

Biosecurity New Zealand

Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa

Airport Biosecurity Awareness

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Version: 24 July 2023

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity excludes, eradicates, or effectively manages the risks posed by harmful pests and diseases to our economy, environment, and human health.



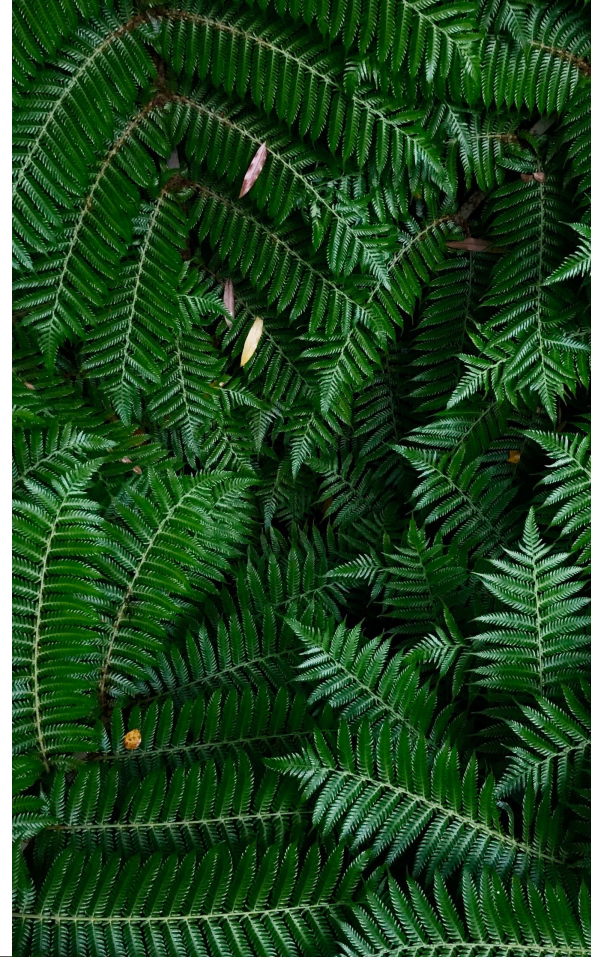
Why do we need to protect NZ

Environment

The unique biodiversity of our natural environment relies on being pest, disease, and predator free.

Many native New Zealand species are only found here:

- All native bats, reptiles, and native amphibians
- 90% of native freshwater fish, marine molluscs, and insects
- 70% of native terrestrial and freshwater birds.



Why do we need to protect NZ

Economy: Tourism

New Zealand has a flourishing tourist and film industry because of New Zealand's reputation for being green and clean.

Visitors to NZ can feel safe from biological threats found in many other destinations. If biosecurity is not maintained this will effect NZs reputation and may reduce tourism.



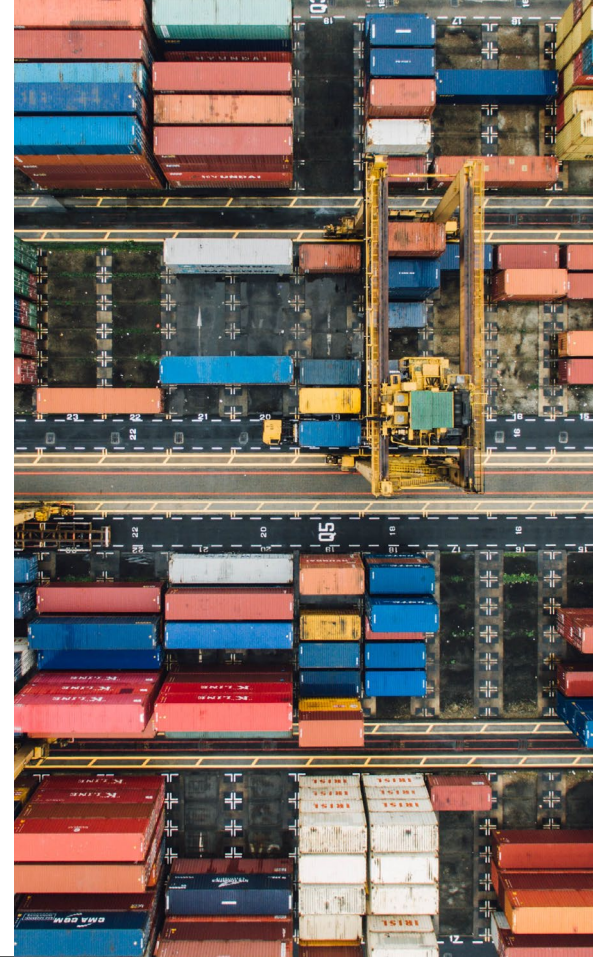
Why do we need to protect NZ

Economy: Trade

A huge 81.4% of our total exports come from the primary sector, approx.\$55 billion.

We are one of the world's biggest dairy and sheep meat exporters. We also supply the world with fruit, vegetables and forest produce.

Our economy, people, and environment depend on our animals and land being healthy.



Why do we need to protect NZ

Social: Health & Lifestyle

NZ is free of dangerous wildlife such as snakes, scorpions, and most venomous creatures as well as insects that carry serious human diseases.

It means we can enjoy being here without the threat of exotic diseases such as dengue fever or malaria.

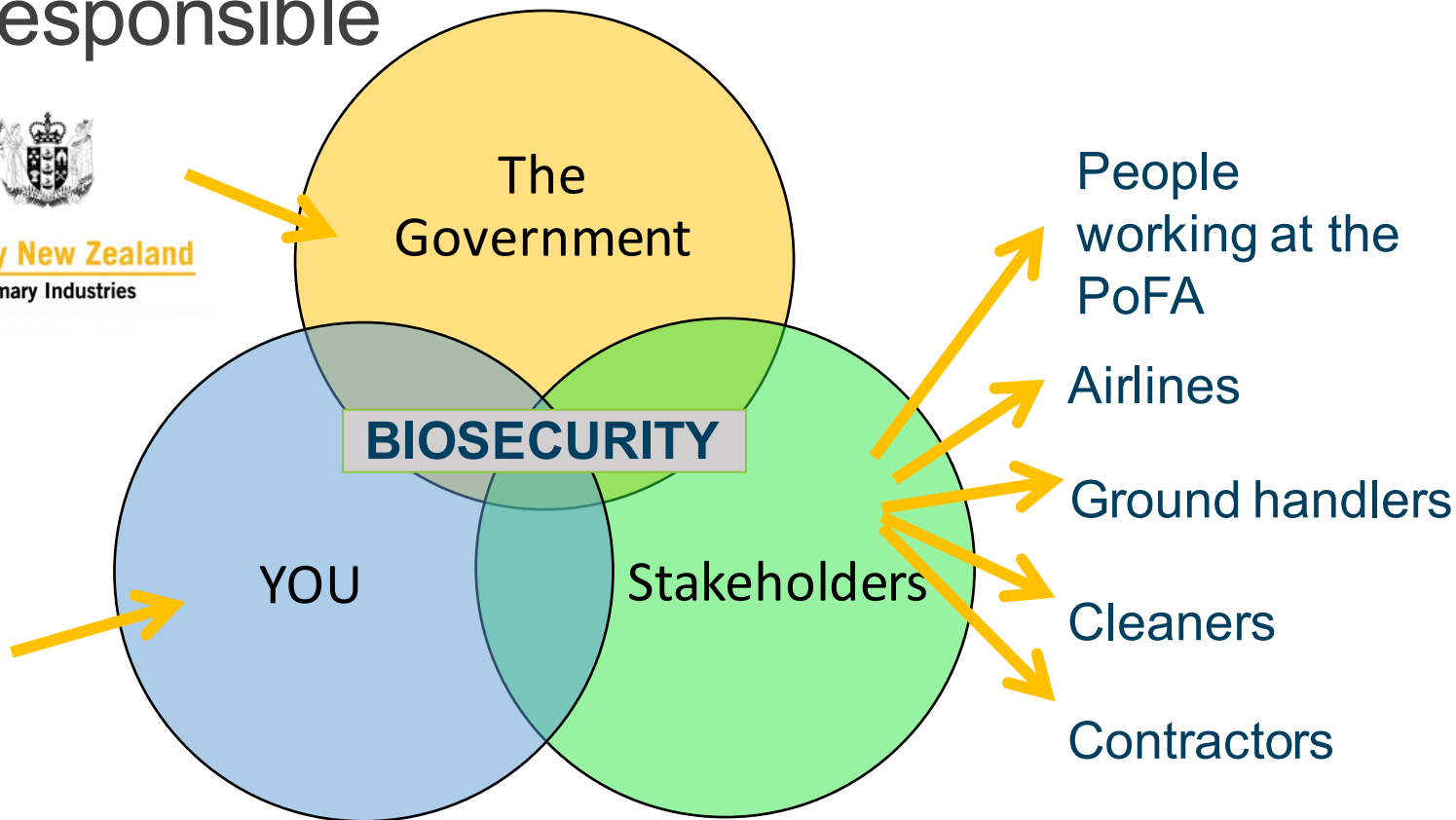


Who is responsible

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



All New Zealanders





Biosecurity at the port

- An airport must be approved as a Place of First Arrival (PoFA) to receive and discharge international cargo.
- Aircraft arrive directly from overseas carrying air containers and goods.
- These aircraft and goods may contain risks that could impact New Zealand.

What is a PoFA (Place of First Arrival)

A place of first arrival is an area of land, buildings, harbour, wharf and/or berthing areas that receives offshore craft and risk goods over which an operator exercises control, i.e. Airport or Seaport.



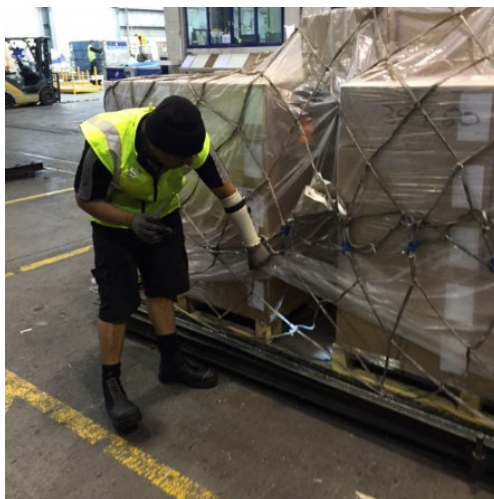
The biosecurity system

You

Pre-border



Border



Post-border

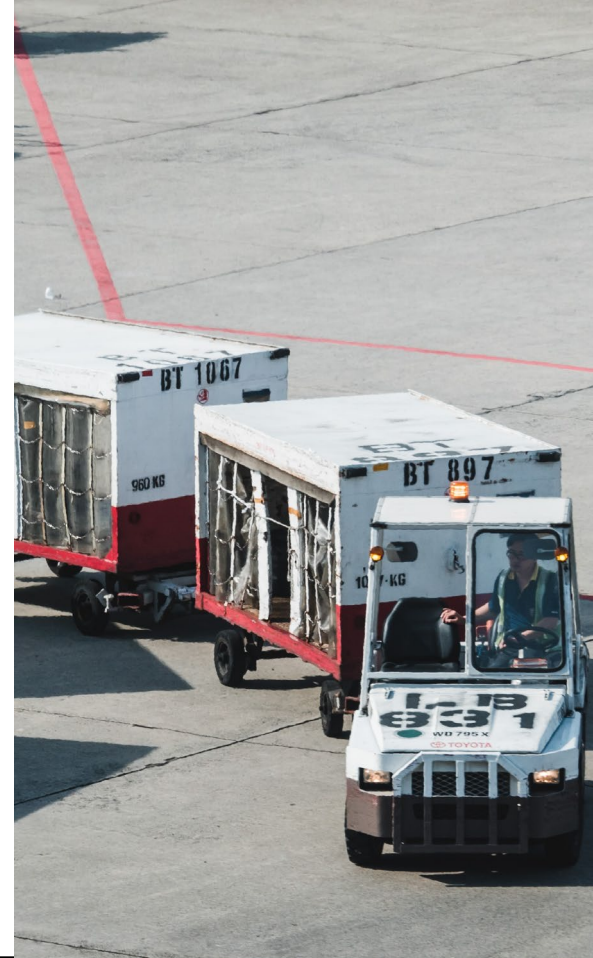


Biosecurity at the port

Air containers are a risk item.

They may carry contamination in the form of:

- live or dead organisms
- plant material or seeds
- soil or dirt
- diseases



Biosecurity at the port

All arriving air containers are either:

1. Controlled and moved within the PoFA boundary (airside area) and unloaded through an approved process or
2. Are moved securely and directly to MPI approved TFs for devanning under their approved system



Biosecurity at the airport

All airports that receive international aircrafts must be MPI approved and could also have transitional facilities for holding, inspection and/or treatment.

MPI can approve airports for:

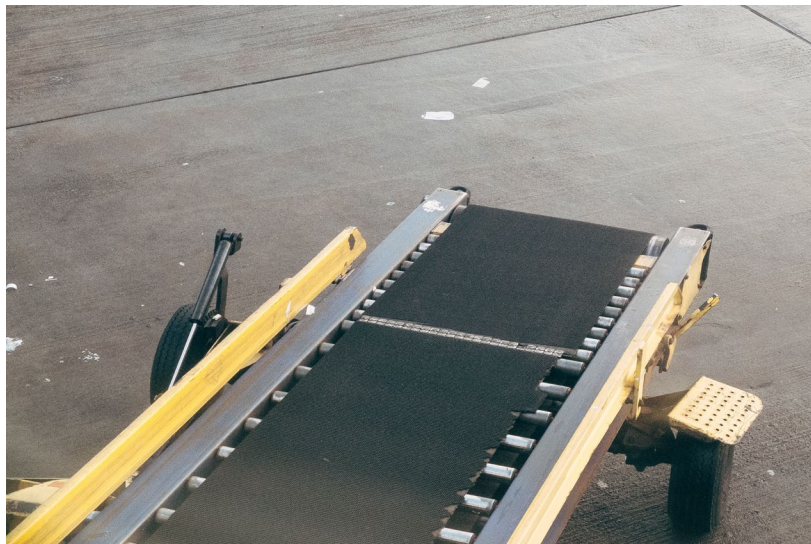
- Containers and general cargo
- Live animals
- Passengers, crew and baggage
- Vehicles and machinery



Biosecurity at the port

Accredited persons (APs)

- If the airport receives air containers they must have APs on site to carry out container inspections.
- APs have specialised biosecurity training
- APs can provide added biosecurity support to other staff
- APs receive refresher training to maintain certification



What can you do to help?

When at the airport look around any areas that could be a habitat for pests:

- areas with uncontrolled plants or long grass
- dunnage piles or old equipment
- places with low daily traffic

Report any unusual pests or plants to your local MPI office or the MPI pest line on **0800 80 99 66**.



Common invaders: ants

Red Imported Fire Ants:

- Native to South America – but could come from any country
- Are particularly aggressive and will repeatedly sting anything that appears to be a threat
- Look for individual ants or nests on or around containers



Common invaders: snails

Giant African Snail:

- Native to east Africa
- Established in the Caribbean, Pacific and United States
- Commonly hitchhikes on containers and cargo
- Causes severe damage to vegetation
- Threat to native species and human health



Common invaders: Spongy Moth

Spongy Moth (previously called Asian Gypsy Moth):

- Lives in Europe, China, Korea, Japan and the east coast of North America
- The caterpillars have tiny stinging hairs that cause an itchy, painful rash
- They feed on many tree species such as oak, birch and pine



Male moth



Female moth

Common invaders: BMSB

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug:

- Native to Asia
- Serious pest in USA and Italy
- Arrived there via sea containers
- Hides in cracks/crevices and in paper and cardboard
- 400+ host plants including horticulture, forestry and arable crops



Common invaders: snakes and lizards

Snakes and lizards:

- Lizards and geckos can hitch-hike to NZ in or on containers
- Small geckos are a common find by APs
- Snakes are less common and can be dangerous. If you see a snake don't try to catch it – MPI has snake handlers
- Contact the MPI hotline **0800 80 99 66**



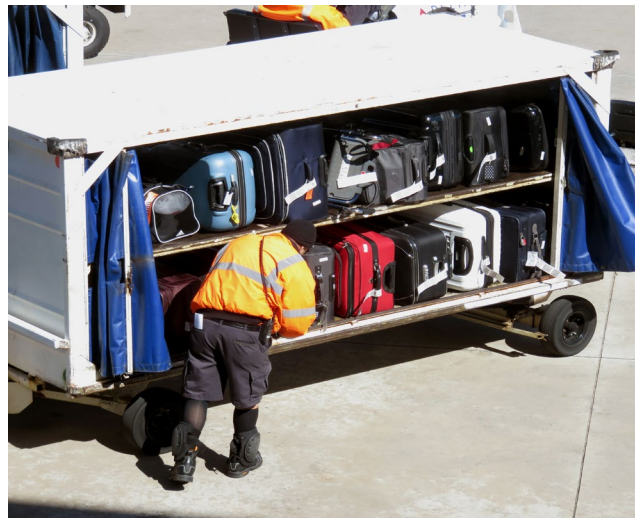
Common interceptions

Dirt or soil:

- Soil can carry micro-organisms or seeds

Plant material and seeds:

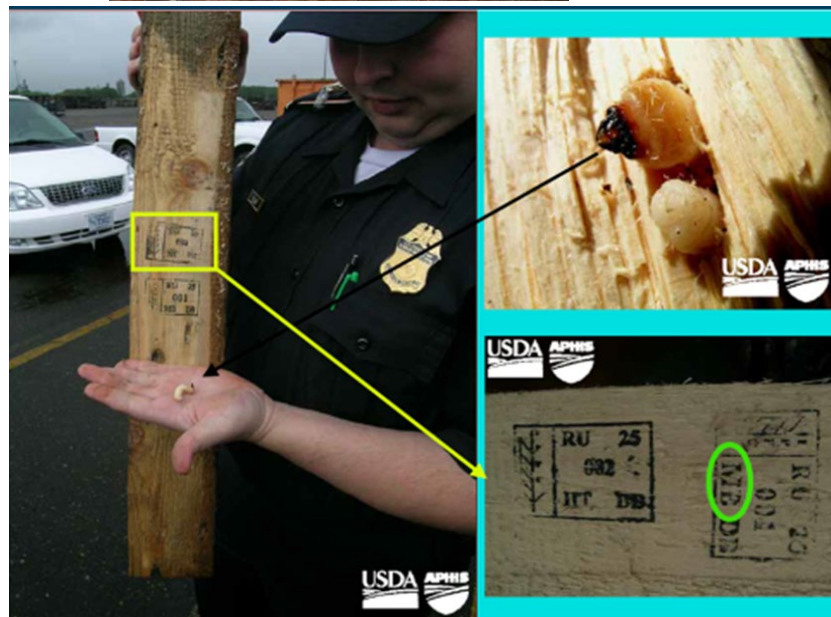
- Small amounts of plants can get stuck to containers
- Look for grass, leaves, sticks or seeds
- Even small seeds could allow new weeds to enter and establish in NZ



Common interceptions

Contaminated wood packaging:

- Wood packaging can carry:
 - Fungus or mould
 - Wood boring insects
 - Bark
- Wood packaging should be ISPM 15 stamped
 - No timber/dunnage is to leave the airport without MPI clearance or an ISPM 15 stamp – However, check that the wood is not contaminated



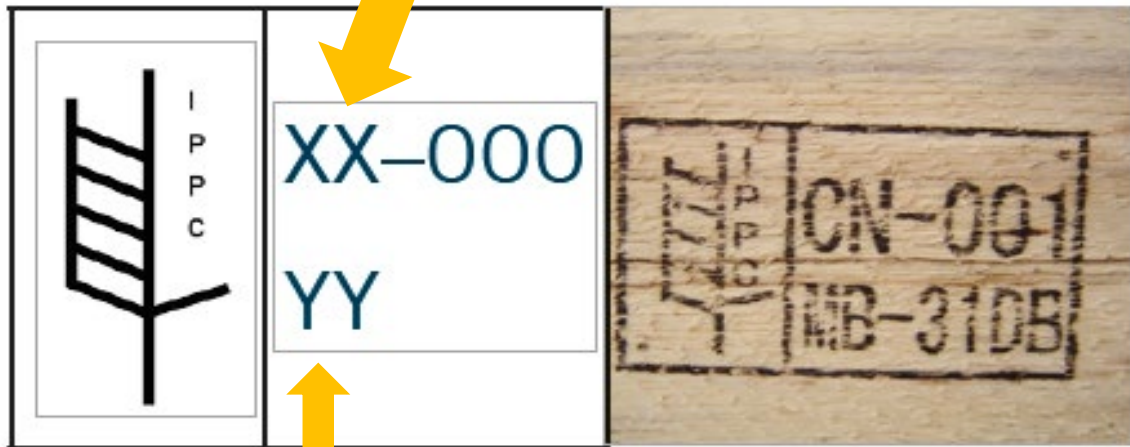
Treated timber

ISPM 15 – International Regulations

- If the wood has been stamped it means the wood has been treated
- Check all wood with an ISPM 15 stamp to ensure it is not contaminated

Treatment that the wood packaging has undergone

Two letter code for the country in which wood packaging was treated



Spotted something unusual?

If it is ALIVE:

- Contain it, if it is safe to do
- Inform others around you or your manager
- Call the MPI hotline **0800 80 99 66**

If it is DEAD:

- Arrange for it to be collected and disposed of in a biosecurity bin
- Report it to MPI as soon as possible



MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66



Biosecurity waste

All airports should have biosecurity waste holding areas.

There may be small or large bins used for containing biosecurity waste and/or untreated wood packaging.

They will be clearly marked.

Where is the biosecurity waste area at your airport?



All working together

An Accredited Person (AP) from Air New Zealand contacted a Quarantine Officer regarding a live snail they found during devanning of an air can from Apia, Samoa. The AP actually caught the snail and brought it to MPI.

It was very clear to the QO that it was a live Giant African Snail. The QO then went with the AP to inspect the rest of the air can. Nothing further was found.



Waking up the Giant African Snail, it took approximately 15 minutes for it to come out of its shell. A very shy creature.

Biosecurity – we need your help!

New Zealand is unique with very few introduced pests – we need to keep it that way!

We all need to be vigilant.

Biosecurity is EVERYONE's responsibility.

