

See Contain Report

November 2013



Minister Guy with Clara – one of MPI's new detector dog puppies.

A word from the Minister

Biosecurity is my number one priority as Minister for Primary Industries.

New Zealand is a trading nation that relies heavily on the health of its primary industries. Our trade statistics show this clearly: primary sector exports make up 72 percent of this country's overall merchandise exports.

Part of the success of our exports is due to New Zealand's international reputation. Our strong biosecurity system and the low number of pests in this country is an important part of that reputation.

The big challenge for this government and industry players is to continue to facilitate and grow trade, yet continue to protect New Zealand from unwanted pests and diseases.

This is where you come in. Our biosecurity system relies on you, as accredited persons and transitional facility operators, to work with MPI and do your job well.

The aim of this newsletter is to help you perform this vital biosecurity role. It will provide inspection tips, interception examples and other relevant information.

I sincerely hope you find this resource useful. And I very much appreciate your vigilance at the border.

Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries

Know the enemy

Brown marmorated stink bug

It's brown marmorated stink bug season, so keep an eye out for this insect when checking sea containers. The adults are about 1.7cm long and have a distinctive brown shield shape. They like to shelter in cracks and corners in containers. You may also find them between layers of cardboard or paper packaging. They survive on a wide range of leafy plants and fruit. They are found in Asia; mainly China, Japan and Korea, and have invaded the USA. An escape could see a population establish in New Zealand.



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From the frontline



Mike Braks

Introducing Mike Braks

Quarantine Inspector Mike Braks has been working with APs and operators for several years, passing on his biosecurity knowledge to help them and their facilities meet MPI requirements.

He says he gets a lot of satisfaction from helping APs and operators with their facilities and improving their relationship with MPI.

Mike values the role of APs, seeing them as a vital part of biosecurity protection at the border.

As well as going to transitional facilities to inspect risk goods, he carries out facility audits when a facility or an operator needs MPI approval.

“The best advice I can give an operator is to have a good understanding of both the legislative and the day-to-day requirements for running a transitional facility,” Mike says.

One of the more unusual AP finds Mike remembers was a live cane toad in a container from China. The AP was understandably cautious about dealing with it. Mike also recalls an amusing incident where an AP was inspecting the interior of a container holding an American car when he saw some spiders and ran as fast as he could!

AP and operator training cycles

The frequency of training required by APs changed from 1 July 2013. An AP must now attend refresher training within two years of their initial training and again four years later. Operator training and refresher training frequency stays the same at four-yearly intervals.

Table 1 Training frequency

Year	AP	Operator
0	Initial training	Initial training
1		
2	Refresher training	
3		
4		Refresher training
5		
6	Refresher training	
7		
8		Refresher training
9		
10	Refresher training	

Training FAQs

My AP certification expired last month, and I've completed my training this month. As my certification lapsed before I did retraining, do I now need to train again in two years, or four years?

MPI will look at each request on a case-by-case basis. There is a limited amount of room for movement for special circumstances, for example in some regions, training dates are not as frequent as others. We will advise accordingly.

I've lost my AP or operator certificate. Can I get a replacement certificate?

Yes. A replacement certificate can be issued, however it will be marked as a duplicate copy and will be emailed rather than provided in hard copy. Please contact MPI directly on (09) 909 8511 or seacontainer@mpi.govt.nz for any replacement certificate requests.

How do I work out if I'm on a two year or a four year training cycle?

Table 1 on the left indicates whether your next AP training will be in two or four years time, effective from 1 July 2013. Operator training is required every four years. Please note, an operator or AP may also be directed to complete additional refresher training by a Transitional Facilities Auditor, in addition to the standard refresher training.

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Operator training update

Following the refresh of the AP training materials earlier in 2013, MPI is currently working on new materials for operator training. These will likely be available in your training courses in early to mid 2014.

There is a large amount of technical information to review and verify to ensure materials are as up-to-date as possible. The MPI Education and Training group consults with both MPI and external stakeholders to ensure the training material is suitable.

Training statistics Jan-Jul 2013

The following table shows the number of APs and operators trained by our training providers from January to the end of July 2013.

Table 2

New APs	1682
Re-trained APs	2769
Total APs trained	4451
New operators	763
Re-trained operators	959
Total operators trained	1722

How we're tracking

The table shows contaminants found and reported by APs from December 2012 until September 2013.

Table 3

Risk items	Number	%
spider(s)	1776	25.6
Insects (no Ants)	1517	21.9
soil	1053	15.2
other	726	10.4
seeds	720	10.4
plant products	538	7.8
non-ISPM 15 WPM	206	3.0
insect damage	166	2.4
mould	121	1.7
fungal attack	100	1.4
Total	6923	100

Please email MPI at seacontainer@mpi.govt.nz if you have any comments or questions about this newsletter, APs or operators.

Air containers and biosecurity risk

Internationally, there is concern about the biosecurity risk associated with air containers and aircraft following a report from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Aircraft and air containers are known to have introduced pests into a country or area where they were previously not present. One example is the 2001 red imported fire ant incursion at Auckland Airport, which cost in excess of NZ\$1.5M to eradicate over a three-year period.

Issues such as the fast turn-around time of the aviation industry increase biosecurity risk in this pathway. As such, it is proposed that the current Import Health Standard (IHS) for importing air containers is revised. This will include aligning the IHS with other relevant standards, including the standard for general transitional facilities. It also includes clarifying the roles and responsibilities of transitional facilities operators receiving air containers and the biosecurity impacts of not complying.



Beans in an air container from Australia

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