

See Contain Report

May 2015

From the Editors

The draft revised standard - General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Risk Goods (TFGEN) and the associated guidance document will be sent out for external consultation in the near future. It is planned to have these documents finalised by 30 June 2015, although the implementation date could be affected by the volume and type of feedback received from stakeholders. The purpose of TFGEN is to provide specifications for the management of uncleared risk goods at TFs located at the NZ border before biosecurity clearance is granted. The standard lists requirements for operating TFs and the guidance document provides useful information for Operators with advice and best practice examples for TF operation and how to maintain compliance.

Uncleared risk goods (including live animals or other organisms) are directed to TFs for various purposes such as destruction/disposal, holding, inspection, processing, transit (prior to re-export) and treatment. Some examples of uncleared risk goods may include animal products, air and sea containers, fertiliser, live animals, machinery, plants and wood packaging. Contact Dave for additional details of these documents.

Dave Nendick (dave.nendick@mpi.govt.nz) & Chris Denny (chris.denny@mpi.govt.nz)

Know the Enemy: Asian Long-horned Beetle

The Asian long-horned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), native to Asia, has been accidentally introduced into Canada, several European countries and the US on wood packing material and pallets from Asia. They are one of the most destructive introduced insects in the world and cause an estimated \$3.5 billion in damage each year in the US alone. They are not yet in NZ, although have been intercepted on imported material in the past including being found by Accredited Persons (APs).



Adults are 2.5–4cm long, are shiny black with white spots, have metallic looking blue feet and very long antennae. They can fly, but usually only for short distances. Adults feed on a wide variety of trees such as birches, elms, maples and willows. However, the larvae are the most destructive because they tunnel through the wood and cause severe damage which can eventually kill badly infested trees – the larvae are also extremely hard to kill off.

If you see anything that looks like this pest on imported goods, please catch or spray it with insecticide and call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 as soon as possible.

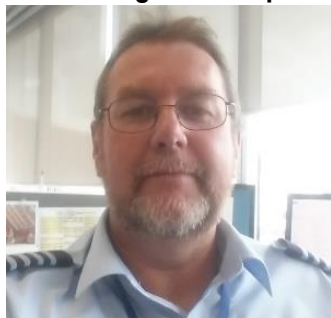
Personal Effects Consignments – Delivery to Residence no Longer Allowed

From **1 June 2015** full container load consignments of personal or household effects will no longer be permitted to be unpacked at the importer's residence, regardless of the risk status of the consignment. Any MPI inspection of personal effects items of biosecurity interest must be carried out at a TF approved for that purpose. This measure has changed to minimise the risks associated with unpacking and inspecting risk goods at uncontrolled locations. MPI will not consider personal effect sea containers to be eligible for the Temporary TF process. For any clarification, please contact Jim McLaggan (jim.mclaggan@mpi.govt.nz).

See Contain Report: Phone your nearest MPI office to report contamination or call 0800 80 99 66

From the Frontline

Introducing Eric Gimpel



Eric has been with MPI for 12 years and has been in his current Chief Quarantine Officer (CQO) role in Wellington for 6 months. He started as an Enforcement Officer in 2003 conducting investigations at the border before becoming a QO in 2007. He oversees staff who deal with TFs on a daily basis in

Wellington, as well as regional ports in Gisborne, Napier, New Plymouth and Palmerston North. Eric is a highly qualified auditor and has conducted TF audits for MPI.

His advice to Operators and APs is for them to voluntarily keep their TF premises up to standard requirements. If they have any questions, ring their local MPI office, as there is no such thing as a 'silly' question. They should also keep their training up-to-date and not see audits as a tool that MPI uses to 'catch them out', but as a way of ensuring best practice in their worksite to protect NZ's borders. If non-compliances are detected, then he encourages them to have these rectified within an agreed time period and keep their management team informed of any issues. If non-compliances are not rectified, then MPI can cancel or suspend their ability to receive risk goods such as containers - we will only do this as a last resort. In his down time Eric enjoys travelling in NZ and overseas on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Temporary Transitional Facilities

Due to unique short term events such as circuses, large concerts or V8 supercars events, MPI provides a Temporary Transitional Facility (TTF) option to deal with biosecurity risks associated with these events. However, MPI believes that this option has been exploited by people who request a TTF even though their goods can be managed at a TF that is already approved. As a result, MPI is aligning the requirements for such approvals with usual procedures. For example, this approval type will no longer be able to be used as an interim measure while awaiting full TF approval, and approval will be declined if a request comes through for a container already at a port in NZ. MPI will also ensure that TTFs are run by a fully trained Operator. Contact Leyton for additional information (Leyton.Hackney@mpi.govt.nz).

