



Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

The BorderSpace



Working together to secure New Zealand's borders from biosecurity threats

Issue 70 | October 2026



Full sail

Another busy yacht season is fast approaching. After weeks of planning, our frontline teams are well positioned to manage the biosecurity risk and ensure a smooth arrival for vessel operators.

Record breaker?

Some 560 yachts and recreational craft are expected to arrive in New Zealand over the coming months, similar to last year's record season.

Last season, 549 recreational craft arrived between September and December, an 11% increase on the previous year.

The annual influx of yachts typically begins building in mid-September before peaking in October and November, as vessels make the journey to New Zealand from the Pacific.

Ōpua is expected to remain New Zealand's busiest port of arrival for recreational craft, followed by Marsden Cove and Auckland's Westhaven Marina.

Fiji and Tonga are again expected to be the main departure points for vessels heading to New Zealand.

Biofouling tweaks

This season, Biosecurity New Zealand has strengthened its approach to managing biofouling risk following the introduction of a new pre-arrival hull assessment option last year.

The 2025/26 season saw the new process trialled. Overall, it worked well. Feedback from yacht owners, industry representatives and our own frontline teams identified opportunities to improve how the system operates and how information is provided to users.

In response, a dedicated yacht working group has been meeting throughout the year to refine biofouling assessment and clearance processes.

The work has focused on providing clearer guidance and procedures for yacht owners and crew, target evaluation officers assessing pre-arrival documentation, and quarantine officers conducting inspections.

...continued overleaf

Officer boost

To support the yacht arrival surge, we are deploying four additional biosecurity officers to Northland during the season peak. A lead officer will also be based in Whangārei to provide operational support and oversight.

Our vessel target evaluation team is also increasing capacity, with four additional officers to support the season’s biofouling assessments and vessel risk evaluations.

Underwater cameras return

Last season, Biosecurity New Zealand upgraded its underwater camera equipment, introducing a lighter, simpler and more reliable system for inspecting yacht hulls for biofouling.

This season, the cameras will again be deployed at four major ports of first arrival: Ōpua, Whangārei, Auckland and Nelson.

The system uses a GoPro-style action camera mounted on an extendable pole.

Early engagement

This season, Biosecurity New Zealand representatives will again travel to international regattas to promote good biosecurity with yacht operators before they begin their voyage to New Zealand.

At the time of writing, our people were due to attend the Musket Cove Regatta in Fiji and the Vava’u Blue Water Festival in Tonga to deliver presentations, host information booths and distribute yacht information packs covering New Zealand’s biosecurity requirements.

Experience shows this engagement pays huge biosecurity dividends in improved compliance.



Looking back on 2025

594		recreational craft cleared at marinas around New Zealand	
Main ports of arrival			
51%	32%	15%	
Ōpua	Whangārei	Auckland	
Main countries of departure			
51%	26%	9%	7%
Fiji	Tonga	New Caledonia	Australia
3,150		biosecurity risk items seized	
97%		of seized items declared by vessel operators	
Most common risk goods: fresh produce, meat products and stored food items			
42		CITES-protected animal products (shells/coral) seized and referred to the Department of Conservation	
189		vessels approved for long-stay status* based on biofouling evidence submitted before arrival.	

**This status allows vessels to remain in New Zealand for 29 days or more, or to visit locations that are not approved “Places of First Arrival”.*

Performance check

Each year, we use compliance surveys to check how well we’re doing at stopping pests and diseases from entering New Zealand. Here’s how we performed in the passenger and mail pathways during 2025/26.

Passenger compliance remains strong

The latest survey shows biosecurity controls for international air passengers remain effective, with compliance reaching 98.92% and exceeding our performance target of 98.5%.

Our 2025/26 Air Passenger Compliance Monitoring programme involved surveying 11,257 passengers and crew across Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown airports after they had been through biosecurity processing.

Of those surveyed, 119 passengers and crew were found to be carrying biosecurity risk goods.

The result continues a trend of high compliance across the air passenger pathway. It shows that biosecurity controls remain effective as more travellers switch to digital declarations and passenger numbers increase.

