

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

SUPPORTING STATEMENT for

OMB Control Number: 0579-0142

Title: Importation of Gypsy Moth Host Materials from Canada

Agency POC: Ms. Lydia Colón,
Title: Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist
Phone Number: (301) 851-2302
Email: lydia.e.colon@usda.gov

Address:
USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Plant Pest and Quarantine (PPQ), 1400 Independence Ave.
SW, Washington, DC 20250;

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TERM OF CLEARANCE: “Before this ICR is renewed, USDA should consider converting PPQ Form 523 to a common form and establishing a single OMB control number for it.”

APHIS has moved the PPQ Forms 519 and 523 to a new PPQ Permit Common Forms information collection.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection.

This is a request for renewal and revision of an existing information collection request. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve, for an additional 3 years, its use of the information collection activities described herein in connection with its efforts to ensure that handling, transportation, and importation of foreign logs, trees, shrubs, and other articles do not harbor plant or insect pests such as the gypsy moth.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for preventing plant diseases or insect pests from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pests not widely distributed in the United States, and eradicating those imported pests when eradication is feasible.

Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 – et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to regulate the importation of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of injurious plant pests.

The regulations implementing this Act are contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 319 (Foreign Quarantine Notices). Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), a program within USDA APHIS, is responsible for ensuring that these regulations are enforced.

The regulations APHIS has devised to implement these laws often require APHIS to collect information from a variety of individuals, both within and outside of the United States, who are involved in growing, packing, handling, transporting, and importing foreign logs, trees, shrubs, and other articles. The information APHIS collects is vital to helping APHIS ensure that these items do not harbor plant or insect pests such as the gypsy moth.

APHIS currently regulates the importation and interstate movement of various articles due to the presence of gypsy moth (a destructive pest of forest and shade trees) in certain areas within the United States and certain provinces in Canada that are infested with gypsy moth. These items are as follows: trees with and without roots (including Christmas trees), shrubs, logs with bark attached, pulpwood with bark attached, outdoor household articles, and mobile homes imported into the United States from certain provinces in Canada that are infested with gypsy moth. These provinces are British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. The items mentioned above would need to be accompanied by documentation (including phytosanitary certificates, certificates of origin, and signed statements) certifying that the items have been

inspected and found free of gypsy moth or originated from a location where gypsy moth is not known to occur.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

APHIS uses the following information activities to ensure that handling, transportation, and importation of foreign logs, trees, shrubs, and other articles do not harbor plant or insect pests such as the gypsy moth.

7 CFR 319.77; 4(a)(2)(i) & (b)(2)(i)(A); Canadian Phytosanitary Certificate; Foreign Government and Business

If the trees or shrubs originated in a Canadian infested area, they must be accompanied by an officially endorsed Canadian phytosanitary certificate that includes an additional declaration confirming that the trees or shrubs have been inspected and found free of gypsy moth or that the trees or shrubs have been treated for gypsy moth in accordance with Part 305 of this chapter.

If the bark, bark products, logs, or pulpwood originated in a Canadian infested area, they must be either accompanied by an officially endorsed Canadian phytosanitary certificate that includes an additional declaration confirming that they have been inspected and found free of gypsy moth or that they have been treated for gypsy moth in accordance with Part 305 of this chapter.

7 CFR 319.77; 4(a)(2)(ii) & (b)(2)(ii); Canadian Certificate of Origin; Foreign Government and Business

Items that are not destined for a gypsy moth-free area within the United States but are simply transiting through such an area within the United States, must be accompanied by a Canadian certificate of origin, endorsed by a representative of the Canadian government, certifying that the items were produced where the gypsy moth is not known to occur.

If the bark, bark products, logs, or pulpwood originated in a Canadian non-infested area, they must be accompanied by a certification of origin stating that they were produced in an area of Canada where gypsy moth is not known to occur.

7 CFR 319.77-4 (c)(3); Written Statement; Individual

Household articles, as well as mobile homes and their associated equipment imported from Canada into gypsy moth-free areas of the United States, must be accompanied by a statement signed by the homeowner. This document must state that the household articles, or the mobile home and its associated equipment, have been inspected and found free of gypsy moth.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

APHIS makes every effort to comply with the E-Government Act, 2002 (E-Gov) and to provide for alternative submission of information collections.

The phytosanitary certificate and certificate of origin are both prepared and issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The written statements are prepared by individuals submitting them; there is no prescribed format for how they are prepared. CFIA is still using paper documents for small shipments and electronic notification to CBP through the broker portion of the CBP Automated Commercial Exchange (ACE) system. CFIA is still finalizing their e-Phyto system for electronic exchange.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purpose described in item 2 above.

The information APHIS collects is exclusive to its mission of protecting the United States from incursion by agricultural pests and is not available from any other source.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

APHIS has determined 98 percent of the business respondents are small entities. The information APHIS collects is the minimum needed to protect the United States from gypsy moth incursion.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

This is a mandatory information collection request; failing to collect this information would cripple APHIS' ability to ensure that trees (including Christmas trees), shrubs, logs, and a variety of other items imported from Canada do not harbor gypsy moths. An incursion of gypsy moths into non-infested areas of the United States could result in the destruction of many thousands of acres of trees, with a corresponding loss of millions of dollars to the United States timber and nursery industries.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

No special circumstances exist that would require this collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting form, and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of the publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.

