

You make a difference

BIOSECURITY EXCELLENCE AT THE
PORT OF TAURANGA

2026/27



Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua





**We are a Port community
committed to biosecurity
excellence, working together
to prevent biosecurity risk**

Tauranga Moana is our place to protect

The Port of Tauranga, Biosecurity New Zealand, Kiwifruit Vine Health, and other government and industry organisations, as well as research partners, have been working together for several years to prevent biosecurity risk within the Port community.

We're committed to lifting biosecurity awareness and best practice behaviour because there's so much at stake - the economy, our environment, and human health. By being aware and doing the right thing we can protect what we've got and keep unwanted pests and diseases at bay.

You may not have thought about what could be impacted by biosecurity threats reaching our shores and establishing. We're a small intertwined community - for example, if the local kiwifruit industry is shut down, you're affected. If a biosecurity response includes zoning and travel restrictions, you're affected.



In a big biosecurity incursion, there would be impacts on fruit and vegetable production in the region. Psa is estimated to have cost **\$1 billion**.



Thousands of full time jobs in the region could be lost if there is less need for people like transporters, contractors and shippers.



Markets might stop accepting goods from affected areas. A fruit fly incursion in Te Puke could cost **\$430 million** in market access impacts and restrict Port operations.

There is never zero risk

Vessels, goods, and people coming directly to New Zealand from overseas bring with them the potential threat of unwanted pests and diseases.

The Port of Tauranga is a 'Place of First Arrival' into New Zealand to discharge cargo. This means these vessels - and the sea containers and goods with them - may contain **risks** that breach New Zealand's biosecurity rules and could be harmful to our businesses, our environment, and our health.

Although we have a world-leading biosecurity (and surveillance) system there is never zero risk and we must all know what to be on the lookout for and why.



We are all risk managers

The next big threat might be on its way here or already at our doorstep, undetected.

If we find it too late, it lowers the chances of being able to contain and control it.

Just like with COVID-19, the more we know about a biosecurity threat and the sooner we stop it, the better off we'll all be.

The impacts and flow-on effects are far reaching, and not just about industries or environments. Everyone throughout the community will be affected.

We must always work towards:

EXCLUDING: Keeping unwanted pests and diseases out.

ERADICATING: Finding what does manage to get here early enough to get rid of it.

MANAGING: Controlling what we can't immediately eradicate so that we limit its impacts.



