

Questions & Answers

Why is Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) a problem?

BMSB is a hitchhiker pest and it spreads very easily through the movement of people and commodities. It is invasive in the USA, where it is a significant agricultural pest and household nuisance, it is also established in Canada in low numbers. BMSB is found in high numbers in Italy and it continues to spread through Europe.

What is BMSB likely to arrive into NZ on?

BMSB overwinters, in large groups, in dark narrow spaces. This means that a wide range of inanimate objects such as used vehicles, farm equipment and containers are high risk pathways for spreading BMSB to New Zealand.

When are we most likely to see increase numbers of BMSB?

The risk season for BMSB incursions in New Zealand is between September and April. This corresponds with the period in the Northern hemisphere when day length shortens, the weather cools, and the bugs find places to hibernate.

What is MPI already doing to stop BMSB entering NZ?

Australia and New Zealand are already taking an active approach to stopping BMSB getting through our borders. The challenge is that there are many pathways for its arrival and they are very difficult to manage down to an acceptable level.

Over the BMSB risk period from 1 September to 30 April each year, MPI increases BMSB surveillance and auditing activities at the border to detect and manage BMSB in containers and on goods.

MPI also currently requires all new and used vehicles and machinery from the USA (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) and Italy to be treated either prior to export or on-arrival in New Zealand.

The new measures introduced 23 December 2017 will require all sea containers arriving from Italy to be treated offshore, or within 48 hours of arrival.

Why is MPI introducing these requirements now?

Since the start of the BMSB season there have been a number of recent detections at the border. These have now reached a point where MPI believes further actions need to occur to stop this pest entering our country.

What will happen after March 1 2018?

MPI will review its decisions and approaches after the 2017-18 season, and will look to introduce additional measures before the next season in September 2018.

What if my goods react badly to the treatments?

MPI is not responsible for damage caused to consignments that have undergone treatments.