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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SPOTTED LANTERN FLY QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE

On May 26, 2018 the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture published updated quarantine regulations aimed at stopping the spread of the Spotted Lantern Fly. This invasive species, native to China, India and Vietnam poses a threat to the agricultural industry throughout North America.

Their quarantine program, with a hard enforcement date of May 1, 2019, requires anyone making pickups, deliveries or simply stopping for a rest break within the affected areas to receive training on preventing the spread of this insect. Permits are required for all motor vehicles and periodic inspections must be completed and documented.

These regulations apply to everyone, regardless of domicile or business activity, that move objects capable of hiding the Spotted Lantern Fly. Even government agencies are subject to the permit process.

Examples are cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, fire wood, pallets, lawn equipment and much more. Private citizens, shippers and trucking companies are the most likely to be affected. Currently 13 Pennsylvania counties as well as parts of New Jersey are within the quarantine area. Neighboring Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Virginia are also reporting Spotted Lantern Fly activity.

Training is available for free online from the Penn State Cooperative. Businesses that plan on working or stopping within the quarantine zone must have at least one supervisor take the online training. They then must train all employees that will work in the quarantine area and obtain vehicle permits. Permit training is available at this link

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-permit-training>

Law enforcement in neighboring states have already begun stopping vehicles, looking for evidence of the insect as well as proof of training and the required permit. More information is available at https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx

The quarantine area includes Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill counties in Pennsylvania and Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer counties in New Jersey.

Currently no other states have quarantine areas, however New York, Delaware and Virginia require any potential transport mechanism coming from the quarantine area to be inspected prior to enter their states. New Jersey requires completion of Pennsylvania's training and permit process for anyone wishing to transport items into the state from the quarantine areas.