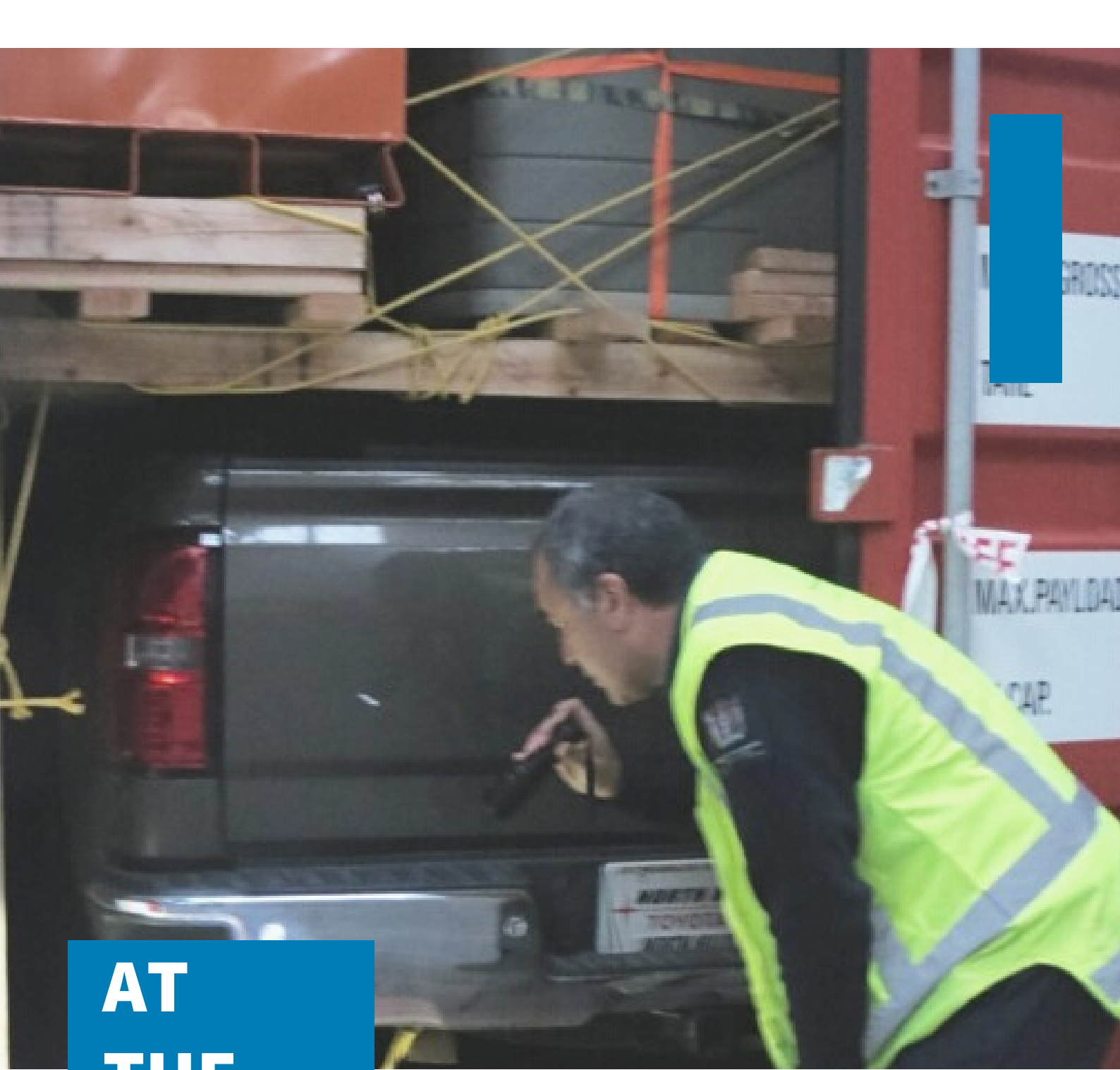
Giant African Snail



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug



Spotted Lanternfly

A man in a high-visibility yellow vest is inspecting a container. He is holding a flashlight and looking into the container. The container is red and has some text on it, including "MAX. PAYLOAD" and "CAP". There are yellow straps and wooden pallets visible in the background.

AT THE PORT

Sea containers are a major risk because they can carry live or dead organisms, plant material, seeds, soil and dirt, all of which can harbour pests or diseases.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) analyses the level of risk for all containers, based on:

- origin of container
- goods being carried
- documentation.

All high-risk containers are physically inspected by MPI and may be sent for treatment.

Low risk containers are directed to Transitional Facilities (TFs) to be physically checked by Accredited Persons (APs).

Although MPI inspectors are working on the Port, you are the frontline - your eyes see it all. **You make all the difference.**

At the Port

Ports must be MPI approved or have TFs for holding imported risk goods. TFs at the Port of Tauranga include:

- vehicle wash/hoist
- container wash facility
- container depots
- quarantine transfer station.

Do you know the APs at the Port of Tauranga?
Their role includes:

- container inspections
- biosecurity support to Port staff
- being in every hatch for general and container discharges
- completing refresher training to maintain certification.



Container wash



Checking a low risk imported container



Checking a low risk imported container

How you can help

Keep an eye out around the Port, especially in areas that could be a habitat for pests, like:

- areas with uncontrolled plants or long grass
- dunnage piles or old equipment storage areas
- places with low daily traffic
- around container stacks.

If you work with sea containers, proactively observe them when they are being:

- unloaded off the vessel
- carried by crane
- loaded onto a truck.

If you're working on vessels, watch out for:

- old cargo residue (like grain)
- pests or contamination
- anything on the deck
- anything on the wharf.

