

See Contain Report

November 2015

From the Editors

This edition provides a summary of some of the recent changes happening in the border area. We were hoping to align this edition with the release of the revised standard — General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Risk Goods (TFGEN). However, due to this standard needing to align with other related standards, TFGEN will likely now be released in March 2016.

By now, many of you would have been visited by a MPI Quarantine Officer (QO) to conduct a 'snapshot' audit of your Transitional Facility (TF). The audit found most TFs are operating well. We did cancel some TFs, but this was mainly due to stakeholders who no longer wanted to run a TF or that the registered TF had moved to another location.

For the past four months, there has been a TF Operator training amnesty, as MPI is aware there has been some confusion regarding Operator training requirements. Instead of immediately suspending the TF if the Operator training has expired, MPI has allowed a 30-day period for Operators to re-train. Also, those who had been through a training course but are not approved (i.e. some Deputy Operators) have been allowed 30 days to become approved as well. **This amnesty has now finished.**

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: Asian Tiger Mosquito

Although the majority of mosquito species are harmless to humans, others have changed the course of history due to the diseases they transmit. It can be said that mosquitoes are by far the world's most deadly species.

Compared with most mosquitoes, the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is an efficient transmitter of diseases such as the west Nile, yellow fever and dengue viruses. They also pose a significant threat to our native fauna as they can transfer animal diseases such as avian malaria.



The Asian tiger mosquito has black & white stripes on the legs and abdomen. It is about 2-10 mm long and can survive in a wide range of conditions. These mosquitoes (and others) can arrive as eggs on damp surfaces, as larvae in water, or as free-flying adults. They can arrive in cargo, including imported used machinery stored outside, used tyres, used tank trucks, boats or in used cars where a leak has let water pool inside the boot. If exotic mosquitoes establish, the costs may be enormous. For example, MPI spent \$70 million to eradicate the southern saltmarsh mosquito, a vector of Ross River virus.

Please look closely at any equipment or surfaces with cavities capable of holding water, such as tarpaulins, water lying inside flat-rack cargo, or inside containers. In addition to MPI's concerns, the Ministry of Health and regional health bodies around New Zealand are keen for potential mosquito habitats to be eliminated or fully managed at TFs. **If you see anything that looks like this pest, please catch or spray it, shut the doors and call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 as soon as possible.**

See Contain Report: Phone your nearest MPI office to report contamination



From the Frontline Introducing Lisa Wilson



I have been with MPI for more than seven years and started out as a QO with the Auckland Metro Team. As part of this team I had the opportunity to work across all Auckland sites, including air, sea and express freight, TFs, ports, International Mail Centre, International Airport and offshore clearance. From there I have been fortunate enough to experience a number of roles within Auckland, including Team Leader Scheduling, Subject Matter Expert involved in national project work and I have been a Chief Quarantine Officer (CQO) for almost four years.

I have recently been involved in developing the 2015 intake of new border recruits and now sit alongside Leyton Hackney as a CQO responsible for the Auckland Metro Facilities Team, among other things. The best advice I could give to Operators would be to keep in contact with MPI when your situation changes and to keep up to speed with the latest regulatory amendments.

Paving Stones/Cobbles as a Hardstand

MPI has been asked if paving stones/cobbles can be an approved hardstand. The answer is No as MPI will only accept unbroken concrete or asphalt as a hardstand. However, paving stones/cobbles historically approved as a hardstand, if in good condition and at MPI's discretion, will be allowed to continue if there is a set date to change to concrete or asphalt.

Prosecution

In late July, a company operating a TF in Christchurch was fined \$16,750 for several offences related to breaching the Biosecurity Act. Due to insufficient space at the designated TF, an Accredited Person (AP) at the company directed the container to be unloaded down the road at the importer's forecourt instead of at its own TF. The Deputy Operator also removed soil from the exterior of the container and dumped this soil into a city council bin instead of the designated biosecurity bin (MPI managed to secure and destroy the soil!). Finally, the wood packaging was contaminated with fungus and this was not reported to MPI or wrapped for destruction.

