



The BorderSpace

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



NZTD goes live on cruise ships

Following successful trials of the digital New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) on cruise ships during the summer cruise season, travellers arriving into or transiting through New Zealand are now required to submit a digital arrival declaration.

The NZTD went live for cruise ship travellers and crew on Thursday 28 March 2024.

The NZTD collects information for customs, immigration, biosecurity, and health if required, to enable safe, secure and efficient clearance and enforcement services for travellers while protecting New Zealand.

The New Zealand Customs Service has led the introduction of the NZTD in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries (Biosecurity New Zealand), the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (Immigration New Zealand) and the Ministry of Health.

The completion of the roll-out of the NZTD for maritime passengers and crew follows the successful introduction of the NZTD for international travellers arriving at New Zealand airports in August 2023.

An NZTD paper declaration form for air and maritime is available for those who are unable to complete the digital declaration.

Biosecurity benefits for border

The NZTD allows border teams to assess passenger information earlier in their journey, which makes risk screening more effective.

Biosecurity is of paramount importance to New Zealand's biodiversity and economy. The data we get from NZTD allows us to target those passengers and goods that we're most concerned about, provides better data to assess future risks, and a new channel to pass on critical biosecurity information to travellers.

...continued overleaf



Part of the NZTD cruise ship trials: The Viking Orion cruise ship at the Ports of Auckland.

Cruise trials successful

Prior to go-live for maritime cruise vessels, the NZTD technology and processes were trialled with several cruise companies and vessels arriving at a range of ports across New Zealand.

The first two trials were in October and November 2023, and a further 13 trials took place between January to early March 2024 at Auckland, Lyttelton, Port Chalmers and Bluff ports. Digital uptake was over 90% with the majority of the trials.

This is a significant achievement that would not have been possible without support from participating cruise lines, staff onboard vessels, and agents.

Feedback from both cruise ship operators and travellers has been positive.

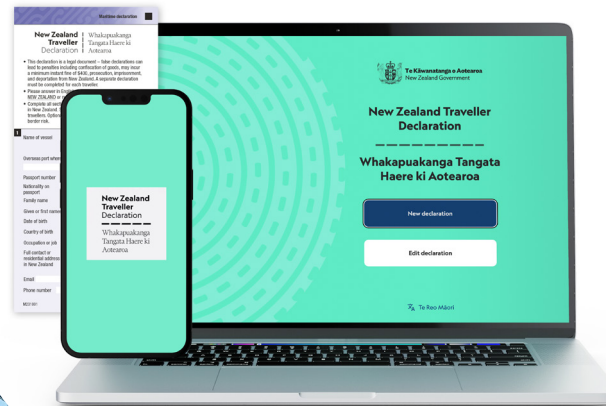
Thank you for your support

We thank cruise vessels and agents for their support in encouraging passengers to use the NZTD during the trials and implementation, and our border teams for their commitment and mahi toward to the success of the trials and implementation.

Insights and feedback shared throughout the trials enabled processes to be refined and improved.



Some of our Biosecurity New Zealand and NZTD team members processing passengers on the *Hanseatic Spirit* cruise ship.



The *Hanseatic Spirit* cruise ship arrived at Lyttelton Port on 1 March.



Biofouling compliance up this summer

This summer's cruise season has seen a significant increase in compliance with our biofouling requirements, which are vital for protecting our marine ecosystems and economy.

Biosecurity New Zealand has worked closely with cruise companies to help them understand and meet our biofouling rules, which ensure visitors and New Zealanders will enjoy our special marine areas, such as Fiordland, for generations to come.

Marine pests and diseases introduced to New Zealand on vessel hulls (biofouling) are a threat to our marine environment and resources. All vessels arriving in New Zealand must provide evidence of biofouling management prior to arrival.

We thank the cruise industry for their efforts to combat biofouling. Of the 54 vessels that visited New Zealand this summer, only five failed their biofouling assessment. In the 2022/23 season, 11 vessels failed the assessment.

This season's result is particularly good given there has been an increase of about 25% in the number of vessels arriving this season, along with some new cruise providers who have adapted well to meeting our requirements.