Always report any unusual pests or plants to MPI on 927 5700 or 0800 80 99 66.

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Container wash



Checking a low risk imported container



Checking a low risk imported container

How you can help

If you can, look at specific parts of a container:

- lugholes
- container locks
- edges and sills
- refrigeration units.

Keep a look out for:

- soil/mud
- grass/leaves
- seeds/grains
- spider webs/nests
- insects/egg masses
- dead or alive animals
- fungi/rotten timber.

Always report any unusual pests or plants to MPI on 927 5700 or 0800 80 99 66.



Inspecting a contaminated container



Looking out for old residue



Looking out for any pests or contamination

**What do
you see?**



Soil



Fungi

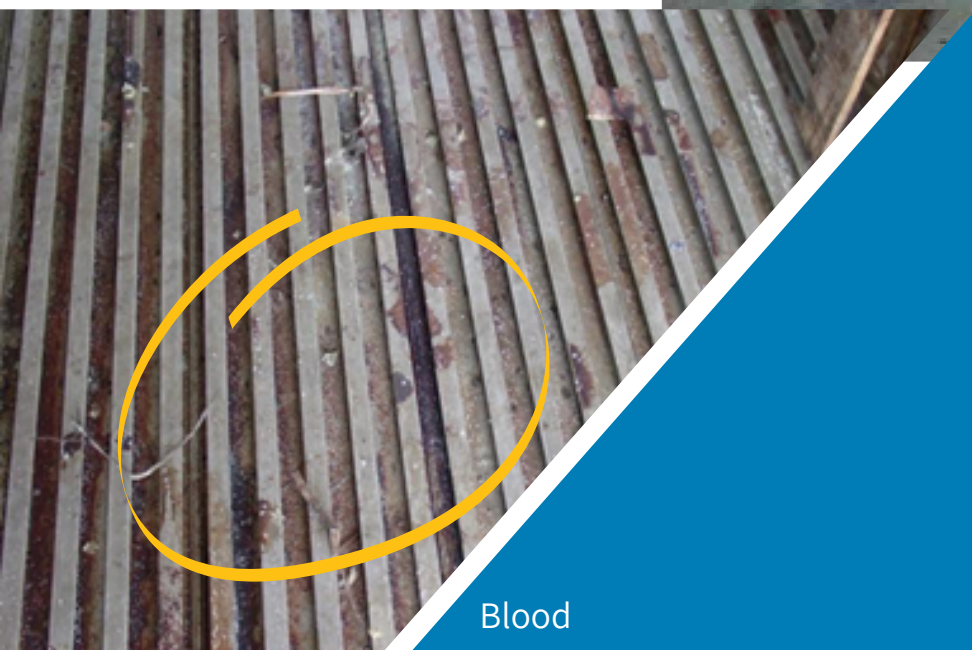


Seed

**What do
you see?**



Soil



Blood



Seed



HIGH PROFILE FINDS

There are many different kinds of common interceptions at our borders, and the Port of Tauranga is no different.

Giant African Snails:

- Common hitchhikers from the Pacific Islands
- Have an appetite for plants
- Look for them on or around containers.

Red Imported Fire Ants:

- Can come from any country
- Some have severe stings
- Look for individual ants or nests, on or around containers.

High profile finds

Flying insects:

- Could come from any location
- Can carry animal or plant disease
- Moths and their caterpillars could destroy our forests
- Pooled water could carry mosquito larvae.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB):

- Overwintering populations in the USA in vehicles and homes
- Highly likely to get here as a hitchhiker on shipping containers, cars, machinery and luggage
- Early detection is essential because it is so difficult to eradicate (no one in the world has managed it).

Asian Gypsy Moth:

- A destructive eater with a huge appetite and nasty stinging hairs
- Lays hundreds of eggs in a single mass, on all kinds of surfaces, especially vehicles, shipping containers, and ships
- Ships are the most likely ways for the egg masses to arrive in New Zealand.