The survey assessed passengers passing through a range of border interventions, including express lanes, x-ray screening and baggage inspections. Compliance exceeded 98.8% in both express lane and x-ray checks, which covered the majority of arriving passengers.

It was pleasing to see high compliance for top-priority biosecurity risks. Compliance for foot and mouth disease and fruit fly risk goods was 99.7%, similar to last year’s survey.



Mail controls still delivering

Like the passenger pathway, biosecurity controls for international mail continue to perform well, with the latest survey showing a compliance rate of 99.73%, well above our performance target of 99%.

Our 2025/26 Mail Compliance Monitoring programme sampled 3,628 mail items at the Auckland Processing Centre (APC) after they had passed through biosecurity screening.

Of those items, only 12 were found to contain non-compliant biosecurity risk goods, resulting in seizures.

The seizures included seeds for sowing, along with plant, animal, and bee products. Seeds accounted for half of all seizures, highlighting that they remain one of the most persistent biosecurity risks in the mail pathway.

The survey assessed the effectiveness of five screening methods for international mail, including x-ray screening, detector dogs, and manual inspections. Compliance exceeded 99% across all intervention methods, providing assurance that these controls are working effectively.

This year’s survey coincided with the transition of international mail screening to the APC. The move introduced automated sampling for the first time, using NZ Post’s new mail handling system.

The 2025/26 compliance result is consistent with previous years and continues a trend of high compliance in the international mail pathway.

More than 11.7 million international mail items arrived in New Zealand during the reporting period, underlining the scale of the task and the importance of effective border screening.

Passenger and mail compliance since 2022/23		
Survey period	Passenger compliance rate	Mail compliance rate
2022/23	98.84%	99.49%
2023/24	98.77%	99.73%
2024/25	98.94%	99.82%
2025/26	98.92%	99.73%



Cruise season ready

We've been hard at work preparing for the return of cruise vessels to New Zealand waters, with the 2026/27 season set to officially get under way shortly.

This season, 33 vessels are scheduled to visit New Zealand, making 95 voyages between October 2026 and June 2027. While there are fewer vessels than last season (39), this season's arrivals will undertake more voyages, meaning passenger numbers are expected to remain similar.

First arrivals

The Crown Princess, operated by Princess Cruises, arrived in Auckland on 29 August to considerable fanfare, signalling the start of the cruise season. Technically, that visit was the final cruise call of the 2025/26 season, as the new season does not officially begin until 1 October. Fittingly, the Crown Princess will claim the honour of opening the season when it returns to Auckland on 3 October.

The season's second arrival will be Celebrity Edge in Tauranga on 13 October, followed by Carnival Splendor in Napier on 16 October.

The largest vessel scheduled to visit New Zealand this season is Anthem of the Seas, which can carry up to 4,825 passengers. The vessel will operate in New Zealand waters between October and March.

Biofouling confidence

There are no changes to biofouling requirements this season. We're pleased with the high compliance levels achieved in recent seasons and expect that trend to continue.

Cruise vessel biofouling non-compliance declined from 11 vessels in 2022/23, to five in 2023/24, three in 2024/25, and just one vessel in 2025/26.

We had the opportunity to highlight this progress and celebrate the collaborative partnership with industry at the 2026 New Zealand Cruise Conference in August, which attracted around 230 delegates from across the sector.

Industry engagement

Our interactions with cruise operators have been very positive in the lead-up to the season. In addition to attending the New Zealand Cruise Conference, we held a webinar with cruise lines in August. Since then, many operators have contacted us to discuss preparations for the upcoming season and to ensure they meet New Zealand's biosecurity requirements.

Notable newcomers

Two vessels will make their first-ever visits to New Zealand this season.

SH Minerva, the flagship expedition vessel of the Swan Hellenic line, returns to service after spending more than two years laid up in Uruguay following sanctions-related legal issues involving its former Russian-linked leasing company. Following the resolution of those issues, the vessel has rejoined Sawan Hellenic's fleet and is scheduled to visit New Zealand in March 2027.