After the season finishes for the year this month, we'll review how it went and consider any necessary adjustments for next season.



54 CRUISE SHIPS VISITED NZ
25% MORE THAN LAST SEASON

5 FAILED BIOFOULING ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO **11** LAST SEASON

Biosecurity officers deployed offshore for SailGP pre-border verification

Chief Quarantine Officer Greg McCarthy and Senior Quarantine Officer Wayne Chittock had a big task on their hands in Sydney earlier this year, checking about 100 containers full of craft and equipment destined for the SailGP event at Lyttelton/Whakaraupō Harbour.

SailGP is an international tour event that features national teams battling in short, intense races. Sailing's best athletes compete in identical hydrofoiling F50 catamarans, reaching speeds approaching 100 km per hour.

The inaugural SailGP NZ event was held at Lyttelton/Whakaraupō Harbour in March 2024 with two Christchurch-based quarantine officers deployed offshore to carry out pre-border verification of craft and equipment prior to arrival in New Zealand. Pre-border verification in Australia ensured the biosecurity risk is mitigated offshore and helped prevent logistical complications and delays if critical or sensitive goods required inspection and treatment.

A large volume of containers and used equipment had to be imported to New Zealand to support the event in Ōtautahi Christchurch. The containers themselves can be a biosecurity risk as well as the used equipment, which includes race, chase and marshalling boats, large marquee tent-type structures, marquee flooring, generators and cabling.

The ITM New Zealand Sail Grand Prix Christchurch event in March was part of SailGP's fourth season, which spans 13 events in iconic destinations around the world. New Zealand was the ninth stop on the calendar, following events in Sydney (February) and Abu Dhabi (January).



Greg and Wayne onsite.



Team New Zealand base during boat deconstruction.



A significant step in safeguarding Taranaki's unique environment

A new collective, Biosecurity Taranaki, was launched in New Plymouth last month. The collective brings together a diverse range of individuals and organisations committed to protecting the region from the threat of pests, weeds and diseases.

Biosecurity Taranaki aims to be proactive in safeguarding our environment, economy and way of life from biosecurity threats. Spanning industry groups, iwi, hapū, government agencies, local government, businesses and community groups, Biosecurity Taranaki will work to raise awareness, build capability and protect the region's future.

Biosecurity Taranaki is the second regional collaboration of its type in New Zealand, in addition to Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital. Taranaki is a beach, bush and mountain paradise for outdoor adventurers. The region's forestry, agriculture, seafood and energy sectors are all at risk from pests and diseases.

Taranaki Regional Council Chair Charlotte Littlewood says Biosecurity Taranaki is an exciting initiative that will complement the council's long-running pest management programmes.

"Protecting Taranaki from pests and diseases is a massive task but by all working together we're giving ourselves the best possible chance of success."

Biosecurity New Zealand will work with Biosecurity Taranaki and its members to build a community of biosecurity champions who will advocate for, and take action to ensure, the very best biosecurity outcomes for this region.

Biosecurity New Zealand supports regional collaborations as part of building biosecurity readiness for potential threats.

Biosecurity Taranaki's membership currently includes: Agriculture and Investment Services (MPI),ASUREQuality, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ngāti Te Whiti Hapū, Paranihi Ki Waitōtara, Port Taranaki, Taranaki Catchment Communities, Taranaki Regional Council, Te Heru Māpara, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui and Te Whatu Ora Taranaki.



Biosecurity Taranaki

Protecting our region



New quarantine officers join the ranks in Auckland

The work our quarantine officers do to protect New Zealand's \$57.4 billion primary sector exports from unwanted pests and diseases cannot be understated.

Our newest cohort of Biosecurity New Zealand quarantine officers graduated last month after completing their training programme.

As part of their training programme, the new cohort provided assistance at Auckland International Airport over the busy Christmas period.

We are now gearing up for our first intake of 2024, with a cohort starting in Auckland on Monday 6 May and another in Queenstown on Monday 13 May. The new officers will complete their three-month training programme before graduating in early July. A further intake is scheduled for August.

