

# CTF BULLETIN.



## MAFBNZ Container & Transitional Facility Bulletin

Issue 1: March 2009

### Introducing the CTF Bulletin

The intention is for this new bulletin to provide relevant articles and information for Animals/Animal Products, Container and Plants/Plant Products importers, and for Transitional Facility (TF) stakeholders. MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) recognises that Accredited Persons (APs) and Operators working at ports and TFs are an essential part of the biosecurity system that protects NZ.

Communication is a vital part of our combined efficiency; with that in mind, MAFBNZ has launched this quarterly bulletin in the belief that it will develop into an effective way for us to pass along practices, questions and generally help build a useful two-way flow.

Bulletin information to support our interests will include changes to the MAFBNZ website, new standards, standard revisions/clarifications, training information, statistics and biosecurity finds around the traps, and eventually your comments, feedback and questions.

I look forward to the growth and usefulness of this bulletin for us all.

Cheers, *Clive*

**Clive Gower-Collins**, Group Manager, Operations & Facilities Group, Border Standards, MAFBNZ.

### Website Information Update

MAFBNZ has updated its web site and a number of links have changed. Make note of any new addresses and links as below:

New MAFBNZ web site: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/>

Other information can be found at the following links:

- General Import Health Standards:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search>,
- Importing Animals/Animal Products:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/animals>
- Importing Plants/Plant Products:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/plants>
- Information on permits and other enquiries to the Plants or Animals Imports Teams should be directed to the following contacts:

- Animal/Animal Products Imports Team:  
Ph: (04) 894 0459; Fax: (04) 894 0662;  
Email: [imports@maf.govt.nz](mailto:imports@maf.govt.nz)
- Plant/Plant Products Imports:  
Ph: (04) 894 0832; Fax: (04) 894 0662;  
Email: [plant.imports@maf.govt.nz](mailto:plant.imports@maf.govt.nz)
- Postal Address for Animal or Plant Imports:  
Border Standards, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand,  
Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, PO Box 2526,  
Wellington 6140.

### Container Imports Focus

Information and updates relating to cargo and containers can be found at the following web address:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/cont-carg>.

This webpage provides many valuable links to cargo and container web pages and holding relevant information relating to TF requirements.



MAFBNZ is also in the process of revising the existing Import Health Standard for sea containers (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/non-organic/standards/bmg-std-seaco.htm>).

These revisions are not ready for consultation yet, but MAFBNZ will keep everyone informed when more information is available (toward mid 2009).

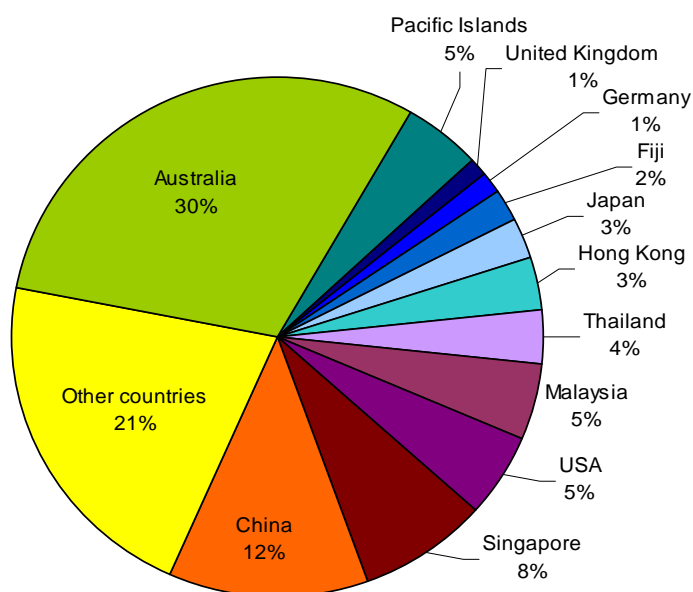
For information on training for APs for unloading and inspecting containers refer to the following web address:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/sea-containers/current-ap-training-providers>.

### Where Do Containers Come From?

Every year a huge number of containers enter New Zealand. In 2008 there were almost 600,000 imported. About 435,000 of these were loaded with cargo and the remainder were empty, imported mainly to load in NZ for export.

The greatest numbers of containers came from the wider Asia-Pacific region, dominated by Australia (180,994). The following graph shows more information.

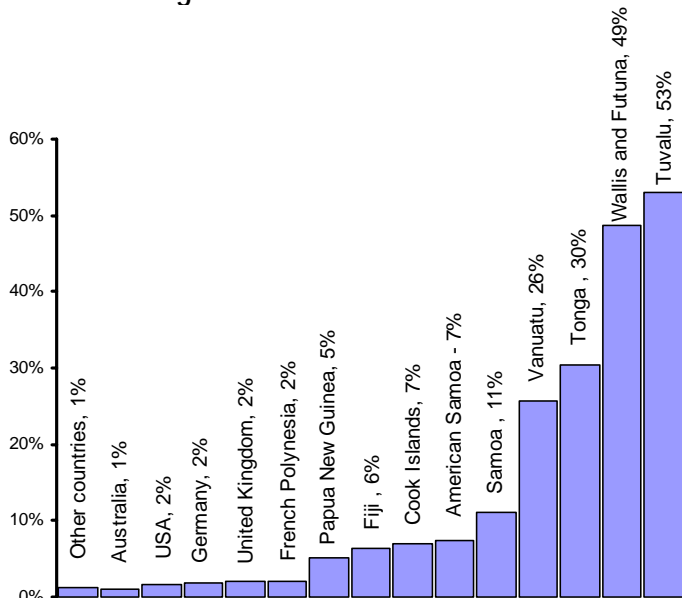
**Containers imported in 2008**



It's also useful (and interesting) to see which countries give us the most biosecurity problems in terms of non-compliant containers and the types of contaminants or pests involved. With this information (and help from APs, TF operators and TF staff) MAFBNZ can use specific strategies and manage the risk posed by containers from these countries.

The following graph shows the range of countries and percentages of non-compliant containers.

**Percentage of containers contaminated 2008**



The most common type of contaminant was soil (38%), followed by decreasing numbers of other contaminants and pests. Contaminants/ pests included spiders (12%), insects (12%), plant products/residues (11%), seeds 7%,

insect damage to cargo or packaging (3%), non-compliant wood, ants, animal products and fungal growth (all at 2%), bark, straw, reptiles, unidentified material (all at 1%) and snails (0.5%).

## Transitional Facility Focus

### New Standard for Transitional Facilities Introduced

There has been an important change made with MAFBNZ standards relating to the operation and management of transitional facilities. Most significantly the Standard for General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Goods (BNZ-STD-TFGEN) (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/bnz-std-tfgen>) will cancel and replace the

standard for Transitional Facilities for Sea Containers and several older transitional facility standards.



This standard became effective on 1 February 2009. Please also note that all existing and new Operators of Transitional Facilities for uncleared risk goods (under the above standard) must undertake a half-day biosecurity training session. Training details can be found at the following webpage:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/req>.

### Contact Information & Enquiries about TFs

Enquiries regarding the set-up or operation of TFs for Animals, Animal Products, Containers, Container Clearance, Plants and Plant Products should be directed to the MAFBNZ Biosecurity Inspectors (Operations and Facilities Group). Contact details can be found at the following webpage: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/app-group>.

For additional information and standards relating to the approval and operation of other TFs also refer to the following webpage: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/stds>.

### MAFBNZ E-mail Notification Service

If your business/TF has not yet signed-up to receive MAFBNZ email notifications (about changes to MAFBNZ standards, public consultations, discussions, etc.), you may sign-up through the following link: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/lists/>.

## Transfer of Biosecurity Risk Goods

Companies wanting to move risk goods between approved facilities (including those for export), must submit a transfer application. The application forms can be found in the Forms section of the following website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/#transforms> at the top right hand corner of the webpage. Enter 'transfer' in the search field, and then click on the relevant application.

## About Transitional Facilities in NZ

There are approximately 6,690 TFs of all kinds in NZ. As one might imagine TFs are mostly located in and around the major cities in New Zealand with over 50% being situated in the Auckland region. High numbers of TFs are also found in Canterbury, Wellington, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Otago, Manawatu, and Taranaki. The following table shows more information. There are also a few TFs scattered around NZ in low numbers that are not represented on the graph. Around NZ there are nearly 300 TFs registered for animal or animal product quarantine, almost 50 TFs registered for plant quarantine purposes, 324 TFs registered for general risk goods, 1402 TFs registered for risk goods and containers, and the largest number of TFs are registered for container unloading or storage (4616).

Region	# TFs	Region	# TFs
Auckland	3398	Southland	74
Canterbury	1160	Northland	51
Wellington	466	Marlborough	43
Waikato	345	Horowhenua	23
Bay of Plenty	313	Wanganui	23
Hawke's Bay	169	East Cape	22
Otago	163	Wairarapa	21
Manawatu	156	Kapiti Coast	15
		Central	
Taranaki	104	Otago	11
Nelson	96	Thames	11

## Front Line Focus

### One Man with Three TFs

Mr. Les Gill is based at three of the Port of Nelson's TFs where garbage from ships is primarily transferred into secure units and moved to Christchurch for destruction.

Vehicles and machines are also managed at the TFs and containers are decontaminated and unloaded with Les doing the work or supervising. He manages the TFs by himself for much of the time and ensures only authorised people are admitted.



Mr Les Gill of the Port of Nelson.

According to Jamie Baird (MAFBNZ Officer, Nelson), "No biosecurity risks or anything else gets by Les. He finds risk material, takes samples of pests and contaminants and always rings our office to report findings. He is also OSH conscious and uses a gas detector when opening containers to indicate any toxic fumes. MAFBNZ

officers in Nelson know that anything under Les's control will be managed efficiently and that any biosecurity requirements will be prioritised." We commend Les for doing an excellent job and being a great example of the type of cooperative relationship needed between MAFBNZ and transitional facilities!

## Invasive Pest Focus

### Asian Gypsy Moth

The Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM - *Lymantria dispar*) is an extremely destructive pest of hundreds of different trees and shrub species around the world. It is thought that AGMs could easily establish in NZ on introduced plants and would also have a severe effect in NZ native vegetation. In 2003, a single moth was discovered in a trap in Hamilton and MAFBNZ began an aerial spraying and management programme that was concluded with official eradication being announced in March 2005.

MAFBNZ is currently working with the Australian, Canadian, and United States governments on the ongoing management of AGM.



AGM egg masses are frequently intercepted by MAFBNZ staff and APs on containers from the Russian far-east and other North Asian countries, and they have been regularly found on used cars from Japan. At certain times of the year these moths

may also cover entire ships as they are particularly attracted to the bright crane and ship lights while loading or unloading is taking place at night. It is very important for us all to remain vigilant when looking at cars, containers, break bulk or general cargo that originates from AGM areas.



*This poster on AGM was developed jointly by the NZ, USA and Canadian governments.*

For more information on Asian Gypsy Moth refer to the following link:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/gypsy-moth>.

## Recent Pest Interceptions

MAFBNZ Inspectors frequently encounter pests when attending AP calls and while conducting cargo/container inspections at TFs. Some examples of interesting finds of recent note are as follows.

### Toad and Geckos in Timaru

A Dhofar toad (*Bufo dhofarensis*) was found recently in Timaru in an empty container that came from Australia. The toad was not native to Australia and investigation revealed it had originated from the United Arab Emirates, travelling with a consignment of glass jars. This is the first record in NZ of the toad and, although tropical, it could potentially have introduced new parasites or diseases to native NZ frogs.

Again in Timaru, two small geckos (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) were recently washed out from under a container of molasses from Fiji during cleaning. Although the climate is too cool for these tropical geckos to establish in NZ, it is concerning that they were able to survive the voyage and there was a chance they could have escaped the port environment. One major concern is that they could make contact with local NZ gecko

populations and potentially introduce new parasites or diseases.

### Barking Gecko found in Auckland

A barking gecko (*Underwoodisaurus milii*) was found recently in a container of plastic stretch film at Integrated Packaging Ltd in Auckland and reported to MAFBNZ by Peter Lagitupu (well done Peter!). The lizards can make a yapping sound like a small dog, and this is the first report of this gecko in NZ. They have a wide range over southern Australia which means they could possibly naturalise in northern NZ. Such an introduction could be a threat to our native geckos due to competition for food and the introduction of new parasites or diseases.

## Border Bungles

### Pigeons in his Pants!

In news from across the ditch, Australian Customs and Border Protection staff recently stopped a man at Melbourne airport found to be carrying two bird eggs in a vitamin bottle in his shirt pocket. Further searching revealed two live pigeons tucked into tights the man was wearing under his pants.



*A failed attempt to smuggle pigeons into Australia. Photo courtesy Australian Quarantine Inspection Service.*

Australia, like New Zealand, has some of the strictest quarantine regulations in the world. Smuggling animals could potentially introduce exotic pests and diseases that could affect native animals or human populations.

As for the 23-year-old man, his alleged offence could very well get him cooped up in jail. While his pigeons, eggs and other seized material were referred to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, he could face up to 10 years in prison and/or an AU\$110,000 fine if convicted.

Article courtesy of the Daily News (4 Feb 2009)  
[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/us\\_world/2009/02/03/2009-02-03\\_man\\_with\\_pigeons\\_in\\_his\\_pants\\_gets\\_nabbe.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/us_world/2009/02/03/2009-02-03_man_with_pigeons_in_his_pants_gets_nabbe.html).

For story ideas or more information on articles contact the CTF Bulletin Editor: Dave Nendick, Senior Adviser, MAFBNZ (Dave.Nendick@maf.govt.nz). Formatting /design: Liz Phillips.