



**DECLARE, DISPOSE  
OR PAY THE FINE.**

You must declare all items listed on your Passenger Arrival Card or you may have to pay a **minimum \$400 fine**.

## Biosecurity New Zealand

Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa

# It's not all about dogs



There has been media attention over the last few weeks about how Biosecurity New Zealand's detector dogs are used at Auckland International Airport to stop pests and diseases from entering the country. The fact is detector dogs are just one layer of biosecurity protection at our borders. They work in conjunction with a range of checks.

### Risk assessment

Risk assessment is the most important part of passenger clearance. It acts as a filter for identifying passengers likely to pose biosecurity risk. Biosecurity New Zealand officers assess each arriving passenger for risk. Each passenger is then directed to further checks depending on the level of risk they pose. The risk assessment process involves a visual appraisal of the passenger and their luggage, for example, whether they are carrying large backpacks likely to contain camping gear or food. The officer also reviews the passenger's arrival card, asks questions relating to biosecurity risk and may do a check of any declared items. Officers also receive alerts about passengers who may be more likely to carry risk goods.

Officers carrying out risk assessment duties must undergo rigorous training and assessment to be deemed "competent" in this role. They also undergo an annual assessment that grades their performance.

### Secondary interventions

Higher risk passengers are directed to have baggage screened by x-ray or physically inspected at a search bench. Low-risk and compliant passengers are rewarded by being able to exit the airport more quickly and experience fewer interventions.

### Other interventions

#### Public awareness activities

Biosecurity New Zealand runs an international public awareness campaign to educate passengers about the requirement to declare or dispose of risk goods on arrival, or to leave them behind. This includes advertising overseas to high risk passengers (e.g. on key travel booking websites), and biosecurity information supplied at the time of the issue of their entry visa. Also information is supplied to passengers during their flight via an in-flight video, and on some flights a translated

guide is available to assist with completing passenger arrival cards. Information on New Zealand's biosecurity requirements is available in a number of languages, including Chinese and Hindi.

#### Passenger arrival card

The arrival card is used to identify risk goods of interest. It is a legal declaration that all passengers must complete when entering New Zealand. It has been specifically designed to obtain as much relevant information as possible from arriving passengers to support risk assessment decisions.

#### Amnesty bins

Amnesty bins are in place for passengers to dispose of risk goods. Signage and public announcements in the airports reinforce this message.

#### Disinsection

All arriving international aircraft must be treated to ensure they do not bring harmful insects into New Zealand.

#### Designated Place of First Arrival

All international air passengers must arrive into New Zealand at a designated Place of First Arrival. These locations have procedures in place to manage the risk of arriving passengers and to notify Biosecurity New Zealand of any biosecurity issues.

#### Detector dogs

Detector dogs are good at detecting biosecurity risk materials such as plant material. In the passenger pathway, they are largely used to verify the risk assessment decisions made by biosecurity officers.

#### Compliance monitoring

Biosecurity New Zealand monitors passengers to measure their compliance once they have been through biosecurity checks at the airport. This involves an intensive check of all baggage from random passengers after they been through the arrival process. The latest survey showed 98.7% of air passengers were free of risk goods. The target is 98.5%. The compliance rate for the Green Lane exit (used by passengers deemed to be low risk) across the four major airports in the survey was 99.1%. Auckland's Green Lane exit was the best performer with 99.3% of air passengers being free of risk goods.