TF Operator Prosecution

A TF Operator was convicted under the Biosecurity Act of giving false information to MPI in February 2015. He pleaded guilty to a charge of knowingly giving false or misleading information to an official and was fined \$3000. During an MPI audit, a container was found near a small area of gravel. Containers must be stored on a hard stand such as a concrete pad to ensure any pests have no place to hide. The Operator digitally altered a photo to show the gravel area as concreted and sent this to MPI. A QO quickly noticed the deception and when later interviewed, the Operator admitted he had digitally altered the photographs and emailed them to MPI in an attempt to appear compliant. He said that retrospectively it was a 'stupid idea' and 'unprofessional'. TF Operators carry great responsibility for the success of the biosecurity system and MPI will prosecute all those who abuse the privilege of operating TFs.

TF Operating Manual Template

We have been asked if TF Operators have to use the MPI TF Operating Manual template downloadable from the MPI website (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/stds/bnz-std-tfgen/risk-goods-manual-template.doc>). The answer is **No**, as using this template is not a TFGEN requirement. As long as a TF has an Operating Manual that covers all the necessary requirements in TFGEN, MPI would approve this regardless of the format used.

Correction

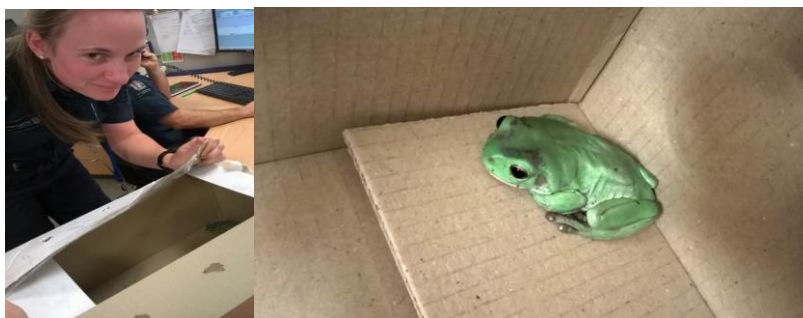
In the previous See Contain Report (Feb) we stated "TF Operators will now be required to send their completed internal audit reports directly to MPI for review". Unfortunately this message was misleading and as yet, TF Operators, **do not** need to send MPI their internal audit reports. MPI will formally advise Operators what will be required, when this will be needed and will provide a generic email address where this information should be sent to. This is likely to be later in 2015.

Operator 'Certificate of Training'

From March 1 2015, your Training Provider will now issue your Operator 'Certificate of Training' directly to you, rather than MPI issuing these certificates. To maintain your TF approval, TF Operators now need to email their 'Certificate of Training' (with their TF name and number) to MPI after completing training. This requirement is for both new TF Operators and for those undertaking refresher training. If this is not done, your TF may be suspended, which removes the ability to receive sea containers and/or risk goods.

Recent Finds

MPI got a call from an AP who saw a frog on their container hardstand area. MPI QO Deborah Reidt was sent to the site, collected a small green frog and inspected the wider area but found no other frogs. The frog was identified as an Australian green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*). Although this frog was first introduced to NZ in the late 19th century (with other accidental introductions in the 1940s), there have been no further sightings since the 1950s. These frogs are popular pets around the world as they are docile and are well suited to living near human dwellings. It also screams when it is in danger to scare off predators and squeaks when it is touched. As there is a potential biosecurity risk to our native frogs (due to parasites), this frog was humanly euthanised and sent to our lab for identification and analysis.



Quarantine Officer Susan Palacio with her dream pet

Contaminants Reported by APs: April 2014 – March 2015

This table lists contaminants and pests reported by APs who continue to do excellent work.

Contaminant Type	Number	%
Spider(s)	785	26.7
Insects (except ants)	675	23.0
Seeds	346	11.8
Soil	312	10.6
Other (e.g. cobwebs, rubbish, water)	243	8.3
Plant products	197	6.7
Non-ISPM 15 WPM	83	2.8
Insect damage	66	2.2
Mould/Fungi	83	2.8
Ants	41	1.4
Amphibians	23	0.8
Snails	19	0.6
Reptiles	18	0.6
Bark/Straw	21	0.7
Animal products	13	0.4
Mammals (e.g. rodents)	7	0.2
Birds	3	0.1
Total	2935	

MPI Contact Details

- General Inquiries: 0800 00 83 33
- Biosecurity Import Clearances: 0800 22 20 18
- Entomology Lab: 0800 66 61 22
- Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66
- Imported Animal Service: 0800 62 35 55
- International caller number: 64 04 894 0100
- Transitional Facilities & Containment Facilities go to:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans>
To subscribe to MPI announcements go to
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/lists>

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

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