follow a kiln sterilization treatment (The maximum thickness of allowable wood is three inches).
 - Fumigate according to a treatment schedule.
 - Heat treatment (140oF in the center for 60 minutes). While these treatments can be used for wood products such as lumber and firewood or high-valued veneer logs, these treatments are generally not economically feasible for many logs or for pulpwood or other low-grade products.
- **Name of Applicant:** This is the person responsible for adhering to the Compliance Agreement.

- **Date**
- **Click Submit:** (or Reset if you need to redo the form).

It is important to understand that if shipped October 1 to March 31, no treatment is needed. However, you still have to apply for the Compliance Agreement. In this case the Compliance Agreement will state the location of where the logs are cut and where they are going. The receiver of the logs must also have an EAB Compliance Agreement to handle the logs. The logger is responsible for ensuring that the receiver has a valid Agreement. If you are hauling April 1 through September 30 then the Compliance Agreement also will include how you are treating the logs or pulpwood.



EAB galleries under the bark of the ash tree demonstrate how the EAB larvae girdles ash trees.
Photo courtesy: Chad Niman

Final Compliance Agreement Approval

Once you have filled out an application online, it will take several days to process. Plan ahead! An officer with the USDA will contact you and arrange an inspection of your logging job. The focus of the inspection will be to:

- Make sure that you are shipping ash logs, pulpwood or other regulated materials.
- Determine where they are being hauled.
- Whether you are going to haul them outside of the quarantine area from April 1 to September 30
- If so, what your plans are for having them debarked (or treated in some other approved manner).

The inspection is to make sure that you are adhering to the information that you provided in your application. Once the inspector has conducted an inspection and everything is approved, you officially will be issued a “certificate” or “permit” that allows you to move logs out of the quarantine area (as long as you adhere to the Compliance Agreement). If you are not adhering with the Compliance Agreement, you may be subject to monetary fines. You should make copies of the certificate or permit and make sure that a copy is carried in the log truck regardless of whether it is your truck or a contract hauler. If the truck is stopped anywhere, including at the log yard, inspectors may request to see a copy of the paperwork.

Logging Summary

Compliance Agreement Not Required:

1. Ash logs may move freely within Kentucky as the entire state is under a federal quarantine. A Compliance Agreement is not required.
2. Cutting ash logs outside of a quarantined area and hauling them into a quarantine area (Kentucky or another

state) does not require a Compliance Agreement as long as a county outside of the federal quarantine is not traveled through in the process. http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf

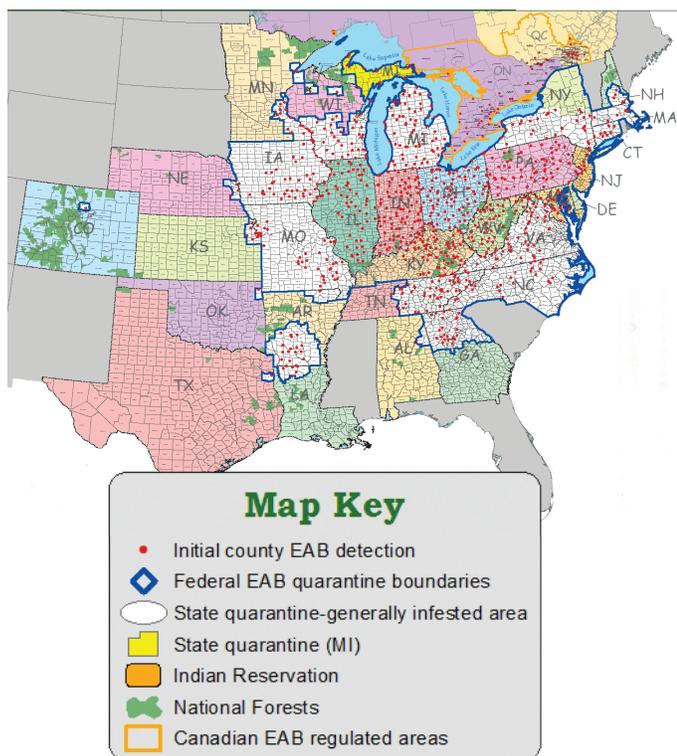
Other Documentation May be Required if a State or Local Ordinance is in Place:

3. Although we do not know of any at this time, there could potentially be local requirements for hauling ash logs into another state (even if that state already has EAB). Ash logs can move freely within the federal quarantine without a Compliance Agreement as long as you do not travel through a county outside the quarantine. Check the federal quarantine map (found below). Check online to stay abreast of the quarantine area http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf. If you have a question about hauling out of state, contact the mill or yard to which you are hauling. However, to avoid delays and possible penalties, first contact the USDA at (859) 689-2626.

ally means debarking to remove all inner and outer bark (½ inch into the wood). There are other ways of processing ash wood such as heat treating, fumigation, or kiln sterilization; however generally these processes are more difficult to complete or are cost prohibitive for most logs with the possible exception of fumigation for very high quality veneer logs. If debarking is not an option it is usually most economical to cut and haul ash logs in the October 1 to March 31 timeframe to eliminate treatment costs.

- 6. If you are considering harvesting a tract/boundary of timber that contains ash in a quarantined area like Kentucky, make sure that you have a market for the ash logs. Contact the mill or buyer to make sure that they will take ash (regardless of whether they are in the quarantine area or not). If you are hauling logs out of state to a non-quarantined area October 1 to March 31, make sure that the receiving mill has an EAB Compliance Agreement.
- 7. If you are hauling logs through a quarantine area (i.e. going from a non-quarantined area through a quarantined area to another non-quarantined area) you will need a Compliance Agreement.

** Quarantine areas change as do regulations. Use the online information below to stay abreast of these changes. Also contacting local or state forestry organizations and industries is prudent.*



Requires a Compliance Agreement:

- 4. If you are hauling into a non-quarantined area from October 1 to March 31, the logs are not required to be treated. However, both you and the receiver of the logs must have an EAB Compliance Agreement.
- 5. If you are hauling logs into a non-quarantined area April 1 to September 30, then the Compliance Agreement requires you to process the logs in an approved manner. This gener-

For additional information:

Go to the Kentucky Master Logger website for up-to-date information and links to EAB issues for loggers: www.masterlogger.org

You can get information on EAB from the Internet.

- **Federal quarantine map:** http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf
- **Compliance Agreement – Kentucky:** <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/NurseryInspection/phyto/complianceagreementapp.html>
- **General EAB Information:** www.emeraldashborer.info/
- **Moving firewood from Kentucky:** <http://nationalplantboard.org/membership/>
- **Kentucky EAB Information:** <http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/welcomeeab.html>
- **Other Kentucky EAB Forest Industry Publications:** see EAB information page at www.ukforestry.org
- **Kentucky’s quarantine, movement of firewood:** Kentucky State Entomologist Office, (859) 257-5838 or on the web at www.KyStateEnt.org

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