

Pennsylvania Spotted Lanternfly Program FAQ's

Quarantine and Permit Program

Who do I contact for permit program and compliance information?

Most questions can be answered by the information contained in the FAQs document.

If you have a question not answered in the FAQs, direct questions to SLFPermit@pa.gov. Or call 717-787-5674 and leave a message. Calls will be returned by the person who can best answer your question.

Does my business need a permit? Do I need to obtain a separate permit for each state with a Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) quarantine?

Multiple states in the Mid-Atlantic area have SLF populations and/or quarantines. Links to those states' SLF information webpages can be accessed through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) SLF [Permitting page](#). State Regulatory Officials have reciprocal permit agreements. No need for businesses to take multiple permit courses.

For Pennsylvania (PA), a SLF permit is required for businesses working within the quarantine, which move regulated articles (defined in the PA SLF Quarantine Order Article I, Section 4 as living SLF, products, vehicles or other conveyances, etc.) within or out of the quarantine.

PA quarantined counties: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill.

A permit is also needed to move regulated articles into PA from areas outside PA with SLF quarantines and/or populations.

States with SLF populations and/or quarantines (State: County): Delaware: New Castle; New Jersey: Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer; Virginia: Frederick; Maryland: Cecil.

New York and Virginia also require a permit if originating from any area with SLF population or quarantine.

I own an out of state company, but I do business in the PA quarantine zone. Do I need a permit?

Yes, you are required to have a permit if you are conducting business in the PA quarantine. A permit is also needed to move regulated articles into PA from areas outside PA with SLF populations and/or quarantines.

My business is not agricultural. Do I need a permit?

Yes, you are required to have a permit if you are conducting business in the PA quarantine. A permit is also needed to move regulated articles into PA from areas outside PA with SLF populations and/or quarantines.

My business drives through the PA quarantine zone but does not stop. Do I need a permit?

If you do not originate from an SLF infested area, the load is covered or contained and do not stop in the PA quarantine for business or for anything except quick stops (i.e. fueling), you are not required to get a permit.

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Are school buses in the quarantine zone required to have a permit? What if they are only entering the quarantine zone for field trips, sporting events, etc.?

School buses are required to have permits if they travel routes within or from the quarantine. And if traveling for special events within or from the quarantine.

If I only travel within one quarantined county, do I need a permit?

Yes, you are required to have a permit if you are conducting business in the PA quarantine.

Do I need a permit if my business does not ship anything, but we receive goods originating in areas with SLF from third-party carriers?

Yes. You should obtain a permit and train employees about SLF especially those engaged in the receipt of goods (e.g., those working in warehouses and at loading docks). Those employees should inspect for SLF upon receipt of goods.

We manufacture goods within the quarantine and contract motor freight carriers to distribute within and outside the quarantine. Do we need a permit?

Yes. You should obtain a permit and train employees about SLF especially those engaged in the receipt and shipment of goods (e.g., those working in warehouses and at loading docks). Those employees should inspect for SLF upon receipt of goods and prior to shipping goods from the distribution center.

Inspect your goods prior to loading onto a third-party carrier truck. Certify your goods are free from SLF using a permit certification label or statement on your bill of lading.

After you complete the permit training, you will receive a follow-up email with an option to request a permit certification label template. The template will be emailed to you and can be printed on labels.

Or incorporate the following statement onto your bill of lading and include your business name and permit number:

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture certifies these regulated articles have been approved for movement out of the SLF quarantine area. Business Name: Permit #:

Do automotive dealerships located within the quarantine need to obtain a permit? Does each vehicle on the lot need a permit?

Yes, dealerships need to obtain a permit. The participant should enter the number of dealership company vehicles on their registration (e.g., maintenance and shuttle vehicles). Do not include for-sale vehicles. Participants will receive one paper permit to be copied and distributed into the dealership vehicles.

As vehicles are sold, they should be inspected before the new owner leaves the lot. This could be done during a final detail if this is typically done the day of sale.

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Permit Course and Employee Training

I am having problems with the Penn State Online permit course. Who can help me?

Contact Penn State Extension Help @ 1-877-345-0691 or through their online form <https://extension.psu.edu/contacts>. They will be able to assist you through the process.

I will be taking the course online myself along with other instructors. How should we register the number of company-owned vehicles?

Each participant should list the number of vehicles they are responsible for (may be different from company total).

Am I able to provide this training for other businesses affected by the quarantine of which I am not an employee?

Each business should complete the permit process for themselves and ensure they are complying with the SLF Quarantine Order requirements. You could provide only the employee training with the understanding that you are not responsible for other compliance aspects.

What are the employee training requirements?

Train your employees, giving priority to those directly involved with vehicle travel, receipt or shipment of goods. Employee training is required prior to distributing the permit to the drivers/vehicles.

Additionally, quarterly briefs of the life stage changes are recommended (late April, early May for hatch, July for 4th stage nymph/adult emergence, September for egg laying).

Penn State Extension has developed employee training PowerPoints and included them as a resource in the online course. Course participants can download these and use them to train fellow employees.

To find the employee training materials:

- Log into your PSU account.
- Click on My Account (upper right).
- In left-hand options, click Online Courses
- Under SLF Permit Training, click on Go To Online Course (in blue box).
- In the Home tab, on the right-hand column under Training Materials. There are 5 PowerPoint files that can be downloaded and combined for one comprehensive training document.

If a business chooses to develop training, topics to include:

- Life cycle
- Risks of SLF movement, especially adults and egg masses
- What to look for at different times of the year
- What needs to be inspected
- Recordkeeping requirements

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Permits

Which types of vehicles need a permit?

All business vehicles regardless of size travelling within or from the quarantine need permits.

What types of permits are available? Where on/in the vehicle is the permit required to be placed?

From program inception until April 2019, hangtag and decal permits were issued. In April 2019, PDA transitioned to a paper permit. All three types are valid. One type of permit is required per vehicle. Drivers need to show the assigned permit if stopped at a checkpoint.

A paper permit is issued to the person who completes the online permit course. The permit can then be copied and distributed to the drivers or into the vehicles the permittee is responsible for. The permit copy should be kept with the vehicle registration or in a permit book.

Hangtag permit can be displayed on the review mirror or dash while the vehicle is parked. Please remove while in motion. Hangtags may be kept inside the truck with the vehicle registration or permit book.

Decal permits can be placed on the driver door/panel behind or kept inside the truck with the vehicle registration or in a permit book.

How do I obtain additional or replacement permits?

Send requests to SLFPermit@pa.gov. You will be issued a paper permit. The permit can be copied and distributed to the drivers or into the vehicles the permittee is responsible for. The permit copy should be kept with the vehicle registration or in a permit book. Your previously issued permits are still valid.

I completed permit training. How do I get the permits for my vehicles?

It may take two to three weeks for a business to receive a permit. The Certificate of Completion in the PSU permit course serves as a temporary permit. At the end of the SLF online course, follow the instructions to print the Certificate of Completion.

- Click on the link to the "Progress" page in the tool bar or in the course text.
- Click on "View Certificate".
- Print and distribute as needed.

You will receive a follow-up email with additional information from the Department of Agriculture after PDA receives your course registration from Penn State. A paper permit will be issued to you automatically and mailed to the address listed on your registration. The permit can then be copied and distributed to the drivers or into the vehicles the permittee is responsible for. The permit copy should be kept with the vehicle registration or in a permit book.

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If I own more than one business, do I need to complete the permit course multiple times?

Complete the course for one company. Email slfpermit@pa.gov with the date of permit course completion, additional business names, mailing addresses and number of vehicles associated with each. Additional registrations will be created, and a permit issued for each business.

When do I need to renew my permit?

You will receive a renewal notice with instructions about a year after your original permit issuance. Your permit is valid until the expiration date included on the renewal notice.

Recordkeeping and Inspections

What are the recordkeeping requirements?

Recordkeeping of training, shipping records, and inspection of vehicles with control measures taken if SLF is found (such as vehicle washes, destruction of living lanternfly, etc.) must be maintained for a minimum of two years. Electronic records are acceptable if you can make them available during a verification checkpoint or audit.

Does PDA have a specific format for vehicle inspections?

The template for vehicle inspections is up to you, as long as you can prove that you did your best to prevent the spread of this pest. If you can incorporate into existing checks, do so. Document the inspection was done and control measures taken if live SLF were found (such as vehicle washes, destruction of SLF, etc.). Example driver checklist/inspection logs can be found as a resource in the online permit course and on the [PDA SLF Permitting](#) web page.

Where should the records be stored?

Records should be kept by the person who registered for and completed the permit training.

When do we need to conduct inspections?

Inspections should be completed before moving within the quarantine zone, leaving the quarantine zone and entering PA from another area that has an SLF population.

PA quarantined counties are: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill.

Other areas that have SLF include (State: County): Delaware: New Castle; New Jersey: Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer; Virginia: Frederick; Maryland: Cecil.

If working in the same municipality all day, drivers should complete and log pre and post trip inspections. During the day, advise them to have situational awareness. For example: Drivers should conduct inspections/mitigations as needed through the work day, such as during swarming.

No need for inspection if the vehicle was not used that day.

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If I only travel within one quarantined county, do I need to conduct SLF inspections?

Yes. SLF populations are not equally distributed. We want to prevent spreading from areas of high populations to those with low or no populations and prevent the re-infestation of treated areas.

Are inspections required in winter?

After adults have died off in winter, clean equipment and conduct an SLF inspection. Remove any dead adults. Remove and destroy any egg masses. Document your efforts. No further inspections are required in the winter. Resume inspections in late April when spring hatch begins.

Compliance

Who is doing the inspections, and what are they looking for?

PDA will conduct the inspections for SLF and work in cooperation with Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). PSP may also check for violations under their authority.

Where will inspections occur for the SLF permit?

Inspections will take place at weigh and other inspection stations.

How often will shipments/trucks be stopped?

Inspections will be conducted on a periodic basis as determined by PDA. Timing and frequency depend in part on the SLF life cycle and habits.

Who will be stopped for SLF permit verification?

Inspections will be random checks and standard parameters will be developed per checkpoint in conjunction with PSP.

How long can a driver expect the inspection process to take, if they are stopped?

Each verification check is unique based on truck and load type. Time invested will vary accordingly.

What kind of questions a driver will be asked?

Drivers must show a permit. Drivers will be asked questions to evaluate their understanding and working knowledge of SLF and the risks of spreading the pest.

If an inspector finds SLF in my shipment, what happens?

Once the SLF is destroyed and the entire shipment has been re-inspected and no other SLF is found, the load may continue. The company will be notified of the find and PDA will request to review the company's SLF protocols to prevent subsequent SLF movement. PDA will enter a notation in the company's file and monitor for repeated finds that indicate a larger problem.

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Would a manufacturer's permit cover a carrier that does not have a permit but is keeping a log?

No, the manufacturer's permit covers their facility and goods inspected prior to transport. The carrier needs to obtain their own permit.

If a trucking company has a permit, does the manufacturer that hires them also need a permit?

If the manufacturer is located within the quarantine, the manufacturer needs to obtain a permit, and take the steps to be compliant with the PA SLF Quarantine Order.

Would the carrier company be covered by a manufacturer's permit as long as they included their company name/permit number on the bill of lading?

No, the carrier needs to obtain a permit, and take the steps to be compliant with the PA SLF Quarantine Order.

Should a carrier refuse to carry goods from a manufacturer that does not have a permit?

The carrier/driver could ask if the goods have been inspected (permit or no) and have the shipper attest to that in some way (e.g., statement and signature on BOL). The carrier has the right to refuse a load if they are not comfortable with the condition of the goods and do not want to take the responsibility if the shipper does not have a permit and did not inspect the goods.

Will there be fines assessed for SLF hitch hikers that have landed on my vehicle while driving?

If you have done your inspection and an SLF lands on your vehicle during travel, destroy it and re-inspect the entire shipment. If no other SLF is found, the load may continue. Note the find and re-inspection in your records. No penalties will be assessed.

Who would be at fault if a carrier had SLF in their cargo if both parties did their best to check before moving the cargo?

If both parties completed SLF inspections and an SLF is found during transport or upon delivery, destroy it and re-inspect the entire shipment. Note the find and re-inspection in your records. No penalties will be assessed.

When is the deadline for me to have the permit?

The PA Department of Agriculture began compliance verification May 1, 2019. If you need assistance or have compliance questions, please email slfpermit@pa.gov.

What if my business is found to be non-compliant after May 1st?

The PA Department of Agriculture's goal at this time is to educate and assist businesses with compliance. Any business found to be out of compliance after May 1st will receive a warning, along with compliance assistance to get permitted. These businesses will be noted and repeat violators may be fined.

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What are the fines associated for non-compliance?

The Pennsylvania [SLF Quarantine Order](#) Article VII lists the following:

- Criminal citation up to \$300 per violation.
- Civil penalty up to \$20,000 per violation.
- Revocation of permit or compliance agreement if PDA determines the holder has not complied.

Communication

How was I notified about the quarantine order?

The [PA Bulletin](#) is the location to look for any regulation changes or additions for Pennsylvania. Additionally, the three main partners in the PA SLF program, PA Department of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, and Penn State University, have each provided notifications through news publications, press releases, webinars, mailings, social media campaigns, etc.

If the quarantine counties are expanded, when will this announcement occur and how much time will businesses in the county be given to secure a certificate and train their employees?

Quarantine expansions are made public by the PA Department of Agriculture through press releases and in the PA Bulletin. A grace period will be given for businesses in newly quarantined areas. PDA understands the time and effort involved with compliance and will recognize the business' reasonable effort toward compliance.

How do I order Business Kits?

Businesses may order a kit: <https://extension.psu.edu/slf-toolkit>

Downloadable materials are available:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/slfbiz/slf-business-page>