The second debut is Greg Mortimer, Aurora Expeditions' purpose-built vessel for exploring remote and polar regions, carrying up to 130 passengers.

Looking ahead

While cruise activity remains below pre-pandemic highs, the long-term outlook is encouraging. Industry plans include the return of winter cruising from 2027. Furthermore, Princess Cruises has announced plans to significantly expand its New Zealand programme from the 2028/29 season. The expansion is expected to make Princess Cruises the country's largest cruise operator.

For Biosecurity New Zealand, we will continue to work closely with cruise operators to ensure visitors have a positive experience at the border while protecting New Zealand from biosecurity threats.

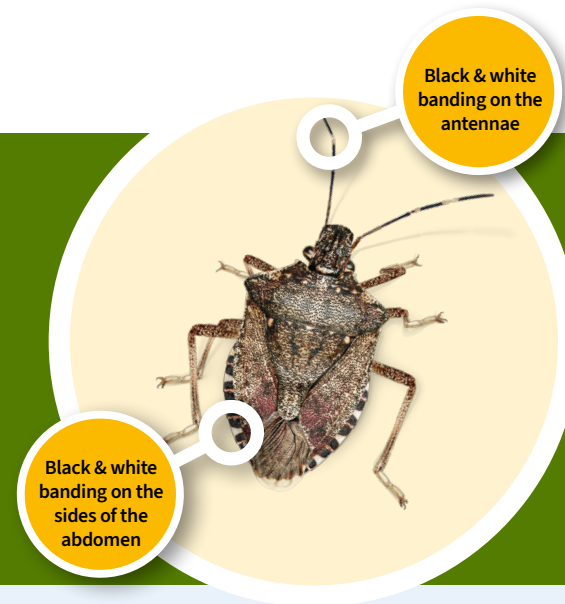
For a closer look at the nuts and bolts of cruise ship biosecurity, see the previous issue of [The Border Space](#).



Keeping BMSB at bay

As temperatures drop across the northern hemisphere, we're readying ourselves for our 10th season of defence against one of the world's nastiest hitchhiking pests – the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB).

The 2026/27 high-risk season for BMSB will again run from 1 September to 30 April. This is when the pest, seeking to hibernate during the northern winter, is most likely to hide in imported goods.



Building on experience

The 2026/27 season will build on more than a decade of experience stopping BMSB gaining a foothold in New Zealand. What began as a response to an emerging threat has evolved into a well-oiled biosecurity machine involving the likes of growers, shippers, importers and, of course, our frontline border teams.

This season's border operations follow a strong 2025/26 season, which again saw low detections of live bugs (62).



Scale

Container focus

Our container verification programme for 2026/27 will continue to target high-risk goods arriving from countries with known BMSB populations. The aim is to ensure this cargo complies with offshore treatment requirements or other approved systems in place to manage biosecurity risk.

As with previous seasons, there will be a huge focus on vehicles, machinery and parts, which are favourite hiding places for BMSB, and goods from Italy. This season, Italian ceramics and tiles will receive increased scrutiny following detections associated with the product in Australia.

Similarly, we plan to increase verification inspections of full containers that have been through offshore cleaning and other approved systems. This will provide greater assurance that these systems continue to manage BMSB risk.

Other cargo verification activities will include monitoring imports from watchlist countries, where a BMSB population may be emerging. Current watchlist countries include Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. As Uzbekistan is expected to be reclassified as a full BMSB-risk country in the future, all containers arriving from this country will continue to be subject to verification checks.

Random audits of imported shipping containers from all countries (i.e. not just those considered high risk), and targeted inspections in response to

detections, intelligence, or emerging risks, are also established features of our verification work.

Routine BMSB surveillance in the air freight pathway is not planned for the 2026/27 season.

We see air freight as posing a lower risk than containers arriving by sea. It has had a very low detection rate for several years. We will continue to rely on accredited transitional facility staff, who check every air freight container on arrival and during unpacking. If any issues crop up, we can rapidly put additional measures in place.



Breakbulk monitoring

Vessels arriving from BMSB-risk countries carrying breakbulk (uncontainerised) cargo will once again be closely monitored.

