

# Port of Chicago - Pipeline



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

Pipeline 10-23  
December 14, 2010

**TO: Customs Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned**

**SUBJECT: Emergency Treatment Facilities in Chicago for Quarantine Pest Infested Containers - November through March.**

When quarantine pests are discovered in ocean containers the importer usually has two options for mitigation, re-export or fumigation treatment. Fumigation treatments must follow treatment schedules approved by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) for use against the pest. The schedules outline the acceptable fumigant concentrations at prescribed intervals during the minimum exposure period and prescribe minimum temperatures during the exposure. The minimum temperatures are based on such factors as their affect on the metabolism of the pest, and the properties of the fumigant.

There are currently no heated treatment facilities approved by USDA APHIS PPQ in the port of Chicago to accommodate cold weather fumigation of ocean containers.

Average temperatures during the months of November through March are too cold to comply with the USDA APHIS PPQ prescribed treatment schedules for pest mitigation outdoors within the stated time frame of the Emergency Action Notification (EAN). Therefore, the only mitigation remaining during these months is re-exportation.

Customs and Border Protection will consider requests for fumigation within the port limits during these cold weather months only if the importer or their agent can show that they have:

- Secured the services of a fumigation contractor under USDA APHIS PPQ compliance; and
- Secured a facility approved by USDA APHIS PPQ for fumigation that is capable maintaining the container temperature for the duration of the treatment.

Questions can be directed to Mark Grzeszkowiak, Chief CBP Agriculture Specialist (847) 928-2957.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl Ambroson".

Carl Ambroson  
Area Port Director  
Port of Chicago