DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Office Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Horticulture and Quarantine Programs

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine
(LAC 7:XV.167)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), and the authority of the state entomologist pursuant to R.S. 3:1652, and in order to avoid a lapse in coverage until a permanent rule is in effect, notice is hereby given that Department of Agriculture and Forestry is adopting these emergency regulations establishing a quarantine in Union Parish for the following pest: emerald ash borer ("EAB"), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire. The state entomologist has determined that EAB has been found in Union Parish and may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated by quarantine.

EAB poses an imminent peril to the health and welfare of Louisiana forests, commercial and private forestry/wood product industries, and nursery growers due to its ability to infest ash trees. In 2013, the wholesale value of woody ornamental sales for nursery growers in the state was $62.6 million, a portion of which is comprised of sales of ash trees (Louisiana State University AgCenter 2013 Louisiana Summary, Agriculture and Natural Resources). Louisiana's forests and forestry/wood products industries generated an output industry production value of $10.86 billion in 2012, a portion of which is comprised of ash trees and ash tree products (Louisiana State University AgCenter publication 3367-G, 2015). Sales of ash firewood by retail and wholesale suppliers to private individuals also are important to the state's economy.

Natural spread of EAB is limited to relatively short distances. However, without restriction, EAB can spread through human-assisted means over long distances via infested ash nursery stock, ash logs/timber and cut firewood. Once an ash tree is infested, it experiences twig dieback and tree decline. Tree death occurs within a few years. Failure to prevent, control, or eradicate this pest threatens to damage Louisiana's commercial ash tree nursery industry, and over time this pest poses a threat to destroy the majority of ash in our state, both commercial and residential. The loss of the state's commercial nursery-grown ash trees, forestry/wood ash products and even residential ash trees would be devastating to the state's economy and to its private citizens. The quarantine established by this emergency regulation is necessary to prevent the spread of EAB to all areas in Louisiana where ash may exist, outside of the current areas where this pest has been found.

For these reasons, the presence of EAB in Louisiana presents an imminent peril to the health, safety and welfare of Louisiana's citizens and forests, the state's commercial and private forestry/wood product industries, and nursery growers. As a result of this imminent peril, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Forestry and Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, hereby exercises its full and plenary power pursuant to R.S. 3:1652 to

deal with crop and fruit pests and contagious and infectious crop and fruit diseases by imposing the quarantines set out in these emergency regulations.

This Rule shall have the force and effect of law effective June 22, 2016, and will remain in effect 120 days, unless renewed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry or until permanent rules are promulgated in accordance with law.

Title 7
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS

Part XV. Plant Protection and Quarantine
Chapter 1. Crop Pests and Diseases

Subchapter F. Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

§167. Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

A. The department issues the following quarantine because the state entomologist has determined that the insect Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB"), *Agrilus planipennis*, has been found in this state and may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated by quarantine.

B. Quarantined areas in this state include:

1. The entire parishes of Bossier, Claiborne, Union and Webster.

2. A declaration of quarantine for EAB covering any other specific parishes or areas of this state shall be published in the official journal of the state and in the Louisiana Register.

C. No regulated articles as defined in this Subsection shall be moved out of any area of this state that is listed in this subsection as a quarantined area for EAB, except as provided in this subsection.

D. The following articles are hosts of EAB and are deemed to be regulated articles for purposes of this subsection:

1. The emerald ash borer in all of its life stages; firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species; nursery stock, green lumber, and other material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, and composted and uncomposted chips of the genus *Fraxinus*.

2. Any other article, product, or means of conveyance not listed in paragraph 4(a) of this section may be designated as a regulated article if an inspector determines that it presents a risk of spreading emerald ash borer and notifies the person in possession of the article, product, or means of conveyance that it is subject to the restrictions of the regulations.

E. Regulated articles may be moved from quarantined areas to non-quarantined areas within or outside of Louisiana only if moved under the following conditions:

1. The regulated articles being moved are accompanied by a certificate or limited permit issued by LDAF and attached in accordance with the EAB federal requirements.

2. The regulated articles being moved are not accompanied by a certificate or limited permit but are being moved by the United States Department of Agriculture for experimental or scientific purposes;

3. The regulated articles being moved are not accompanied by a certificate or limited permit but originated outside of any EAB quarantined area and are moved interstate through the quarantined area under the following conditions:

a. The points of origin and destination are indicated on a waybill accompanying the regulated article; and

b. The regulated article, if moved through the quarantined area, is moved in an enclosed vehicle or is completely covered to prevent access by the EAB; and

c. The regulated article is moved directly through the quarantined area without stopping (except for refueling or for traffic conditions, such as traffic lights or stop signs), or has been stored, packed, or handled at locations approved by an inspector as not posing a risk of infestation by emerald ash borer; and

d. The article has not been combined or commingled with other articles so as to lose its individual identity.

F. Persons or businesses engaged in growing, handling, or moving regulated articles intrastate may enter into a compliance agreement with LDAF if such persons or businesses review with an LDAF inspector each provision of the compliance agreement. Any person or business who enters into a compliance agreement with LDAF must agree to comply with the provisions of this subpart and any conditions imposed under this subpart.

1. Any compliance agreement may be canceled orally or in writing by an inspector whenever the inspector determines that the person who has entered into the compliance agreement has not complied with this subpart or any conditions imposed under this subpart. If the cancellation is oral, the cancellation will become effective immediately, and the cancellation and the reasons for the cancellation will be confirmed in writing as soon as circumstances permit. Any person whose compliance agreement has been canceled may appeal the decision in writing to LDAF within 10 days after receiving the written cancellation notice. The appeal must state all of the facts and reasons that the person wants LDAF to consider in deciding the appeal. A hearing may be held to resolve a conflict as to any material fact. Rules of practice for the hearing will be adopted by LDAF. As soon as practicable, LDAF will grant or deny the appeal, in writing, stating the reasons for the decision.

G. Any person violating this quarantine shall be subject to imposition of the remedies and penalties set forth in R.S. 3:1653.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1652, 3:1653.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, LR 41:2577 (December 2015); LR 42:

Signed and attested to this 22 day of June 2016.

MIKE STRAIN DVM,
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY