

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOL**

**Loading of Containers to Ensure Freedom From  
*Megacoptera cribraria*, the kudzu bug**

1. The area designated within the packing facility for the assembling and holding of material (e.g. spools of yarn) will be inspected for the presence of *M. cribraria*, before the material is brought in. If kudzu bugs are found, the material cannot be assembled until the pest is eliminated and the area is deemed to be free of kudzu bugs. The assembling and holding area should be an area where pests can be excluded from outside entry.
2. All material will be brought into the designated area of the packing facility and assembled prior to inspection for the presence of the kudzu bug.
3. The material will be visually inspected for the kudzu bug. If this pest is found, the material cannot be loaded until the insects are eliminated, and no new material can be brought into the area until it is treated. If no kudzu bugs are found, then the assembled material will be moved to the loading area.
4. The loading area should be an area where pests can be excluded from outside entry. This area will be inspected to ensure freedom of kudzu bugs.
5. The industry appointed inspector will conduct an official inspection of the assembled material before loading by an authorized official entity. The designated export supervisor must sign off on the visual inspection before allowing material to be loaded for shipment.
6. Before loading, the container will be swept clean, and be free of any trash, plant material or pests.
7. After completion of loading for the day, all container doors will be locked and or sealed to keep pests out of the container.
8. Prior to leaving the facility, the outside of the container will be re-inspected for kudzu bug by the authorized entity inspector. If pests are found, the outside of the container will be cleaned.
9. A seal/lock will then be affixed to the doors.