

CTF BULLETIN.



MAFBNZ Container & Transitional Facility Bulletin

Issue 2: June 2009

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of the CTF Bulletin. This newsletter aims to provide interesting and useful information for people involved in importing containers and running transitional facilities (TFs). MAFBNZ received considerable positive feedback from the first issue, with people recognising the value this newsletter has brought. So, a big thank you to the team involved in its production!

Thanks must also go out to our stakeholders for playing an important part in protecting New Zealand from pests and diseases. It is important for Accredited People (APs) and operators of TFs to continue to keep MAFBNZ informed of biosecurity finds and pass on valuable feedback. This helps us to amend biosecurity systems and continue to meet new challenges.

If you would like to provide any feedback please don't hesitate to contact your local MAFBNZ office or a member of our team on the details provided below.

Regards, *Dave*

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Information Updates

New MAF Contact Phone Numbers

MAF currently has 20 main 0800 and direct dial (DDI) numbers for dealing with public and stakeholder enquiries. This can be very confusing for people trying to phone in, so a reduction of phone numbers is under way. From the end of June there will be 8 (and eventually perhaps just 6) public enquiry lines.

The new MAF phone number for general inquiries is **0800 00 83 33** (active from June 8). This will deal with enquiries nationwide, giving callers multiple options to help guide them to the right people in MAF. The old multiple phone numbers will be gradually phased out. From the end of June, our main phone numbers will be:

0800 80 99 66 Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline
0800 22 20 18 Biosecurity Import Clearances (currently the "Container Line")

0800 25 46 28 Climate Change
0800 66 61 22 Entomology Lab
0800 62 35 55 Imported Animal Service
04 894 0100 For international callers, this will redirect calls to MAF general enquiries
09 909 3030 For importers, this will redirect calls to Biosecurity Import Clearances

Note: MAF will provide updates on these changes when they take place and any callers using an old number will not have their call lost, it will be automatically transferred as required.

Website Information

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.

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>.

Standards Focus

Two New Standards out for Consultation

MAFBNZ has revised the existing Import Health Standard for sea containers from all countries. This document was recently released for public consultation, and can be found on the following website:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-sea-containers>.

MAFBNZ has also released a new standard for imported machinery, tyres and vehicles that is an amalgamation of four existing standards.

This document can be on the following website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-vehicle-all>.

Public comments on both of these documents can be directed to standards@maf.govt.nz.

General Transitional Facilities Standard

If your transitional facility is still awaiting its annual audit to upgrade to the new general transitional facility standard (BNZ STD TFGEN) then you need to be aware of a few things. Audits by MAFBNZ Inspectors are charged at the standard rate determined by the current MAFBNZ cost regulations (\$100 per hour). Charges will include travel time for the Inspector and any time spent reviewing paperwork, as well as time spent on site at the transitional facility.

To avoid unnecessary extra costs it is best to have your operating manual and documentation as up to date as possible. Template operating manuals are available on the MAFBNZ website to guide you through what is required under the new standard. You may use these to develop a new operating manual, or use them as a guide to update your current operating manual.

If you have any questions about the process or charges that you receive please contact your Biosecurity Inspector in the first instance or ask at the time of audit.

For information on who to contact for further assistance go to <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/app-group>.

Online Resources

A number of tools are available on the MAFBNZ website to assist your transitional facility in changing to the new standard. For more information and assistance go to <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/bnz-std-tfgen>

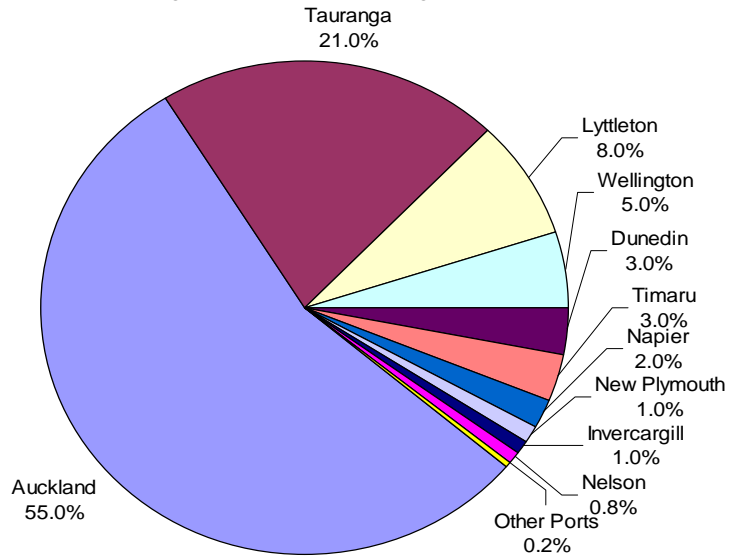
Container Focus

Where Do Containers Enter New Zealand?

In the last edition we provided some information on how many containers enter New Zealand and where they come from. Of the almost 600,000 imported into NZ, approximately 82% are brought in to North Island ports, while the remaining 18% arrive at South Island ports. As might be expected, most TFs in New Zealand are found in Auckland. Around 327,000 (55%) of the total imported are imported at the port of Auckland. The second busiest port after Auckland is the port of Tauranga where 123, 412 (21%) of the total imported arrive. The remaining 145,315 containers (24%) are mostly spread over 8 other ports. The following pie graph shows more information.



Percentage of containers entering New Zealand ports



The Pacific Island Sea Container Hygiene System

In 2006 MAFBNZ and Swire Shipping initiated a sea container hygiene system (SCHS) to reduce contamination in and on containers coming to New Zealand from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands. The system ensures containers are cleaned, sprayed with insecticide and stored in areas where pest populations and their hiding places are managed. As a result New Zealand is receiving a greater number of clean, compliant containers from Port Moresby, Lae and Honiara than any other Pacific port.

Before the system was set up, gross contamination on containers averaged 50% from the ports. Invasive ants were being found in 17% of containers and finds of giant African snail (GAS) were also frequent. MAFBNZ was also seeing repeated incursions of invasive ants at container depots, ports and industrial facilities in New Zealand, which were costing hundreds of thousands of dollars to eradicate.

Prior to the system, 100% of containers from PNG and the Solomon Islands were inspected by MAFBNZ. Under the new system inspection levels are now as low as 5%, and on average there has been a 99% reduction in general contamination and invasive ant finds. GAS has yet to be found in any system container.

The system was extended to Samoa in late 2008 by MAFBNZ and a group of 5 shipping companies. The results being seen here are already positive.

The New Zealand SCHS represents the ultimate in international



MAFBNZ Auditor Alan Kirkpatrick inspects system containers in Lae, PNG

container hygiene systems. Not only is it a win for New Zealand in terms of biosecurity, but the shipping industry also sees a benefit. Reduced container inspections means faster container clearance, less congestion at the port, and an overall reduction in costs.

In the future MAFBNZ also intends to roll out the system to other Pacific Islands on a risk-priority basis where cooperation with other companies and governments can be agreed.

Front Line Focus

Discovery of Serious Grain Pests at Mt. Maunganui

On 30 March 2009, MAFBNZ Inspectors at Mt. Maunganui were contacted by Mr. Paul Fahy (operator at the Goodman Fielder Flour Mill, Mt. Maunganui) about some pests found at their flat storage facility in Hull



Egyptian or V8 Beetle specimen (minus two legs)

Rd. Goodman Fielder had just imported 19,115 tonnes of wheat from Australia on the vessel Kuanyin and some large black beetles were spotted during unloading.

The large flightless beetles (3-4cm) were identified as the Egyptian or V8 beetle (*Blaps polycresta*). They are native to Egypt and Syria, and were accidentally introduced to Australia in the 1930s where they are now common in grain growing areas and storage facilities. The adult beetles and larvae primarily feed on the faecal material from rodents, and do not directly feed on good quality stored grain. However, they will feed on damaged or decaying grain after water or other damage.

These beetles are both unusual and unpleasant, and when disturbed by light or movement will rapidly run for cover. They are so intent avoiding light or danger that they will climb over each other to escape until they are as many as 10 deep. If disturbed by people or animals they can spray a toxic substance (up to 30cm) in defence. This substance causes severe irritation to human skin, and can

make animals that feed on them seriously ill. This is not an insect that is welcome in New Zealand!

With cooperation from Goodman Fielder, MAFBNZ conducted a full



Paul Fahy (Operator - Goodman Fielder) with Biosecurity Inspector Vivienne Cooper

inspection of the facility areas where more beetles were found. Finally the entire facility was fumigated with Phosphine gas and the beetles were successfully eradicated. MAFBNZ is extremely pleased with the rapid notification and cooperation from the facility, and extends its gratitude to Paul and the team at Goodman Fielder, Mt. Maunganui.

Container and Risk Goods TFs

There are 1,402 TFs that handle containers and general risk goods in New Zealand. These facilities deal with commodities that are imported in containers and covered by a MAFBNZ Import Health Standard. Examples include animal products (like egg products or frozen meats) and plant products (such as fresh produce, grains, and seeds for human consumption). Most of these facilities can be found around the biggest cities in New Zealand, with over half located in the Auckland region. However these types of facilities can also be found in Canterbury, the Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Otago, Manawatu, Southland, Nelson, Northland, East Cape and Wanganui, with a few others scattered around New Zealand. Some figures are shown in the table below.

Region	# TFs	Region	# TFs
Auckland	768	Otago	40
Canterbury	164	Manawatu	29
Bay of Plenty	89	Southland	24
Wellington	85	Nelson	18
Waikato	53	East Cape	10
Hawke's Bay	48	Wanganui	8
Taranaki	47	Central Otago	3

Invasive Pest Focus

Khapra Beetle

The Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) is an extremely serious pest of stored foodstuffs. It has been nominated among the top 100 of the world's worst invaders due to the damage it causes. The larvae are destructive pests of oilseeds, damaged cereal and pulses, including seeds of barley, maize, peanuts, rice, sesame, and wheat to name a few. It can also live in beans, breakfast cereals, crackers, dog food, dried fruit and powdered milk.

The beetle is believed to come from India, but it is now established in many warm, dry regions. It can also survive in



An adult Khapra beetle (photo courtesy of www.acgov.org)

less favourable climatic conditions, usually inside buildings and storage facilities. Today it is found throughout parts of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, North America, the Philippines, and Venezuela.

Eradication can be difficult due to the insects living in cracks and crevices, and its ability to go into a state of suspended animation. Fortunately successful control programmes have eradicated it a number of European countries, South Africa, the UK, and the USA.



Khapra beetle adults & larvae on grain (photo courtesy Canadian Ministry of Agriculture & Regional Development)

The beetle is spread by people or freight bringing in infested products. It is frequently intercepted by MAFBNZ staff in containers and ship holds, and has even been found in imported vehicles.

An eradication programme was conducted at commercial premises in Auckland some time ago. MAFBNZ recommends extreme vigilance by TFs importing food. For more information refer to the following link: <http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=142&fr=1&sts>.

Recent Pest Interceptions

MAFBNZ Inspectors frequently encounter pests when inspecting containers at the border, attending AP calls and while conducting cargo/container inspections at TFs. Since our last issue we have had reports of interceptions of 21 geckos, 7 skinks and 4 frogs being found associated with containers or imported cargo at TFs. The following are recent interesting examples.

Asian gecko found in Upper Hutt

A Stump-toed Gecko (*Gehyra mutilata*) was found in a full container of new car tyres from Thailand a couple of months back. The gecko ranges from the Indian Ocean islands through Southern Asia and into Oceania. This is quite an uncommon interception and although a tropical species, it could introduce new parasites or diseases to native lizards. The gecko was detected by David Laban at South Pacific Tyres in Upper Hutt. MAFBNZ thanks David and the team at SPT for their vigilance in reporting it – well done.

Frog from Australia

A Green Tree Frog (*Litoria cerulea*) was detected hiding inside a container of bricks from Australia in May. The frog was found when the empty container was sent to a TF for cleaning. Despite these Australian frogs being

detected quite often in cargo and containers, it does not occur in the wild in New Zealand. However it could possibly establish here and introduce diseases or parasites to native frogs. Detection and eradication of hitchhikers such as these is very important.

Border Bungles

Hidden Treasure

An Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) officer in Adelaide found more than he expected when he uncovered precious stones worth thousands of dollars hidden inside a wooden carving.



AQIS officer with the gemstones uncovered in a wooden ornament from Africa.

The rare jewels were uncovered by the officer during routine air-cargo inspections. The officer was inspecting a wooden artefact that appeared to be carved from a solid piece of timber, when he became suspicious as to why someone would want to air-freight a small carving all the way from Africa.

Closer inspection of the carving revealed what looked like insect entry holes, soil and other unidentifiable material. The importer was asked to attend the AQIS inspection facility to discuss treatment options to ensure the carving did not introduce quarantine pests or disease.

The importer appeared to be very nervous when told a quarantine treatment would be required before she could take possession of the carving. Concerned the treatment would damage the concealed stones the importer admitted that the carving was indeed hollow and contained tanzanite stones. Tanzanite is very rare and can only be found in one place in the world, Africa's Rift Valley, 40 kilometres from the base of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro.

The matter was referred to Australian Customs who deconstructed the carving revealing 17 tanzanite stones valued at AU\$14,000. Customs imposed a revenue penalty on the importer for making a false declaration.

The wooden carving was forfeited to AQIS by the importer after being treated, demonstrating that diamonds (or in this case tanzanite) are not always a girl's best friend.

Article courtesy of AQIS (2 June 2009)

<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/quarantine/quarantine-hits>

For story ideas or more information on articles contact the CTF Bulletin editor: Dave Nendick, Senior Adviser, MAFBNZ (Dave.Nendick@maf.govt.nz).