Six detector dog handlers are in training (five in Auckland and one in Queenstown). The new handlers are set to graduate in May, shortly before a further round of handler training begins later in May.



Our new officers with Stuart Anderson, Deputy Director-General, Biosecurity New Zealand (front-centre) with Stephen Clements, Chief Quarantine Officer (top row, left), Fleur Francois, Director Diagnostics and Surveillance Services (front third from left) and Mike Inglis, Commissioner North (front fourth from left).



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.

Join now

thisisus.nz/biosecurity-business-pledge

Stink bug interceptions increasing

The number of live stink bug interceptions increased this season, partly due to a cluster of 20 live BMSB found on a vessel from the United States (via Jamaica and Panama) and an increase in live BMSB arriving with passengers.

This season, from 1 September to 28 March, 102 live bugs were intercepted, compared to 44 last season.

There were markedly more interceptions of live bugs through the passenger pathway this season. Of the 102 interceptions, 51 came through the passenger pathway.

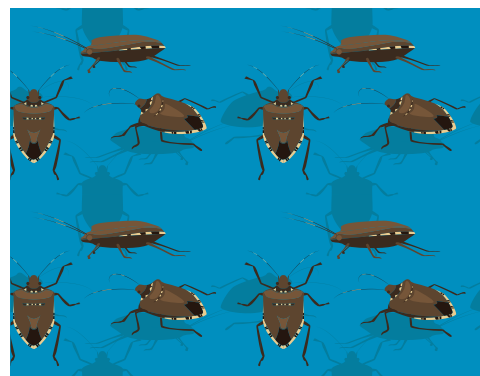
Rugby fans returning home from last year's Rugby World Cup in France are the most likely suspects for inadvertently bringing an uninvited guest. Along with the widely reported surge in bed bugs in France during the World Cup, there was also a rise in the number of BMSB across Europe. The Institut de Recherche sur la Biologie de l'Insecte which studies insect biology, said the weather conditions in the 2023 European summer helped boost the BMSB population.

This boost in the population of BMSB then had a flow on effect to countries such as New Zealand as travellers returned home – particularly as traveller numbers have continued to increase post-COVID.

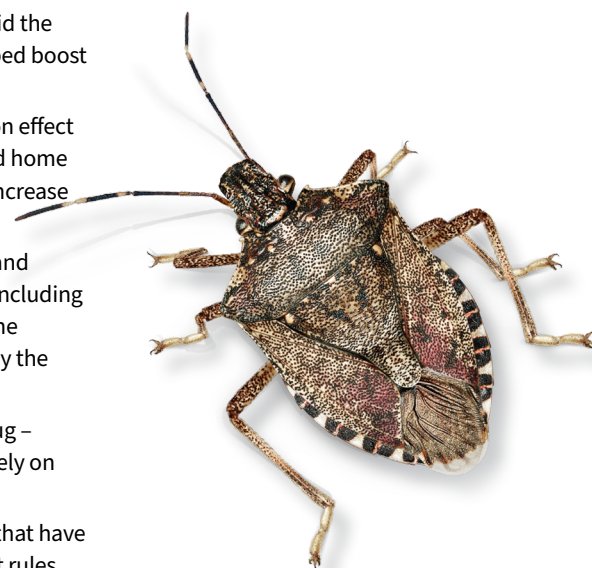
Cargo continues to be a significant pathway for BMSB and shipping lines are doing their bit to reduce BMSB risk, including carrying out additional surveillance during transit. In the case of the aggregation, most of the bugs were found by the vessel's crew.

If you think you've found a brown marmorated stink bug – don't kill it. Catch it, take a photo and call us immediately on 0800 80 99 66.

We continue to monitor the threat posed by countries that have known BMSB populations and make changes to import rules as required.



LIVE BUG INTERCEPTIONS
THIS SEASON **102**
51 ARRIVED WITH PASSENGERS!



FMD border measures as Bali flights resume

Direct flights from Bali resumed in April, and for passengers on those flights, there continues to be enhanced processes on arrival in New Zealand to manage the threat of foot and mouth disease (FMD) from Indonesia.

