

See Contain Report

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



From the Editors: REVISED TFGEN and GUIDANCE DOCUMENT EDITION

June 2016

This edition coincides with the June release of the revised standard – Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods (TFGEN) and the associated Guidance Document (GD). These documents can be found at:

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities/requirements/>

As you may be aware, MPI asked for feedback on these documents in June 2015, receiving 37 submissions. The documents were modified to include relevant feedback from stakeholders, to clarify language, legalities and TF (transitional facility) requirements. **There is a six-month lead-in to full implementation. This means any changes under the revised standard that apply to existing TFs will not be enforced until 16 December 2016.**

The intent of TFGEN and the GD has not changed. TFGEN still specifies the requirements under which TFs must be operated to manage uncleared risk goods and be compliant. Section 4 now includes requirements for high risk TFs dealing with biosecurity refuse, decontamination, incineration and sterilisation, treatments of uncleared risk goods and for holding non-compliant farm animals at places of first arrival. This information was previously covered in the GD.

By contrast, the GD holds recommended best practice advice on how TF Operators (TFOs) can meet the requirements of TFGEN. Section 6 of the GD holds advice on specific TFs where a specific range of uncleared risk goods are managed (formerly called Annexes). There are several new sections that deal with guidance for TFs that import air containers, grains for consumption, feed for processing, sawn wood, and used machinery tyres and vehicles. However, until the revised Import Health Standard (IHS) for Air Containers is implemented (estimated to be Feb/Mar 2017), the guidance for air containers will not be applicable. Using these documents will enable TFOs to put together a compliant TF Operating Manual that specifies exactly how they will manage any uncleared risk goods they receive. The GD also outlines how TFOs and Accredited Persons (APs) must be trained.

Training: MPI will require re-training for TF Operators and APs every two years after their initial training is conducted. Initial training for TFOs and APs must be conducted in a classroom setting. Subsequent re-training can occur in either a classroom or via an MPI assessment of competence onsite. TF Operator training must be run as a full-day course (with a pre-course assignment). AP training remains as a half-day course and will be relatively unchanged, other than for periodic, specific content changes. The MPI website will list the updated training requirements for TFOs and APs. MPI will provide indicative dates for the revised training courses as soon as possible.

Another significant change regarding training relates to air container TFs. Once the IHS for Air Containers is implemented (as above), APs will be required to be trained appropriately in order to check air containers for biosecurity contaminants and pests. This requirement will be managed in the same manner under which APs check sea containers.

Internal Audit Reports: A new requirement states that TF Operators need to provide MPI with their internal audit report within 10 working days of being completed. This will provide MPI with confidence that such audits are being conducted as required and that the TF is still operating compliantly. MPI is currently investigating options to receive these audit reports. **Please do not send your internal audit reports to us until we have determined the best method to receive these.** This will likely come into effect after 16 December 2016. MPI will provide an email or web address for receiving them.

Transitional Facility Operating Manual: If you have not reviewed your Operating Manual in the last year and you wish to be proactive, please see Section 3.1 of the revised version of TFGEN (as above). In addition, the MPI Operating Manual Template has been aligned to reflect what the revised version of TFGEN now requires. The template can be found at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/4537>. This template contains the basic requirements for TFs importing sea containers and low risk goods. Note that if you are importing higher risk items such as foodstuffs, personal effects or sawn timber, further requirements will apply.

If you have any comments or questions about TFGEN or TFs, please contact us: Chris Denny (chris.denny@mpi.govt.nz) or Dave Nendick (dave.nendick@mpi.govt.nz).



Compliance Monitoring Audits

Since the beginning of 2015, MPI has been ramping-up compliance enforcement at TFs. Most TFs have now been visited by an MPI officer in the last year. So far, the majority of TFOs have been found to be knowledgeable of their obligations under the Act and have solid systems in place to manage biosecurity risk associated with the containers and goods they import and/or unload. Some have small improvements to be actioned, and some TFs have been withdrawn as part of this process. Those TFOs who have items to action and have not advised MPI of completion can expect a secondary visit and additional charges. The extra visit may see MPI impose further requirements.