Before vessels arrive, shipping lines and crew provide transit information to help us assess the level of BMSB risk and determine the level of inspection required.

On arrival, quarantine officers carry out inspections tailored to each vessel's risk profile. Lower-risk vessels may receive targeted checks, while higher-risk vessels can be subject to comprehensive deck-by-deck inspections before cargo is released.

New vehicles are a common breakbulk cargo. They are managed through approved offshore systems that protect against BMSB. Each year, we also run the New Vehicle and Machinery Verification Programme, with officers proactively inspecting nearly 5,000 new vehicles and 700 machinery imports arriving on breakbulk vessels. These inspections help verify that the offshore systems are working as they should to keep BMSB out.

Passenger and mail

Steps to raise awareness of BMSB among arriving air passengers will also continue. Officers will target travellers arriving directly from the United States, Canada, and Japan with information about BMSB and what to do if they discover a suspect bug in their luggage or belongings.

Cruise passengers will be targeted with an onboard biosecurity video and other awareness materials.

We will also be working closely with NZ Post through awareness campaigns, staff training, information flyers, and operational briefings to improve recognition and reporting of suspected BMSB.

Mover alert

New to this season, the Biosecurity Business Pledge will launch a new BMSB awareness initiative that targets international moving companies dealing with personal effects.

The initiative will provide information that moving companies can share with customers and staff. We want people to know what to look for when packing household items offshore and opening them in New Zealand, and how to report any signs of BMSB.

Moving companies interested in getting involved can contact the Biosecurity Business Pledge at info@bbpledge.nz.

The Biosecurity Business Pledge is a partnership of businesses committed to supporting New Zealand's biosecurity.

BMSB champions

This season, we have again set up a nationwide network of quarantine officers ("BMSB champions") to help strengthen frontline awareness of updates and new developments. The champions will act as local experts, providing support to teams, sharing operational updates, and helping ensure any changes to BMSB procedures are implemented quickly.

Raising BMSB awareness

Our latest BMSB public awareness campaign will run from November through to May.



This season, the campaign will target 18 to 60-year-old travellers to New Zealand, both before and after they arrive in the country. There will be a strong focus on backpackers and working holiday visa holders, as well as travellers from high-risk BMSB countries such as the United States and Canada.

The campaign will also continue to target traditional audiences, including online shoppers, gardeners, DIY enthusiasts, and Māori communities.

Refining NZTD

Clearer questions and other changes to the digital New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) are helping travellers get their declarations right, leading to smoother border processing and more targeted biosecurity screening.

The changes, which went live in July, reflect the findings of workshops with frontline staff and analysis of call centre enquiries.

Making it clear

The main aim is to reduce confusion around items needing to be declared, often resulting in unnecessary scrutiny of low-risk items by officers.

For example, travellers arriving through Queenstown often declare used snow sports equipment, such as skis, which generally have a low biosecurity risk. Updated wording now provides clearer guidance on what equipment needs to be declared.

The declaration has also been simplified to make it clear that items only need to be declared once. Previously, travellers were sometimes unsure which category to select and, to cover themselves, chose multiple options.

Take the example of a chocolate bar containing nuts. Some travellers believed it needed to be declared as food, a plant item (nuts) and an animal product (dairy ingredients). The updated approach makes it clear that it should simply be declared as food, avoiding more intensive checks.



Better alignment

The updated questions have also been aligned more closely with Biosecurity New Zealand's public awareness messaging about the need to declare or dispose of risk items, as well as current import health standard requirements.

In particular, the revised approach focuses more clearly on explaining exactly what travellers need to declare, rather than what they don't.

Drawing attention

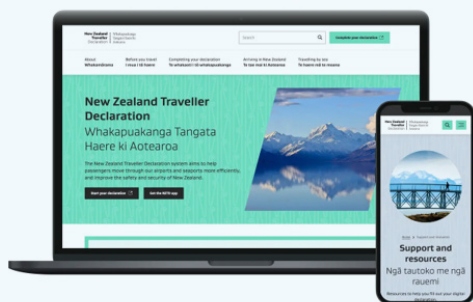
The refresh also places greater emphasis on items that are frequently undeclared.

