

September
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BMSB Consignment suitability



As temperatures drop and day length shortens, brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) seek refuge in dark, warm locations to 'overwinter'. While BMSB access homes and buildings to overwinter, they will also access anything else they can find that provides a suitable overwintering location. Certain goods being exported to Australia and New Zealand have been identified as providing locations suitable to BMSB overwintering and therefore require treatment to ensure they are free from BMSB.

The type of goods subject to mandatory treatment are different for Australia and New Zealand, see agriculture.gov.au/bmsb and biosecurity.govt.nz/bmsbrequirements for details.

In order to conduct an effective BMSB treatment, goods must be presented in a suitable manner that allows the heat or fumigant to reach all external and internal surfaces of the goods accessible to BMSB. Factors that affect the suitability of goods for treatment include free airspace/load capacity and plastic wrapping.

If goods are not presented in a manner that allows for effective treatment, the goods must be adjusted to ensure they are suitable or the treatment cannot be conducted.

Free airspace/load capacity

Space must be available in between and around the goods within the treatment enclosure to allow for:

- fumigant or heat to reach all external and internal surfaces of the goods throughout the consignment accessible to BMSB
- the fumigant or heat to be distributed evenly throughout the treatment enclosure
- a fan to be placed within the enclosure (for fumigations) to circulate the air, and the required number of fumigant monitoring tubes or temperature sensors that need to be placed in the required locations.

Fumigation (Sulfuryl Fluoride and Methyl Bromide)

A minimum of three fumigation monitoring tubes must be placed within fumigation enclosures of 30m³ or more. The monitoring tubes must be placed:

- at the front base of the enclosure on the opposite side to the fumigant supply pipe,
- as close as possible to the very centre of the goods, and
- at the top back of the enclosure on the opposite side to the front base monitoring tube.

Treatment providers must have enough space in the enclosure around and above the goods to be able to access and place the monitoring tubes in the required locations and to place a fan in the front of the enclosure in the free airspace to circulate the air.

If treatment providers do not have enough space, the goods must be reconfigured or removed from the enclosure to allow correct placement of monitoring tubes and fan to occur. If this cannot be done, the fumigation cannot be conducted.

Heat Treatment

In heat treatment enclosures of 100m³ or less, a minimum of three temperature sensors must be placed within the goods and two temperature sensors in the free airspace.

The three temperature sensors in the goods must be placed:

- within the goods in the locations that are deemed to be the hardest to heat (i.e. the coldest surface of the goods),
- away from the heat source/s,
- separated from each other.

The two temperature sensors in the free airspace must be placed:

- away from the heat source/s,
- out of the airflow from the heat source
- separated on opposite sides of the enclosure.

Additional temperature sensors are required for treatment enclosures above 100m³. See HT methodology: agriculture.gov.au/import/arrival/treatments/treatments-fumigants

Treatment providers must have enough space in the enclosure around and above the goods to be able to get in and place the temperature sensors in the required locations and for the air to circulate throughout the so all of the goods are able to be heated to the required temperature.

If treatment providers do not have enough space, the goods must be moved around or removed from the enclosure to allow correct placement of temperature sensors to occur. If this cannot be done, the heat treatment cannot be conducted.

Plastic wrapping

Goods must not be wrapped or covered in a way that stops the heat or fumigant from accessing all surfaces of the goods that are accessible to BMSB. Commercial packing/wrapping is not required to be opened, removed or slashed; however all shipping packing/wrapping must be opened, removed or slashed in a way that allows the heat or fumigant to access all surfaces of the goods that are accessible to BMSB.

Where goods are presented with shipping packing that is not able to be opened, removed or slashed in a way that allows for effective treatment, the treatment cannot be conducted.

Where shipping packing is required to be opened, removed or slashed, all shipping packing within the shipping container must be opened, removed or slashed, not just that which is reachable from the front of the enclosure.

The following definitions are provided to assist exporters and treatment providers to determine the plastic wrapping requirements for consignments they intend to treat. It is the responsibility of both the treatment provider and the exporter to ensure that the correct determination is made based on the exposure to risk prior to treatment and the plastic wrapping present on the individual goods being treated.

Commercial packing

Commercial packing is considered any packing/wrapping that is applied as part of the manufacturing process. This includes presentation packing, commercial distribution boxing and hermetic sealing done at the immediate completion of the manufacturing process.

Shipping packing

Shipping packing is considered any packing/wrapping that is applied to provide protection and ensure stability of goods during shipping. This includes pallet wrapping and protective plastics applied after the completion of the manufacturing process and prior to loading.

Treatment Failure

Consignments will be checked on arrival and failures due to poor application of treatments will result in delays, costs, re-treatment, or discharge refusal or reshipment and suspension of treatment providers. Suspension will affect consignments in transit.



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