Indonesia is managing an FMD outbreak. This situation doesn't significantly raise the risk to New Zealand, but we are committed to reviewing biosecurity settings where required and we've taken several steps to boost our protections at the border to keep New Zealand free from the disease.

All passengers arriving from Bali are currently required to go through footbaths at the arrival gate and face additional risk assessment questioning from officers.

We have been working with Air New Zealand to ensure travellers coming from Bali are aware of the enhanced biosecurity measures and how they can reduce processing time. Travellers are receiving information throughout their journey – including at departure from Denpasar, during the flight and at the baggage collection area on arrival. We are also encouraging travellers to wear closed-toed footwear for their return journey.

Declare if you:
Have been in contact with livestock
Have any animal products, meat or farm equipment

KEEP NZ FREE OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Ensure shoes, clothing and equipment are clean

DETECTOR DOGS WORKING

Please don't touch the dogs while they are working

Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries

Te Kaitiaki o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

From the frontline

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

Uninvited guests

At Auckland Airport, Biosecurity New Zealand staff conducting x-ray inspections found 10kg of undeclared fresh bananas and sweet potato. Mites, scale, thrips and earwigs were found among the fruit and vegetables.



A tail to tell

Handler Bianca was working with detector dog Pedro at the International Mail Centre when Pedro showed a lot of interest in a parcel. It was found to contain a silver fox tail from Canada. It was determined that the tail was not an item listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, so was sent for treatment.



Deer declaration

These deer skulls and antlers were declared by a traveller arriving in Queenstown from Australia. The hunter/taxidermist managed to fit them all in a bag and had another bag full of freshly salted hides. The goods were inspected with some extraneous tissue found to be still attached. They were treated and approved for clearance.



Gardeners' hazardous haul!

While working at Auckland Airport, detector dog Pepper indicated on a couple of bags on a luggage trolley pushed by some passengers. Our officers carried out a thorough search of the baggage, detecting a range of fresh fruit, including mango, snake fruit and custard apples, as well as plant cuttings, a Bird of Paradise flower, seed pods and seeds from various fruits for sowing.

The passengers had arrived in New Zealand after visiting Malaysia where they picked up the items. They were then going to cruise around New Zealand and Australia, before returning home to Turkey – where they intended to plant the items in their garden. The passengers were duly fined. Pepper was rewarded for successfully stopping this potentially hazardous haul from entering the country.



Fine for undeclared betel nut snacks

While patrolling incoming passengers at Auckland Airport, detector dog Kade came across almost a kilogram of betel nut, seeds, and spices wrapped in fresh betel nut leaf. There were even more in the passenger's suitcase and in his travelling companions' baggage – all undeclared.

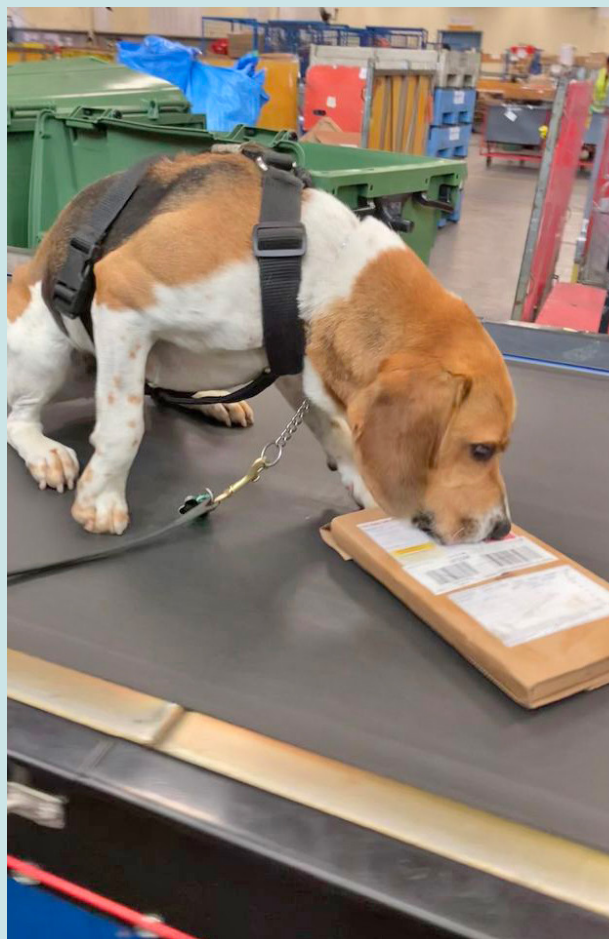
These items are a snack that originate from India and Bangladesh that can potentially harbour pests or diseases that New Zealand does not currently have.