For example, used or soiled footwear has one of the highest undeclared seizure rates, second only to fruit fly host material.

The updated declaration gives greater visibility to footwear requirements, making them easier to spot and increasing the likelihood that travellers will declare correctly.

Coming next

We are working closely with other border agencies to introduce other new NZTD features over the next year.



These include using travel history to support more targeted risk management. For example, travellers arriving from countries with

foot and mouth disease or brown marmorated stink bug could receive tailored information about the threat or be directed to additional screening where appropriate.

The approach builds on functionality recently introduced to target travellers who have visited countries affected by Ebola.

Future developments will also focus on improving the experience for families and groups travelling together.

Rather than separating people within the same travel party, the system is being designed to support processing based on the highest declared risk within the group.

We are also exploring options to allow parents or guardians to include dependent children within their declaration. This will reduce paperwork for travelling families, avoiding the need to complete separate declarations.

Another area under development is providing real-time messages to travellers carrying mobile phones or other devices. Such notifications could include wayfinding information, queue updates and instructions if a passenger's processing status changes while they are moving through the airport.

X-ray machines pass safety check



Used to screen baggage and international mail, our x-ray machines received a clean bill of health in August following routine radiation safety checks.

The Ministry of Health checks our x-ray equipment every two years to ensure radiation levels do not pose any safety risks to our operators or the public.

Using a Geiger counter, the levels were measured both inside and outside the machines, with results found to meet the supplier's specifications – well below permitted limits.

New Zealand's occupational radiation exposure limit is 50,000 microsieverts (μSv) per year. Our machines are guaranteed not to exceed $1\mu\text{Sv}$ per hour. Even if someone remained beside a machine 24 hours a day for an entire year, their exposure would be $8,760\mu\text{Sv}$, less than 20% of the legal limit.

To put things into perspective, an average person receives about $2,000\mu\text{Sv}$ each year from natural background radiation. A flight from New Zealand to the United Kingdom exposes a traveller to around $100\mu\text{Sv}$, while a head CT scan delivers about $2,000\mu\text{Sv}$.



The Biosecurity Business Pledge is a partnership helping all New Zealand businesses take a proactive approach to biosecurity practice.

Biosecurity protects your business, the environment and the economy.

bbpledge.nz



From the frontline

A selection of interesting interceptions and other border activity...