Know the Enemy: Portuguese Millipede

Adult Portuguese millipedes (*Ommatoiulus moreletii*) are smooth, 20-45mm long and coloured from grey to black. Smaller ones are striped and light brown. They naturally occur in Europe and have spread to several Australian states – almost all New Zealand interceptions of this millipede have been from Australia.



They may be found in grassland, suburban gardens and woodland. Although not harmful to animals or humans, the millipede is a significant nuisance pest in South Australia where it invades houses in large numbers in autumn. Swarms may contaminate food and infest carpet and bedding. If disturbed, the millipede secretes a pungent yellow fluid that stains clothes and irritates the eyes of people and pets.

In southern Australia, this millipede has been reported damaging seedlings of various crops and fruits such as strawberries. It is a hitchhiker species that is most likely to arrive in New Zealand via imported machinery and shipping containers. Passenger luggage is another potential pathway. It is likely that the highest risk is associated with goods and passengers from Australia due to proximity, the volume of trade and large populations.

If you see anything that looks like this pest or anything unusual, please catch or spray it, shut the doors and call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or your local MPI office as soon as possible.

From the Frontline

Introducing Pauline Williamson

Operational Support Coordinator – Cargo – Christchurch



I have worked for MPI for 12 years, 10 years as a quarantine officer in the Christchurch cargo environment. I was selected for the auditing role two years ago, spending time auditing TF's all over Canterbury. Currently, I have the role of Operational Support Coordinator in Christchurch alongside Stuart Wylie. These are new roles developed with an aim to improve and maintain both stakeholder and client relations. I also train and manage the TF auditors, ensuring all TFs are up-to-date with their audits. Recently, I have been heavily involved in the importation of bulk grain and the safe and confined transportation to a TF for processing.

I am here to assist TF Operators in their roles and deal with the more complicated 'out of the box' issues, for example, approving new TFs for the rebuild of Christchurch and the chair-lift for the Port Hills adventure park. My advice to all Operators would be to keep in touch and ask for advice. MPI believes in working alongside industry with a common goal of maintaining New Zealand's high biosecurity standards.



Prosecution for Sausage Smuggler

A TF Operator has been sentenced to 10 months home detention and a company fined \$75,000 for trying to smuggle 20 cartons of raw pork sausages in a sea container from Thailand. The sausages were falsely labelled as “snack” food which the TFO admitted was an attempt to bypass New Zealand’s border controls. Two-thirds of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks have been caused by infected meat products that can end up in food waste and may be fed to susceptible animals such as pigs. The foot-and-mouth virus can live for more than 50 days in sausages. If there were an outbreak it is estimated it would cost NZ \$15-17 billion over four years and could decimate the agricultural sector in New Zealand with up to 50,000 jobs lost.

Help Keep Zika Virus Out of NZ - Minimise Mosquito Habitats at TFs

There has been a lot of recent media coverage about Zika virus. New Zealand doesn’t currently have the type of mosquitoes, but we need to keep doing everything we can to make sure exotic mosquitoes don’t establish. TFs are potential risk sites for the introduction of exotic mosquitoes as they can be introduced on or in containers and they can breed in and around TFs if there are favourable habitats. TFs can help manage mosquitoes by:

- Reporting any mosquitoes found on imported goods and containers. If you can catch or spray the mosquitoes, shut the doors and call MPI on 0800 80 99 66 immediately.
- Removing any mosquito habitats in and around the TF.
 - Get rid of all bottles, jars, plastic bags, tins or other items that can hold water.
 - Get rid of all old tyres.
 - Fill or drain hollows in the ground that can hold water.
 - Check drains are clear of blockages such as leaves.
 - Cover venting pipes on septic tanks with mosquito-proof covers.
 - Cover or seal rainwater tanks.
- Ensuring there is a 3-metre gap around sea container areas free from rubbish or weeds.
- Keeping other vegetation in and around the TF site to a minimum.
- Regularly checking your site.