All inquiries to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) were referred to the CFIA National Manager. Only one source is provided as CFIA only has one contact designated to work on the Gypsy Moth Program. The USDA APHIS PPQ Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM) Trade Director for Canada consulted with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) National Manager, Horticulture and Grains Section, to discuss the certificate and written statement requirements in this information collection request as the documents are generated or processed by the Canadian government. They discussed the importance of the required documents and their use for the handling, transportation, and importation of foreign logs, trees, shrubs, and other articles that may harbor plant or insect pests such as the gypsy moth, and any improvements that might be made.

Javier Maldonado
Acting National Manager, Horticulture Section
Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada

4321 Still Creek Drive
Canada, British Columbia, Burnaby V5C 6S7
Phone: (1) 604-367-8948

The written statement activity does not require contact information for those submitting one so no further consultation is possible.

On Wednesday, February 11, 2026, APHIS published in the Federal Register (Vol. 91 Vol. 28 Pages 6182-6183) a 60-day notice seeking public comment on its plans to request a 3-year approval of this collection of information. No comments from the public were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than reenumeration of contractors or grantees.

This information collection activity involves no payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

No additional assurance of privacy, safeguards, or protections are provided with this information collection. Any and all information obtained in this collection shall not be disclosed except in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a. APHIS will comply with 5 U.S.C. 552a, Privacy Act of 1974. The APHIS Privacy Officer, Tonya Woods has reviewed this collection in December 2025.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and others that are considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

This information collection activity asks no questions of a personal or sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated.

- A) Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.**

APHIS is seeking approval for an estimated 3,343 respondents (affected public: 342 Business; 3,000 Individuals; and 1 Foreign Governments), 17,945 total annual

responses, and 7,524 total annual burden hours. APHIS arrived at these estimates through discussions with regulated entities, including importers, shippers, and plant health authorities in Canada.

B) Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.

APHIS estimates the total annualized cost to respondents for this collection to be \$486,898. This was computed by multiplying the 7,524 hours of estimated response time by the estimated average hourly wage of the respondents (\$43.62) and then multiplying the result by 1.4286 to capture benefit costs.

The average hourly rates used to calculate the estimate are for Canadian officials (\$58.75); sales representatives (SOCC, \$39.68); and individuals (SOC 00-0000, \$32.44). The SOCC and rates were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_stru.htm.

According to news release [USDL-25-02335](#), released March 14, 2025, benefits account for 30 percent of employee costs, and wages account for the remaining 70 percent. Mathematically, total costs can be calculated as a function of wages, resulting in a multiplier of 1.429.

Dept of Labor SOCC Code	Average Hourly Wage	Occupation Description
00-0000	\$58.75	Canadian Officials
41-4012	\$39.68	Sales Representatives
00-0000	\$32.44	Individuals
	\$43.62	Average Hourly Salary

13. Provide estimates of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information, (do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14). The cost estimates should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected useful life; and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component.

No cost burden is associated with capital and startup costs, ongoing/operation and maintenance expenditures, and purchase of services. There is zero annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers for capital and start-up costs, ongoing operation and maintenance, or purchase of services in connection with this program.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Provide a description of the method used to estimate cost and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

See APHIS Form 79. The estimated cost to the Federal Government is \$190,616.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-1.

APHIS is seeking approval of a revision of a currently approved information collection request. The currently approved ICR is for 3,201 respondents, 17,945 total annual responses, and 7,524 total annual burden hours. This request is for 3,343 respondents, 6,336 estimated total responses and 3,168 estimated burden hours.

There are no third-party disclosure burden estimates hours.

	Requested	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate	Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	Previously Approved
Annual Number of Responses	17,945	0	-2	6,335	0	11,612
Annual Time Burden (Hr)	7,524	0	-2	3,168	0	4,358

Change(s) in estimate due to Agency discretion include:

There is a program change decrease of -2 responses and -2 total burden hours.

- Item 1: Removal of the PPQ Forms 519 (Compliance Agreement) and PPQ Form 523 (Emergency Action Notification) this collection, resulting in 3 fewer responses and 2 fewer burden hours. This form has been moved to the new PPQ Permit information collection.

Change(s) in estimate due to adjustments in estimate include:

There is an adjustment increase of +142 respondents, and an increase of +6,335 responses resulting in an increase of +3,168 total burden hours.

- Item 1: Adjusting the number of the Canadian Phytosanitary Certificate (Business) responses from 5,000 to 8,850, has increased the burden hours by 1,925.
- Item 2: Adjusting the number of the Canadian Certificate (Business) responses from 3,500 to 5,985, has increased the burden hours by 1,243.

16. For collections of information whose results are planned to be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication.

APHIS has no plans to tabulate or publish the information being collected.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

With APHIS moving the PPQ Forms 519 and 523 to the new PPQ Permit Common Form Information collection, there are no official forms in this information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act."

APHIS certifies compliance with all provisions of the Act.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Statistical methods are not used in this information collection.