Clarification: In the July edition we wrote: *'Unannounced MPI 'snapshot' compliance monitoring audits (CMAs) will be conducted to ensure all TF's have trained Operators. MPI will cancel TF approval where no trained Operator is present'*. For the CMA process, the TF Operator does not need to be physically present. As long as a TF has an Operator that has been approved by MPI then this is fine. MPI apologises for any confusion that may have arisen. Note: There is no requirement for Operators to be permanently present on site at a TF.

Cancellation Form

If your company no longer wishes to operate a TF, you need to let MPI know, otherwise you will remain in our system and will be required to pay the annual TF Fee (\$298.05). To cancel your TF or Containment Facility (or TF Operator status), complete this form (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/8776>) and send it to facilityapprovals@mpi.govt.nz (NB: this form can now be completed electronically).



Annual TF Fee

MPI Finance will shortly send out the annual TF fee (\$298.05) invoices for the 15/16 financial year. Due to historical reasons, these invoices were previously sent in April/May (i.e. invoices for the 14/15 FY were sent in May this year). We plan to send all future annual TF fee invoices in Oct/Nov.

MTF Information Pack

Below is a link to a Multi-site Transitional Facility (MTF) Information Pack that provides details on what is required for those who wish to apply to start an MTF system (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/mpi-authorized-multi-site-transitional-facility-mtf-system-providers/>).

If you have any questions, please email facilityapprovals@mpi.govt.nz

Collection of Biosecurity Waste

In the past, some QOs collected the biosecurity waste from TF as a courtesy service. However, due to the increasing volume of biosecurity waste and increasing priority workloads, MPI is unable to continue to do this (unless there is no MPI-approved waste treatment provider in the region).

Your waste management programme must be detailed in your TF Operating Manual. For example, any sweepings/contamination from a container must be placed in your biosecurity bin and this should ideally be emptied at least once a year using an approved refuse disposal company (see a list of approved refuse disposal companies at <http://mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1381>). In addition, records of waste disposal must be kept.

The National Invasive Ant Surveillance (NIAS) Programme in your neighbourhood this summer

The NIAS programme is designed to detect exotic ants that have reached New Zealand's border via air and seaports before they become established in NZ. Since we cannot look everywhere in NZ for these pests, MPI focuses on 'high risk' sites where ants are more likely to be found, such as ports and TFs. This is because these sites receive imported goods/containers from overseas and invading ants generally establish nests close to their point of arrival.

Air Container Import Health Standard

Contaminated air containers can be a pathway for unwanted pests. For example, a red imported fire ant population found in 2001 at Auckland International Airport cost more than \$1.5M to eradicate. To reduce biosecurity risks, a system is required that delivers clean containers without unnecessary documentation or resourcing requirements. Any system must also take into account the volume and frequency of air containers.



Contaminated Air Containers: Fresh beans on the left & eels on the right

MPI has been talking with stakeholders to provide options to clear, clean and circulate clean containers. MPI will be going out for consultation in Feb 2016. Contact standards@mpi.govt.nz for additional information or if you would like to be sent



NIAS — laying out pottles with ant bait



Your TF may be selected for surveillance this summer. Ground teams will undertake a combination of visual inspection and will lay small plastic pottles (see image) containing a small amount of non-toxic food (e.g. peanut butter/tuna) as a bait to attract ants for identification. The pottles will be left in place for around two hours. The contractors undertaking surveillance activities are ASureQuality Ltd or Flybusters/AntiAnts (depending on area) and they will be easily identifiable by wearing company uniforms and hi-vis vests. There will be no costs to the TF Operator for the surveillance and the contractor will endeavour to minimise any disruption on site. To assist we would appreciate your cooperation with our contractors and ask you to avoid damaging the pottles. Last year 13 detections of exotic ants were found (all at ports). **Please contact Lora Peacock for additional information: lora.peacock@mpi.govt.nz**

TF & Operator Application 'Brown Out' Period

As per usual practice, no new TF/Operator applications will be able to be processed from Friday 20 November until Monday 11 January, 2016. This is due to MPI staff members being deployed elsewhere over that period.

Recent Finds

At a Mangere TF, MPI Quarantine Officers were inspecting a container of taro from Samoa when they found a colony of live termites as well as other pests such as mites, caterpillars and larvae. This consignment was later fumigated with methyl bromide.

The image below shows how the taro was being tunnelled out by the termites.



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
- TFs & Containment Facilities go to:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans>
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