From the frontline... continued

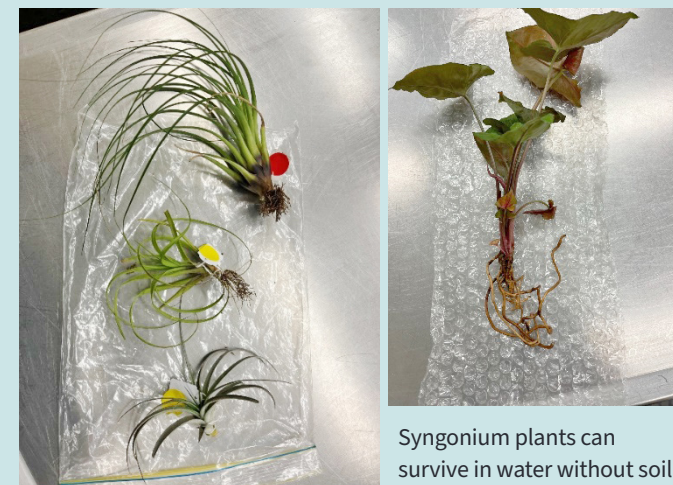
Plant materials in parcels from Germany

While working at the International Mail Centre in Auckland, Nicky and detector dog Hunter came across a warthog warmie (heatable stuffed animal) from Germany, filled with seeds and lavender. With its contents not permitted to enter New Zealand, our officers destroyed the removable pouch and sent the warthog on its way. Another parcel, also from Germany, attracted Hunter's interest. Declared as a "small book", the parcel included some pressed flowers tucked into the cover of the book. Plant materials such as flowers, grass, seeds or dirt can pose serious biosecurity risks, so they couldn't continue to their final destination. The flowers were destroyed and the book was cleared for sending.



Air plants destroyed on arrival

A passenger travelling from Melbourne declared four plants she had purchased at the Melbourne Garden Show, three tillisandia plants and a syngonium plant. The passenger unfortunately was given incorrect information from the seller at the time of purchase, and the plants were subsequently seized and disposed of.



Tillisandia plants, also known as air plants, do not need soil to grow. They are often found attached to branches or trees and get water via their roots from the moisture in the air.

Syngonium plants can survive in water without soil and are considered water propagatable plants.

Border activity for January/February/March 2024

	JAN-23	JAN-24	FEB-23	FEB-24	MAR-23	MAR-24
Passenger						
Total arrivals	504,802	657,127	443,550	568,580	443,289	532,099
NZ/Australia	300,935	372,823	227,023	271,558	241,834	286,889
Rest of world	203,867	284,304	216,527	297,022	201,455	245,210
Risk items seized	10,030	11,363	7,967	9,452	6,680	8,620
Risk items treated or destroyed	9,653	7,969	7,666	6,589	6,372	5,693
Infringement notices	565	933	535	851	593	795
Mail						
Mail items screened	1,443,520	1,276,387	1,100,633	970,801	1,438,446	983,593
Mail items requiring further inspection	2,224	2,066	1,960	1,599	2,639	1,604
Risk mail items treated or destroyed	411	341	355	214	481	238
Sea Containers						
Sea containers arrivals	55,448	58,079	50,758	62,310	57,451	68,961
Sea containers inspected	2,180	3,037	2,508	2,982	3,414	3,115
Cargo						
Cargo lines of interest to MPI	17,599	18,136	19,775	18,611	18,312	18,644
Cargo lines inspected	4,730	4,999	3,974	4,507	4,711	4,545
Cargo lines treated, reshipped or destroyed	895	961	880	829	822	839



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Commissioner, North
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