Dog Squad hangs up its leash

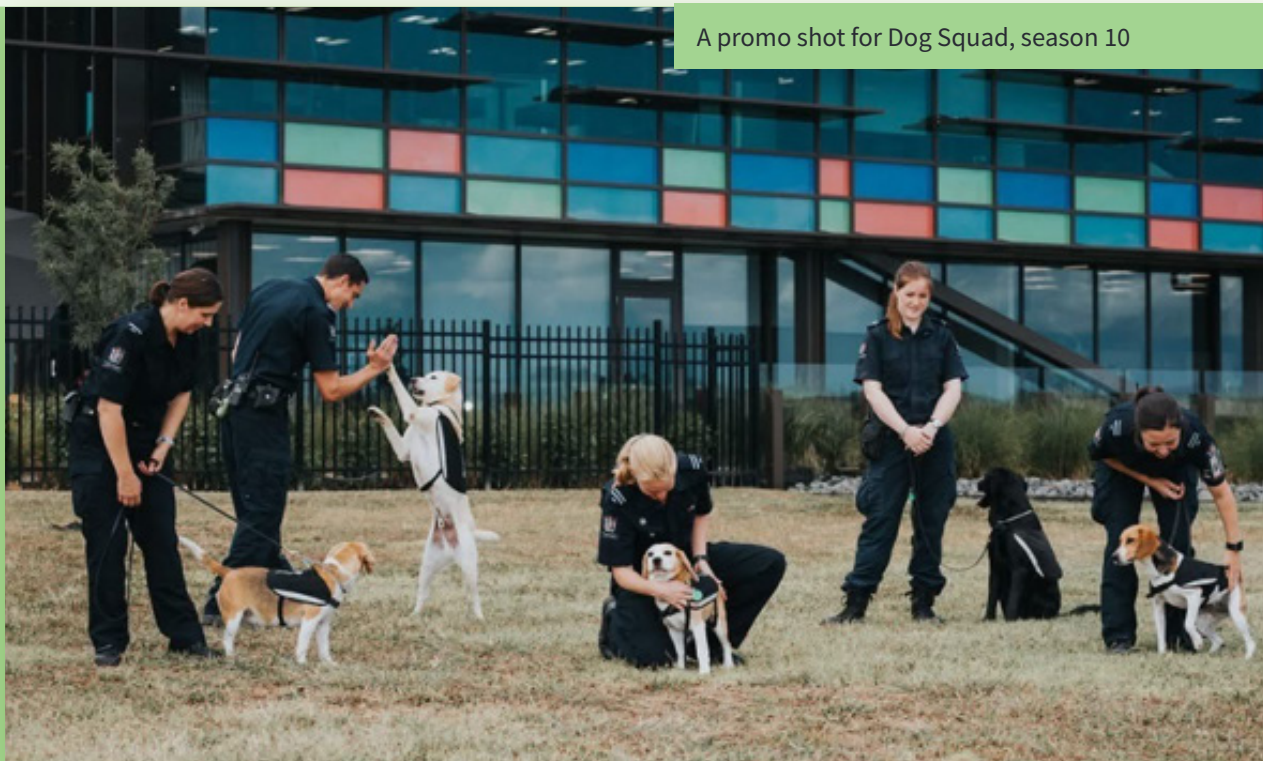
After 15 years as a regular fixture in many New Zealand households, Dog Squad's final season wrapped up in July.

Over its 15-season run, the reality television series provided insight into the work of our biosecurity detector dog teams, alongside canine services from NZ Customs, New Zealand Police, and Land Search and Rescue New Zealand.

Dog Squad still maintains a strong social media presence, with more than 58,000 followers across Facebook and Instagram.

Thanks, at least in part to the show's success, our detector dog teams enjoy a high international profile, helping to build awareness of New Zealand's biosecurity requirements among air passengers.

Border Patrol, TVNZ's other popular border-focused reality show, lives on. Filming recently wrapped on season 16, scheduled to screen next year.



A promo shot for Dog Squad, season 10

New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card

April 2007

1 flight number/ name of ship J 8171
passport number
nationality as shown on passport Malaysia
family name
given or first names
date of birth day month year
occupation or job
full contact or residential address in New Zealand
country of birth Malaysia
overseas port where you boarded THIS aircraft/ship Melbourne

2a Answer this section if you live in New Zealand. Otherwise go to '2b'.

How long have you been away from New Zealand?
years months days

Which country did you spend most time in while overseas?
Malaysia

What was the MAIN reason for your trip?
☐ business ☐ education ☒ other

Which country will you mostly live in for the next 12 months?
☒ New Zealand ☐ other

2b Answer this section if you DO NOT live in New Zealand.

How long do you intend to stay in New Zealand?
years months days

If you are not staying permanently what is your MAIN reason for coming to New Zealand?
☐ visiting friends or relatives ☐ business ☐ holiday/ vacation ☐ conference/ convention ☐ education ☐ other

Where did you last live for 12 months or more?
country
state, province, or prefecture
zip or postal code

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR MORE QUESTIONS AND TO SIGN

Blast from the past

It was a blast from the past when an air passenger presented an arrival card from 2007 to officers at Christchurch Airport.

While the passenger's record keeping skills were impressive, the nearly 20-year-old card didn't pass muster with either Biosecurity New Zealand or NZ Customs.

The Malaysian traveller, flying in from Australia, was happy to complete an up-to-date New Zealand Traveller Declaration form, which replaced passenger arrival cards in 2023.

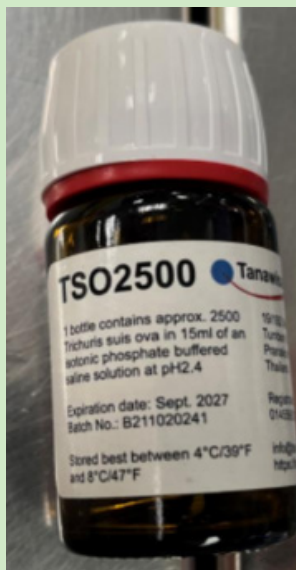
<< The vintage arrival card

Whipworm warning

A vial of *Trichuris suis* eggs (a whipworm species) was an unusual detection for our team checking international mail at the Auckland Processing Centre.

Imported from Thailand in August, the parasite is usually associated with pigs. However, some people ingest its eggs to manage conditions such as Crohn's disease, or for weight loss. This isn't recommended due to possible adverse health effects.

The vial was seized. At the time of writing, it was due to either be shipped back to Thailand at the importer's expense or destroyed.



Whipworm up close.



Shopping space no more

Our passenger risk assessment area at Wellington Airport is now separated from the duty-free shopping area.

The move removes the unusual situation of passengers being screened beside shoppers in a busy retail area, providing greater privacy and security.

The first stage of the refit saw hoardings installed behind our six risk assessment podiums, removing the overlap between passenger processing and duty-free shopping.

The second stage, underway at the time of writing, will see the hoardings removed, creating a passenger transition area.

Biosecurity New Zealand has been carrying out risk assessments in this location for nearly two years. This allows officers to screen passengers before they collect their baggage, helping identify biosecurity risks earlier in the arrival process while improving the overall passenger experience.



Biosecurity no-brainer

This large jar of raw honeycomb was a biosecurity no-brainer for our team at NZ Post's Auckland Processing Centre. It wasn't going anywhere in New Zealand, except to a quarantine bin.

The undeclared product arrived at the centre in August in a care package from France. It was held for 28 days, then destroyed after the importer failed to respond to our contact attempt.

Fiddle fails

A traditional Chinese fiddle attracted the attention of quarantine officers at Queenstown Airport.

Carried by a passenger from China in August, the violin-like instrument was an erhu, sometimes called the Chinese two-string fiddle.

The wooden parts of the instrument were clean and met New Zealand's biosecurity requirements. However, it was questionable whether its python skin-covered soundbox complied with CITES rules (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

The Department of Conservation confirmed it did not, resulting in its seizure.

The erhu is known for its distinctive sound. Many feature a soundbox covered with snakeskin, which gives the instrument both a unique tone and problems meeting CITES requirements.



Old money

A recent consignment of scrap metal contained a monetary surprise.

Inspected at a Christchurch transitional facility, the 21-tonne consignment was declared as aluminium, bronze and brass scrap destined to be recycled into machinery parts.

A very routine inspection for the Christchurch team, except for the 3.7-tonne bag of old British two-shilling (florin) coins.

No longer legal tender, the coins were headed for the melting pot along with the rest of the scrap metal.

There were no biosecurity concerns. The container had been fumigated on arrival and passed inspection without issue.

Meat “lollies”

They were individually wrapped in foil, just like a bag of lollies.

But unlike the usual sugary treat, these lollies were made of meat that could have been carrying foot and mouth disease.

The air passenger, recently arriving in Queenstown from China, failed to declare the beef snacks, which were picked up by baggage x-ray. The passenger ended up meatless with a \$400 fine.



Live rat in mandarins



A mandarin consignment from Australia was destroyed in August after a rat was discovered in a shipping container.

Officials detected fresh rodent droppings while preparing to take a sample for inspection at a Christchurch transitional facility. The 40-foot refrigerated container was immediately closed and fumigated.

Following the inspection, a rat was found in a paper nest inside one of the bins containing mandarins. The affected bin was treated as quarantine waste and sent for destruction.

The remainder of the consignment, comprising 59 bins containing some 21,600 bags of mandarins, was directed for disposal by deep burial at Kate Valley Landfill.

Deliberate concealment results in conviction

An air passenger who admitted providing false information to conceal biosecurity risk goods in his baggage has been convicted and sentenced to 80 hours of community work.