Red Imported Fire Ant



Painted Apple Moth cocoon



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

High profile finds

Contaminated timber:

- Wood packaging can carry fungus or mould, wood boring insects, and bark
- All wood packaging should be ISPM15 stamped
- No timber/dunnage is to leave the wharf without MPI clearance or the ISPM15 stamp.

Dirt or soil:

- Soil can carry micro-organisms or seeds
- Used machinery can be contaminated.

Plant material and seeds:

- Bits of plants can get stuck to containers
- Look for grass, leaves, sticks or seeds
- Even small seeds could allow new unwanted weeds to enter New Zealand.

Always report any unusual pests or plants to MPI on 927 5700 or 0800 80 99 66.



Used machinery inspection



Infested timber



Birds nest in a reefer container

Found something unusual?

If you're working with ships, cargo and containers on the Port, or unloading imported products, report anything unusual and unwanted that you may find (dead or alive).

You can make a difference. The sooner we know about something, the more we can do to limit the impacts it could have on our jobs, our businesses, and the local community.

If you find anything suspicious, follow these three simple steps:



Catch it! Use the staffroom biosecurity kits to collect the pest into one of the plastic bags or pottles provided. Write the date on the bag/pottle as well as the company you work for.



Snap it! If you have your phone with you or access to a cell phone, take a photo of it - when you talk to MPI they might ask for a photo to help them ID the pest.



Report it! Ring the Mount Maunganui MPI office straight away on 07 927 5700 or call the national hotline on 0800 80 99 66 (24 hours, 7 days a week). Your health and safety is the most important thing so only Catch, Snap and Report if it is safe to do so.



**TOGETHER WE CAN
PROTECT WHAT
WE'VE GOT**

Biosecurity Awareness Quiz

Quiz Questions

1. What does “biosecurity” mean?

- a) Protecting computer systems from hackers
- b) Stopping harmful pests, weeds and diseases from entering, establishing or spreading in New Zealand
- c) A type of farm insurance
- d) A rule that only applies to airports

2. Which of these is a real biosecurity threat that New Zealand actively works to keep out or manage?

- a) Foot-and-mouth disease
- b) Myrtle rust
- c) Brown marmorated stink bug
- d) All of the above

3. What can happen if you don't declare a risk item when arriving in New Zealand?

- a) You could face an infringement fee or prosecution
- b) Nothing, it's just a formality
- c) You get a warning letter a year later
- d) Your item is automatically donated to MPI

4. If you spot something unusual – an unfamiliar insect, plant, or sick animal – that you think could be a biosecurity risk, what should you do?

- a) Post about it on social media and wait for someone to respond
- b) Ignore it, it's probably nothing
- c) Report it to MPI's pest and disease hotline (0800 80 99 66)
- d) Try to remove or destroy it yourself first

4. Which workplaces or roles are most likely to encounter biosecurity risk in their day-to-day work?

- a) Only MPI staff at airports
- b) Just farmers
- c) Logistics, importers/exporters, tourism operators, primary sector businesses, and anyone handling goods, soil, or untreated wood packaging
- d) Nobody outside government agencies

Answer Key & Explanations

Q	Answer	Why
1	B	Biosecurity is about keeping harmful pests, weeds and diseases out of New Zealand, and managing or eradicating those already established here.
2	D	All three are real, active biosecurity concerns in New Zealand, from animal disease to plant disease to invasive insects.

Q	Answer	Why
3	A	Failing to declare a risk item can result in an infringement fee (currently \$400) or prosecution.
4	C	Report suspected pests, diseases or unusual organisms to MPI's free 24-hour hotline: 0800 80 99 66 OR the local MPI office 07 9275700. Don't try to handle or remove it yourself.
5	C	Biosecurity risk can show up across many workplaces, logistics, imports/exports, tourism, hospitality, primary industries, and anywhere goods, packaging, soil or equipment move.

Useful contacts

- Report a suspected pest or disease: MPI Pest and Disease Hotline – 0800 80 99 66 (24 hours) OR the local MPI office 07 9275700.
- More resources and posters for workplaces: Biosecurity Business Pledge – bbpledge.nz
- General biosecurity information: mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity