



From the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of See, Contain, Report for 2026. Transitional facilities (TFs), TF operators (OPs) and Accredited Persons (APs) play a crucial role in the sea cargo pathway by providing secure locations with trained and knowledgeable staff to manage uncleared risk goods. New Zealand is well known as a world leader in biosecurity, and by working together, we deliver strong and better biosecurity.

In this issue, we welcome South Port to the Biosecurity Business Pledge. We hear from Deb Geddes, Biosecurity Auditor from Tauranga, in the feature article “*Strengthening the Frontline – The Auditor’s Perspective*,” and we also emphasise the importance of robust biosecurity compliance at your TF and outline the potential consequences of any compliance failures.

If you have a great story that you would like to share with Biosecurity New Zealand, other OPs and APs nationwide, or if you have any questions or issues you would like highlighted, please contact us: Pauline Williamson (pauline.williamson@mpi.govt.nz), Janine Mayes (janine.mayes@mpi.govt.nz) or Phil Hodgson (philip.hodgson@mpi.govt.nz).

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide regular updates on the management of containment or transitional facilities by OPs, APs, and other staff. This and previous issues are available on the Biosecurity NZ website. [Resources for transitional and containment facilities | NZ Government](#)

The Biosecurity Business Pledge – Partnering to Protect

Jo Darby: Manager Engagement Programmes (jo.darby@mpi.govt.nz)

South Port joins the Biosecurity Business Pledge

South Port New Zealand Ltd has taken an important step in strengthening New Zealand’s biosecurity system by joining the Biosecurity Business Pledge – a voluntary partnership designed to help businesses proactively manage biosecurity risks and protect the country’s environment, economy, and way of life. The Pledge connects organisations committed to

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lifting biosecurity performance by sharing tools, insights, and practical actions that support stronger resilience across industry.

As the gateway port for Southland and a critical connector to global markets, South Port plays a central role in supporting safe and efficient cargo movement. By joining the Pledge, the port reinforces its commitment to robust risk management across its operations – from cargo handling to vessel services and supplychain coordination.

Membership signals South Port's dedication to understanding and managing biosecurity considerations at every level. It also demonstrates leadership in promoting a culture of proactive biosecurity among staff, contractors, and partners. The Pledge's principles encourage members to embed biosecurity into procurement, daily operations, and workforce training.

Becoming part of this national network enables South Port to learn from others, share its own innovations, and contribute to collective system improvement. As global trade grows more complex and new risk pathways emerge, this collaboration is increasingly vital.

Every company is at a different stage in its biosecurity maturity. With every learning and step forward, businesses are playing their part to strengthen the biosecurity system. By joining the Pledge, South Port adds its influence and expertise to a movement working to safeguard New Zealand's biosecurity future.



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Transitional Facility Operator Access to Container Checks Portal (CCP)

Fiona Stewart: Principal Adviser: Intelligence Targeting & Evaluation

(fiona.stewart@mpi.govt.nz)

Biosecurity New Zealand is pleased to notify you that we are close to allowing access for OPs directly into the CCP. This will allow operators to see all the containers that should be at their facility and if they have outstanding inspection results. We will be in touch closer to the time regarding arrangements for access, but the aim is to be up and running towards the end of April.

For your information:

If you are an OP only, you will have the option to be given access as a stand-alone role.

If you are an OP who is also an AP, you will need to re-authenticate your details via RealME to access the CCP as an OP instead of an AP. Once that is done, whenever you log in, you will have the option to view information as an AP or as an OP.

At the same time as the OP access is enabled, we will also start testing for a business-to-business connection to CCP. This will allow container checks results to be submitted electronically into our system. We have already had volunteers to work with Biosecurity New Zealand to test this functionality but following the testing period, it will be available for any TF.

A business-to-business connection will enable larger facilities a much more streamlined option to provide container results and a considerable saving in time.

We will provide further details on the release date soon. Please feel free to contact Fiona Stewart (fiona.stewart@mpi.govt.nz) if you have any questions.

Strengthening the Frontline – An Auditor’s Perspective

Deborah Geddes: Biosecurity Auditor (deborah.geddes@mpi.govt.nz)

Internal audits – why do they matter?

A strong internal audit process helps TFs to stay compliant, safe, efficient and trusted. It protects both the facility and New Zealand’s biosecurity system.

Here’s a quick guide to conducting strong internal audits:

PURPOSE

Ensure your TF meets Biosecurity New Zealand requirements for:

- Handling and storing uncleared risk goods.
- Maintaining OP and AP competency.
- Meeting specific standards your facility is approved under.

KNOW YOUR CRITERIA

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Your audit must check compliance with:

- TFGEN – General Uncleared Risk Goods.
- Your facility-specific Import Health Standards.
- Your documented procedures (operating manual).

PLAN AND CONDUCT

- Conduct an audit at least annually, or more often if requested by Biosecurity New Zealand. Ensure it is in your diary!
- Use a structured audit checklist, **relevant to your site approvals and procedures**
- Cover **ALL** key areas
- Make sure the auditor is competent – it helps to use fresh eyes.

EVIDENCE, EVIDENCE, EVIDENCE...of the objective kind

Use evidence to back up findings. Such as:

- Records and registers
- Competency certificates (i.e. OP, AP and internal staff training)
- Observations of work practices
- Interviews with relevant staff
- Inspection of facility conditions and equipment. **Photos are great!**

MANAGE NON-CONFORMANCE (Document everything!)

Identify and record:

- The non-conformance
- Evidence
- Risk rating/severity
- Impact

Correct and prevent:

- Immediately contain if needed
- Conduct a root-cause analysis
- Issue corrective actions
- Put in place long-term preventative measures

Verify and close out:

- Conduct follow-up checks to ensure corrective actions are effective

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Update procedures when standards change
- Review audit trends
- Strengthen training and operator oversight
- Encourage all staff to get involved in compliance

TFs play a critical role in protecting New Zealand from unwanted organisms – continuous improvement strengthens this defence!

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MPI Support for Food Importers

Grace Powell: Team Manager Imported & Domestic FRA
(foodimporteradvice@mpi.govt.nz)

Do you import food, or work with those who do? The Food Importer Advice team at the Ministry for Primary Industries is a dedicated team who help businesses understand the food safety requirements for importing food into New Zealand.

The team has a range of helpful resources and a contact form available on the MPI website: [Get Help With Importing Food](#).

Stay up to date on food importing rules

Food Importer News provides updates about the rules for importing food under the Food Act 2014. It is a valuable source of information for anyone who imports food for sale, or those who work with food importers. Visit [Food importer news webpage](#) to subscribe and read past updates.



When Compliance Fails: \$150,000 Penalty Highlights TF Responsibilities

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John Gibson: Senior Technical Adviser (John.Gibson@mpi.govt.nz)

Recent interceptions and enforcement cases remind us that biosecurity success relies on vigilance, training, and consistency – every container, every time.

An Auckland company operating two transitional facilities was recently penalised **\$150,000** for breaches of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The recent High Court decision reinforces the serious consequences of failing to meet TF requirements.

The breaches included improperly wrapped uncleared risk goods, inspection areas that did not meet hygiene standards, missing biosecurity response equipment, and inadequate records for cleaning and staff training. While no pests were confirmed to have escaped, the court found that the failures created a potential biosecurity risk at the border.

This case serves as a clear reminder that compliance is not optional. OPs must ensure that physical controls, hygiene, staff training, and documentation are consistently maintained.

The expectations are clear, and enforcement action will be taken when standards are not met.

[\[auckland.scoop.co.nz\]](http://auckland.scoop.co.nz), [\[publicnow.com\]](http://publicnow.com), [\[newstalkzb.co.nz\]](http://newstalkzb.co.nz)

Clean Containers, Safe Trade: Global Focus on Sea Container Biosecurity

Biosecurity risks associated with sea containers are receiving increasing attention internationally. In 2025, regulators, shipping lines, and industry stakeholders met in Copenhagen to focus on reducing pest contamination in the global container supply chain.

The symposium highlighted the shared responsibility across the international pathway – from offshore container cleanliness through to onshore handling and inspection. Discussions centred on prevention, early detection, and consistent standards to reduce biosecurity risk before containers even reach destination ports.

For New Zealand TFs, this global focus reinforces the importance of existing controls and aligns with our emphasis on container hygiene, staff awareness, and rapid response. Strong domestic practices are part of a wider international effort to protect plant health, biodiversity, and safe trade.

Biosecurity New Zealand inspectors and persons trained and accredited for the specific purpose of carrying out checks on sea containers arriving into New Zealand provide an assurance that biosecurity contaminants and pests found on uncleared risk goods are managed as soon as possible. Sea container checks by APs include checks of documentation, wood packaging materials, both inside and outside of the container, seal and door checks, and checks of the commodity while devanning is in progress. A recent incident where sea containers were not fully devanned to allow for the checking process resulted in an infringement notice being issued to the OP.

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The Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit (PIAT)

What is the PIAT?

The [Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit](#) (PIAT) is a collection of resources to help prevent and control invasive ants the Pacific.

The PIAT is mostly targeted at helping developing and remote Pacific Nations, who often do not have access to pest control locally and depend on outside help. But anyone is welcome to use it

History and background of the PIAT

The PIAT was developed by [Pacific Biosecurity](#) of Victoria University of Wellington as part of a Partnerships in International Development project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the [New Zealand Aid Programme](#).

Who can use the PIAT?

Anyone can use the PIAT. Biosecurity staff, consultants, councils and home owners should find all they need here. If you can't find what you need here or think something is wrong or difficult to understand or use, [contact us](#) via email, or post or message us on our [Facebook help page](#). We always want to make the toolkit better!

All content on the PIAT is free for anyone to use, with a few [copyright](#) and ownership considerations to protect the owners of materials used in the toolkit. We would appreciate that if you find information on the toolkit that is useful to you, you mention the owners of the material and [cite](#) the PIAT. And please [let us know](#) if you do use it. The site provides an interesting [Sea Container Hygiene System case study - Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit](#)

Know your Enemy – Bacterial Leaf Scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*)

This is a disease that goes by many different names. The bacterium can infect more than 600 different plants, both natives and important crops.

It's important we keep this plant disease out of New Zealand.

About *Xylella fastidiosa*

Xylella fastidiosa is an invasive bacterial plant disease that is spreading around the world. It poses a threat to New Zealand's environment and economy.

Xylella fastidiosa kills plants by blocking their water-carrying vessels, causing a typical leaf scorching symptom. There is no cure for the disease once the plant is infected. Help us to keep it out by being aware of symptoms in your crops and how to identify and report plants with suspected symptoms.

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Why this is a problem for New Zealand

Xylella is one of the most important plant diseases that Biosecurity New Zealand wants to keep out of New Zealand. We regularly find new host plants that *Xylella* can infect.

Overseas, *Xylella* has caused devastating diseases in crops like grapes, olives and citrus. These are important to New Zealand's economy.

Scientists have found the bacterium in some of our native plants that were growing in California.

How it could get here

Xylella is spread locally by infected insects when they move to a new plant after feeding on a diseased one. It could travel internationally on infected nursery stock. Biosecurity New Zealand has strict measures in place to limit the chances of infected nursery stock or insects coming through the border.

How to identify bacterial leaf scorch

Scorched leaves are a sign of some other plant diseases already present in New Zealand. Plants infected with *Xylella* show:

- scorched leaves
- browning
- loss of leaves
- stunted shoots
- reduced fruit size
- over time, dieback and death of the plant.

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Foliar symptoms of infection on grape (Pierce's disease)

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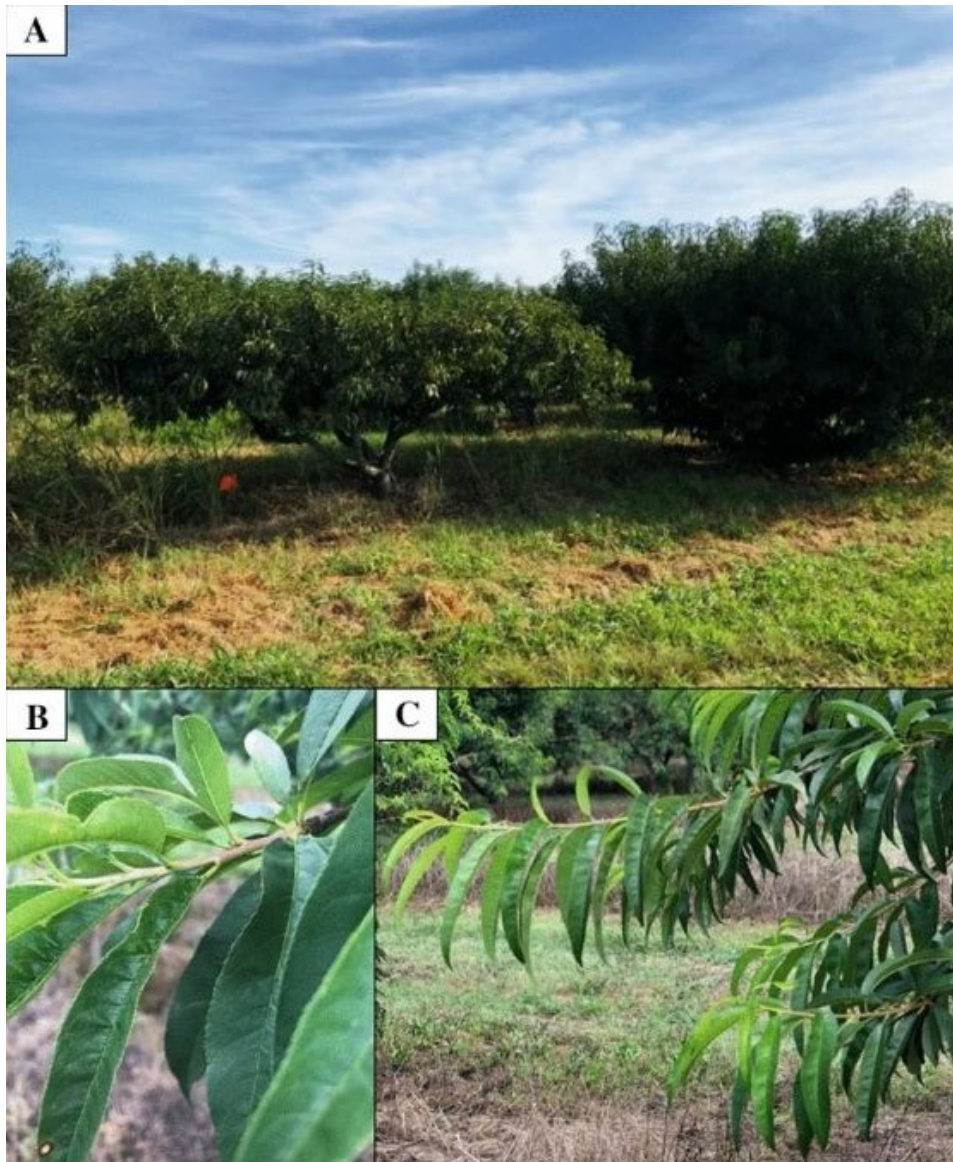


Photo A: on the left is a tree showing phony peach disease symptoms compared to a healthy tree with normal growth on the right.

Photo B: shortened internodes on a tree with phony peach disease.

Photo C: normal spacing between internodes on a healthy peach tree.

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