

**New York State
Department of Agriculture and Markets**

Asian Longhorned Beetle

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- 1. Q:** Are infested trees being incinerated anymore?
A: Based on scientific research, incineration of infested wood chips is not necessary provided the wood chips measure less than 1 inch in two directions.
- 2. Q:** Will incineration costs be eliminated?
A: Yes, as long as the woodchips remain below the designated chip size, incineration will be unnecessary. Wood chips meeting the size requirements are considered deregulated and can be disposed of at any facility that accepts them. Chip size exceeding the 1" in two direction size will need to be rechipped or incinerated at the contractor's expense.
- 3. Q:** Who would make the evaluation?
A: Inspectors will check chip size and evaluate.
- 4. Q:** Who pays the cost of wood chip disposal?
A: Contractors will be responsible for this cost and disposal costs should be incorporated into the bid price.
- 5. Q:** What insurance is needed?
A: The required insurance is as follows:
 - Workers Compensation Insurance and Disability Benefits
 - Commercial General Liability and, if necessary, Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance with a limit of not less than \$5,000,000.
 - Comprehensive Business Automobile Liability and, if necessary, Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance with a limit of not less Than \$2,000,000 each accident.
 - Additional insurance information can be found on pages 10 and 11 of the IFB.
- 6. Q:** What should the unit price be based on, i.e. unit dollar per crew, etc.?
A: Under Item #1, a tree removal crew shall include both laborers and equipment. In past years, 80% of the work performed had a crew size of five (5), 10% of the work performed had a crew size of three (3) and the final 10% of the work performed had a crew size of eight (8).

The equipment used in the majority of past removal jobs consisted of: one tree truck with aerial lift bucket having a minimum reach of not less than 50', a chipper truck, a large brush chipper, three (3) powersaws with a minimum 20"

cutting bar, one (1) stump grinder with conveyance and any incidental tools required to complete this type work including tools for cleanup, warning signs and safety devices.

7. Q: What about equipment?

A: The day to day equipment and vehicles used for removals should be anticipated in the bid. Cranes are not considered normal day to day equipment.

8. Q: What category from the Prevailing Wage Rate is to be used for this contract?

A: Job descriptions should come from the construction section; not maintenance. The classifications of workers under the Prevailing Wage Law are governed by the Department of Labor. Dave Bouchard at DOL provided this information regarding the prevailing wage questions. He said that most of the workers would be paid at the heavy highway laborer rate. If the crew members are operating machinery (e.g. bulldozers), they would be covered by the heavy highway operating engineer rate. If they are cutting near lines (electric or cable), the electric lineman rates apply. He is happy to field questions regarding the rates. His e-mail is david.bouchard@labor.state.ny.us. If the questions are in writing, he will respond in writing. He can also be reached at 518-485-5926.

9. Q: Is there overtime on this job?

A: Yes, however, all overtime must be approved in advance.

10. Q: How will overtime be paid?

A: Time and-a-half is the standard rate of pay for overtime and must be approved ahead of time. This will be evaluated per individual job.

11. Q: How many crew members are required for Item #2 – Stump Grinding?

A: Under Item #2, a stump grinding crew shall include both laborers and equipment. In past years, 90% of the work performed had a crew size of two (2), 5% of the work performed had a crew size of one (1) and the final 5% of the work performed had a crew size of three (3). The equipment used in the majority of past stump grinding jobs consisted of: one (1) stump grinder with conveyance, one (1) powersaw with a minimum 20” cutting bar, and any incidental tools required to complete this type work including tools for cleanup, warning signs and safety devices.

12. Q: Is there any problem with overtime when a two (2) person crew is needed to finish?

A: All overtime must be approved. The hourly rate remains the same whether there are two employees or ten.

13. Q: Does the contract specify pesticide certification for right of way?

A: The majority of the stumps to be treated will be on residential property and the minimum requirement will be that the applicator holds a NYS commercial pesticide certification in category 3A. If stumps from removals on a right of way

require a herbicide application, it will be the contractor's responsibility to make sure the person applying the pesticide on the right of way has the correct certification.

14. Q: What if there is no access?

A: The State will secure permission to access the property for the contractor. This will include executing a warrant for access if necessary. Once permission is secured, the contractor will make the final arrangement with the property owner for the removal date and time. If the contractor arrives on site after he has made an appointment for removal and the homeowner has blocked access, the contractor will be paid for his time.

15. Q: What about response time?

A: After all permissions are acquired, the job will be given to the contractor. There is no longer a required 48 hour mobilization time, but the trees are expected to be removed as soon as possible.

16. Q: What about travel time to site?

A: Reimbursed time starts when the crew arrives at the first job and ends when they leave the last job. Travel to and from the home yard is not reimbursed. Travel between jobs will be reimbursed.

17. Q: Should "*No Parking*" signs be posted the day before?

A: Yes, this is in the best interest of the contractor so he/she will be able to gain access with less difficulty. Work in Brooklyn and Queens must be flexible. The contractor must evaluate each job to determine the best and most expedient way to complete the job.

18. Q: Are any identified infested trees standing?

A: No, not at this point.