

See Contain Report

July 2015

From the Editors

We have been told that there may be some confusion over what is happening around transitional facilities (TFs) at the moment. This concern is valid, as over the past six months MPI has made a number of changes in relation to TFs and Operators. Some key changes are:

- 1) Operators are being held more accountable.
 - a. Unannounced MPI 'snapshot' compliance monitoring audits will be conducted to ensure all TF's have trained Operators. MPI will cancel TF approval where no trained Operator is present.
 - b. MPI is prosecuting Operators who have been found to be consistently non-compliant in critical areas.
 - c. A proposal to have a full day Operator training course (rather than a half day) along with a formal assessment.
- 2) To ensure MPI costs are recovered, a new Application Fee has been introduced (only for new or additional TFs) and the annual facility fee has been increased (*details below*).
- 3) MPI has authorised two Multi-Site Transitional Facility (MTF) Systems as an alternative option for those importing low risk containers (*contact details below*).
- 4) The revised standard - General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Risk Goods (TFGEN) and the associated guidance document was put out for public consultation in June (<http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/draft-general-transitional-facilities-for-uncleared-risk-goods-standard-and-guidance-documents/>). The consultation period ends on 24 July 2015. MPI welcomes feedback and is currently reviewing submissions received from stakeholders.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us.

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

Know the Enemy: Cane Toad

Cane toads are large amphibians with a dry warty skin. They have large swellings on each shoulder where poison is squirted when threatened or handled roughly. People have died after eating toads and soup made from boiled toad eggs (all stages of their life cycle are poisonous). In Hawaii some 50 dogs a year die after having cane toads in their mouths. The toads were introduced in many places as a biological control for various insect pests of sugarcane and other crops but soon become a major pest. They will eat any small creature that fits in their mouth and competes with native amphibians for food and breeding habitat. In addition, they may carry diseases that could be transmitted to native frogs and fishes. Frogs have been found by APs in containers and with cargo so we know cane toads can also arrive in NZ via this pathway. Cane toads have also been found in passenger's luggage and can hide inside empty shoes.

If you see anything that looks like this pest on imported risk goods, please catch (use gloves) and call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 as soon as possible.



Compliance Monitoring Audits

Many of you will see MPI staff members over the next few months as we are increasing the number of Compliance Monitoring Audits (CMA) undertaken. These are unannounced 'snapshot' TF audits which take around 30 minutes. When MPI staff visit your TF they are looking at 6 key areas, with an initial focus on ensuring all TF's have an approved Operator. If there is no trained Operator, MPI will immediately cancel the TF's approval. If an Operator is present but their training has expired, MPI will allow 30 days to resolve this non-compliance before we suspend the TF. This Operator training amnesty was mentioned in our February Report and will last until 1 November 2015.

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

Prosecution & Compliance Orders

On 2 July, a TF Operator was sentenced in the Manukau District Court for charges related to breaching a biosecurity compliance order, releasing uncleared goods and failing to comply with TF operating standards. The operator received fines totalling \$35,500. Note: prior to prosecution, MPI uses Compliance Orders (CO) as a final warning for TFs to comply with MPI regulations. Any breach of a CO will result in TF cancellation and possible prosecution.

TF Operating Manual Template

An updated TF Operating Manual template is downloadable from the MPI website: <https://mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/4537>. Operators do not have to use this template as a TFGEN requirement. However, we recommend its use, as it covers the necessary TFGEN requirements and can potentially save Operators time and money.

From the Frontline

Introducing Logan McDonnell



Logan has been with MPI for 12 years and is the Quarantine Officer for New Plymouth. He manages the TFs in Taranaki, approves all new TF applications and audits the 100 current TFs in the region. He also performs inspections of ships and cargo. As the regional officer for Taranaki he is the person to answer any questions on setting up a new TF as well as how best to maintain them. He says this is very satisfying and an interesting part of the job as he gets to see a wide range of different businesses. When he is out inspecting cargo he is also able to regularly speak with TF Operators and APs to ensure everything is OK.

Logan's advice to Operators is keep in mind the big picture with biosecurity... *"As Operators and APs you have a very important part to play in keeping our country free of pests and diseases. Remain vigilant at all times. Use those torches!"* When he is not working he can be found up Mt Taranaki with his family or kayak fishing with friends.

Cost Regulation Changes

Earlier this year, MPI reviewed all MPI Cost Regulations (following Cabinet approval). As a result of this review, there are two fee changes related to TFs. From 1 July, there is:

- 1) A TF **Application Fee** for new/additional TFs of **\$887.70** (excl. GST). This includes admin/manual review/audit/zone fees and covers the first 8 hours related to approving a new or additional TF. If the application processing time takes longer than 8 hours, MPI will charge the applicant for each additional hour (after 8 hours) at the hourly rate of \$102.27 (on top of the Application Fee).
- 2) The Annual TF Fee increases from \$142.23 to **\$298.05** for each registered TF. Invoices for the 15/16 financial year will be sent out later this year.

Multi-Site Transitional Facility (MTF) System

MPI has authorised two companies to operate a MTF System for low risk sea containers. This provides an alternative option for importers who bring in low risk sea containers and who do not wish to have their own TF. This means that an importer can have containers delivered to their business, as long as their site is suitable (e.g. has a concrete hardstand, suitable clearance, etc.). The MTF System Operator takes overall responsibility for all MPI requirements to operate a TF. This means the business does not require an approved Operator or an AP. A TF Operating Manual is not required, no annual TF fee is required and MPI audits are not needed. As MPI is currently ensuring all TFs are fit for purpose, we believe the MTF System delivers a suitable alternative option and effectively manages contaminants and pests found during the container/goods inspection. Authorised providers (and the regions they currently operate) are:

- **Independent Verification Services (IVS) Ltd:** <http://ivslimited.co.nz/inspection/clearance/>

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Contact: Violet George (mtf@ivsltd.co.nz) 0800 021 169 or 09 903 0881. Available: Nationwide

- **Biosecurity Training South (BTS) Ltd:** www.btsouth.co.nz

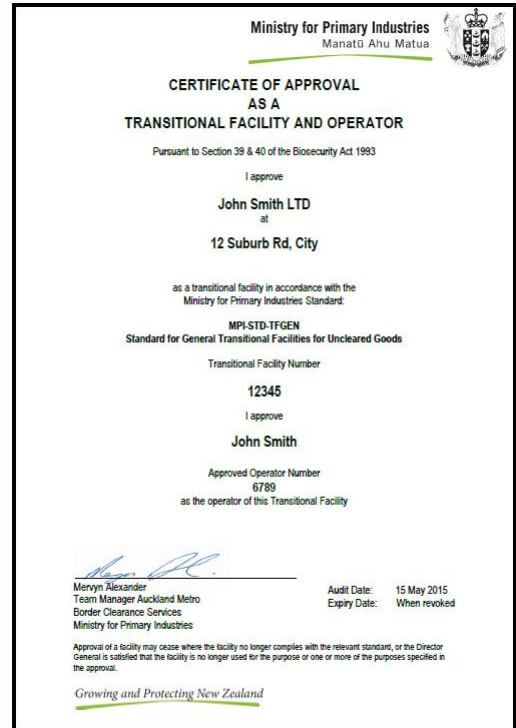
Contact: Jill Jones (admin@btsouth.co.nz) or 0800 28 47 68 or 021 284 7688. Available: In Christchurch

Details also on the MPI website (<https://mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities/registers-and-lists/>).

Certification Clarification

We have been asked to clarify the process regarding the three different certificates relevant to TFs.

- **TF Approval Certificate:** This is the MPI approval certificate issued under the Biosecurity Act to operate a TF. This has the TF Operator's name and number and the TF number (see example). Contact MPI if you have any questions regarding this certificate.
- **Operator 'Certificate of Training':** Since 1 March, Training Providers now issue these certificates rather than MPI. Only Operators who wish to be approved to operate a TF (not Deputy Operators) need to submit this certificate to MPI (please include your TF name and number in the email). Contact your Training Provider if you have any questions regarding this certificate.
- **Accredited Person Certificate:** As this is issued under Section 103(7) of the Biosecurity Act, MPI is required to issue AP certificates. Therefore, contact MPI if you have any questions regarding this certificate. Note that it has recently come to our attention that in 2013 MPI issued some AP certificates with incorrect expiry dates. As a result our admin people will reissue these AP certificates with the correct expiry date.



Recent Finds

Below are some of the recent biosecurity risk findings from the public 0800 number (0800 80 99 66).



Earwig on grapes (solitary hitch-hiker)



Fungal contamination on imported oranges



Spider found alive on bananas



Western Drywood Termite larvae (from vessel)

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

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>

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