If you would like more information on how to reduce mosquito habitats at your TF, you can contact health protection officers at your local public health unit who will be happy to provide further advice. Contact details for Public Health Units can be found here: <http://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts>.

BMSB Alerts on Containers from Italy

As some of you may be aware, MPI had an alert on 100% of containers originating from Italy to mitigate the risk of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) from January until mid-April. This alert has now been lifted as the breeding season has finished. Thank you for your vigilance and understanding. We definitely don’t want BMSB in New Zealand – <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/brown-marmorated-stink-bug/>

See Container Inspection Reporting – Fax Number Update

We have set up a new fax number to receive sea container inspection reports, as we have been experiencing technical issues with the old one (09 909 8556).

The new fax number is: 09 909 8584.

Note that we only require these inspection reports to be submitted when something out of the ordinary has been found.



Container Placement at Your Transitional Facility (See Section 6.11 of TFGEN)

Correct sea container placement reduces the chance of pests escaping and hiding. It also gives TF staff the opportunity to spot anything escaping and to take action. Even clumps of soil can harbour pests too small to see with the naked eye. Many soil-borne pests are extremely hard to get rid of once established and can attack a wide range of hosts. If you've gone hiking around the Northland recently you may have seen the signs to help contain the Kauri dieback fungus. Next time you see a Quarantine Officer at an audit ask them what they find in the soil on imported taro!

MPI strongly recommends that sea containers be placed as follows:

- On an approved hardstand (bitumen or concrete area). Broken ground or gravel surfaces are not suitable.
- Three metres from cleared goods, debris and vegetation. Remember to look up as well and make sure there are no overhanging trees near your container area.
- More than a metre from covered drains, more than five metres from uncovered drains.
- A metre gap between containers to allow the AP to do 4-sided checks and to clean up any contaminants.

TFOs are legally responsible for ensuring that TFs run in a compliant manner. This includes ensuring containers are placed appropriately. Non-compliance can lead to prosecution under the Biosecurity Act. TFOs must keep staff aware of correct operating procedures and ensure they have up to date training. **Note: TF Operators are not permitted to open containers. This role must be carried out by an AP.**

APs are responsible for checking the container before and during devanning. We do not expect APs to find microscopic pests, but the techniques taught in training are designed to help you minimise the biosecurity risk to New Zealand.

- Make sure the container is placed properly before opening. If the container is not placed appropriately, **DO NOT OPEN THE CONTAINER**. Get it moved, and call us. Some examples of incorrect placement are shown below.



Placed on gravel and <1m spacing Placed on grass and too close to trees Too close (<1m) to vegetation and soil

- Ensure that you check all four sides of the container prior to opening the container and sweep all risk material into your biosecurity bin.
- Perform door checks and regularly check the floor, walls and roof of the container for contamination/pests.
- Check all wood packaging and cargo for any signs of contamination as you are devanning the container.
- Sweep out the empty container after devanning is complete. Place all sweepings into your biosecurity bin.
- Fill out your log sheet and remember to tick the "swept" box.

The truck driver is responsible for delivering containers in an appropriate manner. Trucking firms that take containers to non-approved TFs may be prosecuted under the Biosecurity Act. Therefore, it is important to check paperwork and sight the TF signage prior to dropping the container. If a container is placed incorrectly, or you are asked to place a container incorrectly, notify MPI as soon as possible. We will ask that the container be moved to a compliant location prior to devanning.

Please email MPI at seacontainer@mpi.govt.nz if you have any comments or questions about this report, APs or TFOs.

MPI Contact Details

- General Inquiries: 0800 00 83 33
- Biosecurity Import Clearances: 0800 22 20 18
- Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66
- Imported Animal Service: 0800 62 35 55
- International Caller Number: 64 04 894 0100
- TFs & Containment Facilities go to:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans>
To subscribe to MPI announcements go to
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/lists>