



March 2020

## From the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of See, Contain, Report for 2020. Apologies for the delay in the release but, as you may have noticed, this year has kicked off with a bang and is showing no signs of slowing down.

This year we have been trying to think of new and innovative ways to keep this newsletter interesting and relevant for you, the reader. One new section that will feature in future issues is “Tips and Reminders for Operators and Accredited Persons”. If you have any questions or issues you would like highlighted, or you have a great story that you would like to share with Biosecurity NZ, other Operators and APs nationwide, please send it through to us.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us: Olivia Sims ([olivia.sims@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:olivia.sims@mpi.govt.nz)), Pauline Williamson ([pauline.williamson@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:pauline.williamson@mpi.govt.nz)) or Chris Denny ([chris.denny@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:chris.denny@mpi.govt.nz)).

*The purpose of this newsletter is to provide regular updates on planned operational changes and other relevant information for the management of containment or transitional facilities (TFs) by approved TF Operators, Accredited Persons (APs) and staff. To see this and previous See, Contain, Report editions, go to <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities/resources-for-transitional-and-containment-facilities/>*

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## Operating Manuals

Minor changes that will not have any significant effects on the management of biosecurity risks at the TF (such as minor corrections to the TF Operating Manual) **do not need to be submitted to Biosecurity NZ**. If any changes are made to the document, they need to be recorded in your amendments register. They will then be sighted and reviewed during the next Biosecurity NZ verification inspection.

Biosecurity NZ should be told about any significant changes that are planned with regard to the operation of a TF before these changes occur (e.g. modifications to the physical/structural nature of premises where the TF is located). If you are undertaking a significant change and are unsure of what you need to submit to Biosecurity NZ, you can email your local Biosecurity NZ office: South Island ([bcsops@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:bcsops@mpi.govt.nz)), Central ([Wellington.QITF@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Wellington.QITF@mpi.govt.nz)) or North ([facilityapprovals@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:facilityapprovals@mpi.govt.nz)) to discuss if full compliance with the standard can be maintained and if the TF Manual needs to be modified to reflect the proposed changes. Note: Unauthorised changes of a significant nature may result in the suspension or cancellation of a TF and may also result in suspension or cancellation of approval for operating the TF.

Take note that you must notify Biosecurity NZ if:

- You as the Operator are leaving the company,
- The Operator of your business is leaving or has left,
- There is a change of Operator.

## Container Check Register Removal

The 'Container Check Register' document previously found on our public website via <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/containers-and-cargo/forms-and-templates/> has now been removed. This register is not a requirement under TFGEN. If required, facilities can create their own registers to capture all required information. Please ensure you are adhering to section 3.6 of TFGEN in order to keep accurate records.

## Security

TF's that receive risk goods (i.e. goods that require Biosecurity NZ inspection and/or intervention before release, e.g. fresh produce, vehicles, tyres, seed etc.) are now expected to meet the security requirements put in place in September 2019.

- a) Devan the container inside a secure building OR
- b) Hold the container in a secure fully fenced (at least 1.8m High) area AND
- c) Have a lockable gate AND
- d) Lock the container with a substantial padlock.

A management plan will need to be put in place if an officer finds these requirements are not met during a verification inspection.

If your facility only receives non-risk goods, you do not need to meet the **full** security requirements, but you will need to have a Biosecurity NZ-approved system of equivalence in place. If you are unsure of how to meet the requirements, please discuss your options with your local TF team.

## Tips and Reminders for Operators and APs

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER: A Transitional Facility must have an Approved Operator**

The Operator approval is subject to the condition that the Operator will comply with the rules covered by the [TFGEN](#) standard and with any other conditions directed by Biosecurity NZ. The Operator is responsible for managing the systems and procedures at their TF. This includes ensuring the TF meets the operational and physical requirements of TFGEN and that procedures in the facility operating manual are followed.

The Operator is the person Biosecurity NZ will contact regarding verification and compliance issues.

**It is unlawful to operate a TF without an approved Operator.**

**It is also an infringeable offence (see below for updates on infringements issued)**

It is a requirement of TFGEN that the Operator notify Biosecurity NZ of any change in management of the TF, for example, the resignation of the Operator.

## Treatments

There may be treatment delays (especially heat treatment) as the result of amendments to facility approvals or some facilities being out of commission. Improved treatment monitoring protocols and procedures have recently been introduced. Importers are requested to cooperate with any request by

the treatment provider to ensure successful completion of requirements. Please contact [Ken.Glassey@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Ken.Glassey@mpi.govt.nz) for any additional information.

## Safety and Wellbeing

**We have been asked about the risk of coronavirus at TFs. Please see the Ministry of Health page for information, advice and contact details:**

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Our inspectors are expected to undertake a safety and wellbeing risk assessment at every TF they visit. The outcome of this may require the facility to undertake some specific actions prior to the inspection commencing.

When conducting inspections around containers, our officers will expect a “safe” area to be created that excludes any moving machinery or potential threats while they are inspecting. Please be aware, our inspectors will not normally enter a laden or semi-laden sea container.

Any safety and wellbeing issue at a TF will be escalated to the appropriate Biosecurity NZ representative.

## AP Training

Biosecurity NZ wants your feedback about the current AP Training and how it can be improved. In the next few weeks our Learning and Development team will email you a link to a feedback survey. For any queries, please contact [APTraining@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:APTraining@mpi.govt.nz).

## Accredited Person Reporting – BMSB

The reporting of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), dead or alive, by Accredited Persons (APs) has been, and continues to be, extremely valuable for assisting Biosecurity NZ to identify imported freight types of concern, and likely entry pathways for the bug to enter New Zealand. The number of countries where BMSB is present is continuing to grow. BMSB reports from APs help Biosecurity NZ identify new areas and countries of concern.

With more than 300 known plant hosts, BMSB is a major economic pest. It is also a very significant nuisance pest, due to its aggregating behaviour around buildings and homes, when it seeks shelter from autumn to early spring. This aggregating behaviour also contributes to BMSB hitchhiking to New Zealand on a wide range of imported goods or items. Although vehicles and machinery are targeted heavily by Biosecurity NZ, APs have also reported finding BMSB with a range of other freight types, including sawn timber, furniture, foodstuffs, dryers and compressors, textiles, spray paint, insulation tubing, and even glass bottles.



The BMSB finds reported by APs also help Biosecurity NZ decide if offshore measures conducted by treatment providers, exporters and shippers are meeting New Zealand's import requirements. There is regular contact with offshore providers. Some of these in Europe were visited and audited by Biosecurity NZ staff in December 2019.

Biosecurity NZ also continues to work closely with our counterparts in Australia (the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) in trying to prevent establishment of BMSB in our countries.

For a fact sheet on BMSB, and to find out more about this pest [click here](#).

## Online Internal Audit

Thank you to those Operators who have submitted their online internal TF audit for the 2020 year (<http://sgiz.mobi/s3/TF-Audits2020>). This is the online portal that has replaced your old hardcopy internal audit. You can either print out the automatic reply or save it electronically for your records. You have until 31 March to complete this. Facilities failing to complete their internal audit in the given time period may be suspended.

## Infringements

Infringements were introduced In April 2019. Since then, Biosecurity NZ has issued 42 infringements. They have been issued for the following two critical non-compliances: the unauthorised movement or release of goods (including failing to hold a container unopened until an inspector is present) and facilities operating without an Operator. Biosecurity NZ encourages voluntary compliance and will assist Operators with all efforts to comply with standards through the use of Corrective Action Reports.

## Know the Enemy: Citrus Longhorn Beetle

The citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*) feeds on more than 100 different host plants, in particular, orchard species like apples and pears. The orchard damage can cause serious economic losses, including reducing the amount of fruit grown. The eggs, larvae, and pupae could arrive on nursery stock, wood products, or wooden packaging. This is why we place all imported nursery stock in quarantine for at least three months and treat all wooden packaging for pests. Both males and female beetles are black and shiny with white to blue spots. Males are about 21mm long and females are larger at about 37mm long.



The larva (maggot) is pale yellowish white with a dark head and around 56mm long. The pupae have long coiled antennae and are found under bark.

It takes all of us to protect what we've got. If you think you've found this pest, photograph it, collect a sample (if you can) and **call 0800 80 99 66**. More information on other potentially invasive organisms on Biosecurity NZ's watch list can be found here: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/finding-and-reporting-pests-and-diseases/priority-pests-plant-aquatic/>

**If you see an unusual contaminant or pest, please bag it, catch it, clean it up or spray it, shut the container and call Biosecurity NZ on 0800 80 99 66 or your local Biosecurity NZ office as soon as possible.**

## World First Eradication of Pea Weevil

In late February, Minister O'Connor announced the successful eradication of the noxious pea weevil pest in the Wairarapa. The announcement follows a great deal of hard work and effort by our people in Biosecurity NZ, the response team and the local community. As a result of their dedication, the nearly four-year ban on pea plants and pea straw has been lifted and commercial and home gardeners can once again grow pea plants and use pea straw as garden bedding material. You can read the Minister's press release on the beehive website: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/biosecurity-minister-announces-world-first-eradication-pea-weevil>.

## Successful End to Fruit Fly Operation in Auckland

Biosecurity NZ has ended its Northcote fruit fly operations and lifted restrictions on the movement of fruit and vegetables on Auckland's North Shore. The move signals the end of an almost year-long operation, including a massive effort by the community, triggered by the discovery of a Queensland fruit fly in a surveillance trap in the area last February. Approximately 145 tonnes of produce were collected and disposed of throughout the operation. While this is great news, we remind people in the area to still stay vigilant for signs of the fruit fly. There are more than 4,600 traps set in the greater Auckland area to find three different types of fruit flies. These are part of the national fruit fly surveillance programme with over 7,800 traps nationwide.

Email Biosecurity NZ at [seacontainer@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:seacontainer@mpi.govt.nz) if you have any comments or questions about APs or TFOs.

### Biosecurity NZ Contact Details

- General Inquiries: 0800 00 83 33
- Biosecurity Import Clearances: 0800 22 20 18
- Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66
- International Caller Number: 64 04 894 0100

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