The outcome sends a clear message that travellers who attempt to circumvent New Zealand's biosecurity requirements can expect serious consequences.

Anuar Sadek, a New Zealand passport holder, arrived at Auckland Airport from Bangladesh in February 2025 carrying four bags. Although he declared some food items, he presented only one bag for inspection and told biosecurity officers he had nothing else to declare.

Following x-ray screening of the bags, further examination uncovered fresh plums, nearly 400g of undeclared leaves, multiple packets of seeds and fresh beans, and tobacco products hidden among clothing and in suitcase pockets.

During sentencing at the Manukau District Court on 25 August, Judge McNaughton accepted that the offending involved deliberate concealment and an attempt to avoid biosecurity controls. He noted that such behaviour undermines New Zealand's biosecurity system, which relies on honest declarations from arriving passengers.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$50,000. The court, however, considered Sadek's early guilty plea, lack of previous offending, and personal financial circumstances in imposing the sentence.



Cannabis seed surge

Our international mail team is on high alert following a surge in packets of undeclared cannabis seed imports from Spain and the Netherlands.

At the time of writing, officers have intercepted more than 400 brown-paper parcels containing seeds at the Auckland Processing Centre (APC).

The seeds have been arriving concealed in men's knitted clothing, T-shirts, bum bags and most recently, phone cases.

This is the third instance of mass interceptions of cannabis seed this year, following previous spikes in February and April/May.

We stop the parcels, collect them together, and refer them to NZ Post for return to sender.

This process was agreed between NZ Post, Biosecurity New Zealand, and Customs to deal with mass interceptions of non-compliant seed. NZ Post is using Universal Postal Union (UPU) rules to return mail that has been denied entry.

If they were individual packets, we would pass them on to Customs for seizure.

The UPU is an agency of the United Nations that coordinates global postal services.



Whose bag?

A passenger arriving from Singapore was lucky to be allowed entry into New Zealand after arriving with 11kg of undeclared meat.

Landing at Auckland Airport in late August, the passenger was referred for baggage inspection after x-ray screening.

The passenger initially claimed the bag belonged to a friend but later admitted it was his own.

A search of the luggage uncovered a range of meat products, including pork, chicken, beef and duck. After due consideration, the passenger was permitted entry but was issued with an infringement notice and placed on alert.

Know the threat

Working at a transitional facility? We've updated our **factsheets** on unwanted pests and diseases that can arrive in imported cargo and threaten New Zealand's environment, economy, and primary industries.



Border activity for July and August 2026

	July 2025	July 2026	August 2025	August 2026
Passenger				
Total arrivals	570,169	588,000	497,302	512,945
NZ/Australia	399,202	403,577	340,439	342,939
Rest of world	170,967	184,423	156,863	170,006
Risk items seized	9,060	6,817	5,898	5,990
Risk items treated or destroyed*	5,827	6,086	5,322	5,321
Infringement notices	647	671	599	625
Mail				
Mail items screened	915,529	824,995	844,681	928,386
Mail items requiring further inspection	3,411	4,680	2,907	4,681
Risk mail items treated or destroyed	388	95	355	115**
Sea Containers				
Sea containers arrivals	62,001	60,748	61,374	61,453
Sea containers inspected	3,185	3,054	2,666	2,567
Cargo				
Cargo lines of interest to MPI	41,748	50,286	36,915	45,062
Cargo lines inspected	5,680	6,365	5,743	5,698
Cargo lines treated, reshipped or destroyed	1,011	1,048	1,071	993

*From June 2026, seizure figures no longer include item collected from amnesty bins.

** This figure is provisional and will likely be adjusted upwards. Importers are given 28 days to decide whether to treat, reship or destroy mail.



Mike Inglis
Commissioner, North
Biosecurity New Zealand



Andrew Spelman
Commissioner, Biosecurity Intelligence
and Systems, Biosecurity New Zealand



Diane McDermott
Commissioner, Central/South
Biosecurity New Zealand

Sign up to

New Zealand's most
popular border biosecurity
publication.

Back issues of
The Border Space are now
available [online](#)