

FLIGHTED SPONGY MOTH COMPLEX (FSMC)

The FSMC risk

Flighted spongy moth complex (FSMC) is a group of exotic pests native to Asia which can pose a significant threat to a country's forests, biodiversity and economy. These moths can feed on a wide range of economically important tree species and other important plants. Female moths fly at night and are attracted to lights. In port environments, they will lay egg masses on ships. These egg masses tolerate temperature and moisture, hence they travel well on the hulls and rigging of ocean-going ships, shipping containers, and pallets.



Regulating countries

Countries where the FSMC is not native and that are currently known to regulate and inspect arriving vessels for FSMC are the United States (US), Canada, Chile, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. However, there is no uniform internationally agreed regulation on how to manage FSMC risks, and even the definitions of regulated areas and specified risk periods (SPRs) are not entirely identical between the abovementioned countries!

To help ship operators and their masters stay compliant in terms of managing FSMC risks, we have collated and tabulated the key requirements of each regulating country.

Useful references

	FSMC information
US	https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/flighted-spongy-moth-complex
Canada	https://inspection.canada.ca/plant-health/invasive-species/insects/spongy-moth/agm/eng/1330353359964/1330353499535
Chile	https://www.sag.cl/ambitos-de-accion/lymantria-dispar-linnaeus-lepidoptera-erebidae-polilla-esponjosa
Argentina	https://www.argentina.gob.ar/senasa/lymantria-buques
New Zealand	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/import/border-clearance/ships-and-boats-border-clearance/hitchhiker-pests/
Australia	https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/hitchhiker-pests
NAPPO	https://www.nappo.org/application/files/9116/3908/2771/20211209_AGM_PD07_Approved-e.pdf
BIMCO	https://www.bimco.org/contracts-and-clauses/bimco-clauses/current/flighted_spongy_moth_complex_clause_for_time_charter_parties_2023

FLIGHTED SPONGY MOTH COMPLEX (FSMC)

Definition of FMSC regulated areas

	US, Canada, Chile	New Zealand	Argentina	Australia
Russia Far East	Ports of Nakhodka, Ol'ga, Plastun, Pos'yot, Russkiy Island, Slavyanka, Vanino, Vladivostok, Vostochny, Zarubino, Kozmino	Ports south of 60° N latitude and west of 147° E longitude (excluding those ports on the Kamchatka Peninsula)	All ports south of 60° N latitude	All ports between 40° N and 60° N latitude and west of 147° E longitude
China	All ports on or north of 31°15' N latitude		All ports north of 20° N latitude	-
South Korea	All ports			-
Japan – Northern	Prefectures of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Akita, Yamagata		Prefectures of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima	-
Japan - Western (Central)	Prefectures of Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa		Prefectures of Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Akita, Yamagata	-
Japan – Eastern (Central)	Prefectures of Fukui, Ibaraki, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Aichi, Mie			-
Japan – Southern	Prefectures of Wakayama, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kagawa, Tokushima, Ehime, Kochi, Fukuoka, Oita, Saga, Nagasaki, Miyazaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima			-
Japan - Far Southern	Prefecture of Okinawa			-

Definition of specified risk periods (SRP)*

	US, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, Argentina	Australia
Russia Far East	15 Jun – 15 Oct	1 Jul – 30 Sep
China	1 Jun – 30 Sep	-
South Korea	1 Jun – 30 Sep	-
Japan – Northern	15 Jun – 15 Oct	-
Japan - Western (Central)	1 Jun – 30 Sep	-
Japan – Eastern (Central)	1 Jun – 30 Sep	-
Japan – Southern	15 May – 31 Aug	-
Japan - Far Southern	25 May – 30 Jun	-

* SRP refers to the time period in an FSMC regulated area during which there is a risk of FSMC flight and egg mass deposition.

Definition of vessels at risk and certification requirements

	US, Canada, Argentina	Chile	New Zealand	Australia
Vessels at risk are those that have visited one of the FSMC regulated areas during the SPR in the past:	24 months		12 months	24 months
Requires a pre-departure inspection certificate for vessels at risk	YES*			NO
Provides a list of recognized certification bodies overseas	YES	NO	YES	-

* In Canada's western ports from 1 March to 15 September and eastern ports from 15 March to 15 September.