

ISSUE 3 | OCTOBER : NOVEMBER 2011

BUG BUSINESS

BIOSECURITY BEST PRACTICE FOR NEW ZEALAND COMPANIES



AGRICHAIN-CENTRE.COM

Food Safety
A GROWING CONCERN

Welcome

Welcome to our October/November edition of Bug Business.

This newsletter aims to demystify the regulations that can impact your business. You know us as a Biosecurity training and support business. In addition, we are extensively involved in the Food Safety training and procedures area. We have the same philosophy in Food Safety - do things properly but keep it as simple as possible.

Here we introduce changes in both Biosecurity and Food Safety as well as new initiatives we are developing.



Biosecurity

TFGEN UPDATE



This year in August MAF released Version 3 of the Standard for General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Goods (TFGEN). This standard replaces a range of MAF standards and will affect organisations dealing with risk goods.

Remember that as an Approved Transitional Facility you need to have an up to date version of the standard on file. Go to this link to download it:
www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/bnz-std-tfgen

Check the annexes in the Guidance Document in particular as there have been some major changes that may affect your business.

The main impact appears to be upon companies dealing with risk goods. These can be people and their possessions (airports and ports), cats and dogs (quarantine), or waste disposal in its broadest meaning! In other words: high-risk sites, products, processes and procedures.

Here is a very basic summary, but please read TFGEN for more detailed information relevant to your Transitional Facility.

Sea Container Sites: The changes are not as extensive. However, you need to read TFGEN to assess whether there is any area that is relevant to your business.

Importers or Handlers of Risk Goods: There have been changes to TFGEN that may affect your business. We advise you to read the annexes to TFGEN very carefully as there have been changes to specific situations and the goods dealt with.

The following risk facilities are especially affected: Ports, Airports, decontamination and waste processing facilities. If you deal with people (and associated baggage) then read Annex M and N carefully. If you import cats and dogs, read Annex O.

In some cases, the changes will mean that your procedures need to be reviewed. Contact us regarding specific changes that TFGEN requires if you are unsure.

Call us on 0800-247-424 and we will do our best to help!



Food Safety



THE FOOD BILL AT TIME OF PUBLISHING IS STILL WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH PARLIAMENT. ONCE IN LAW THE NEW FOOD BILL WILL REPLACE THE OUT OF DATE 1981 FOOD ACT.

IN SUMMARY:

Food businesses will be regulated relative to the level of risk the food presents. This will be done by:

- Food control plans for high-risk businesses such as restaurants (a customised Food Safety programme)
- National programmes for medium to low-risk businesses, such as horticulture producers (templates will be available as a starting point)
- Monitoring programmes to impose measures for determining the safety and suitability of food
- Food importers will be registered to allow food to be imported into New Zealand. Food importers will have a duty to ensure that the same standards as domestically produced food are met.

Developing food control and risk management programmes is a specialised area. We have a team of highly experienced programme writers, including specialists in distribution, warehousing, produce, meat and other high-risk areas.

If you want more information on Food Safety training or programmes, please call Leanne on 0800-247-424 to discuss your requirements.

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING: WE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN FOOD SAFETY TRAINING!

In coming weeks we will have a range of Food Safety courses available to meet any level of staff training, from floor staff through to Food Safety Managers. These courses include:

- A Basic Food Hygiene Certificate course designed to meet council requirements
- An Advanced Food Safety course - more in depth knowledge about how to keep food safe and an introduction to HACCP
- Understanding HACCP & Food Control Plans - this course helps with the day to day requirements of HACCP and Food Control Plans so you are in control of Food Safety
- Courses customised to incorporate the level of knowledge you require for your staff
- NZQA courses in a range of unit standards including 167 and 168

We will also be presenting some of these courses in Mandarin.

We are working closely with The Burwater Pacific Group in the area of Food Safety training.

BIOSECURITY COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS



CHANGE OF TRANSITIONAL FACILITY OPERATORS

Under the requirements of TFGEN, MAF needs to be notified of any proposed changes to the Operator. Prospective new Operators need to complete an application form. Remember that a Transitional Facility can not legally operate without an approved Operator.

There are Three Steps to the Application Process:

1. Biosecurity Training: The new Operator attends the Transitional Facility Operator workshop. This half day course will cover the requirements of an Operator. The Operator receives a certificate of training from MAF
2. Site Biosecurity Manual: This will need to be reviewed and updated with any changes including the new Operator's name
3. Application to MAF: Complete an application for approval of a Transitional Facility and facility Operator and consent to disclosure of information.

Download these forms at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/registration/application-form

BUG BUSINESS



BIOSECURITY SUPPORT SERVICES INITIATIVES

THE AGRICHAIN CENTRE HAS DESIGNED A WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO ASSIST BUSINESSES BECOME BIOSECURITY COMPLIANT. WE TAILOR OUR PACKAGES TO SUIT YOUR BUSINESS AND THE PRODUCTS YOU IMPORT.



NEW FACILITIES PACKAGE

If you are setting up a new facility, our specialised Biosecurity advisers can help you manage your application to MAF for becoming an Approved Transitional Facility (ATF) to receive sea containers on site. These packages are tailored to your facility and consist of the following components:

- MAF Biosecurity training for two Accredited Persons
- MAF Biosecurity training for one Transitional Facility Operator
- Site Assessment
- Operating Manual (Site Procedures)
- Biosecurity Consultancy
- Biosecurity Signage Starter Kit

For further assistance, please contact our Biosecurity Enquiries Team on (09)414-4536 or 0800-247-424; alternatively email: lappleton@agrichain-centre.com



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR NEW APPROVED FACILITIES

We have introduced two new services to assist you if you need more support managing your new facility. Please see the options below:

- Supervised Devanning of First Container at Facility
- Biosecurity Adviser present during first MAF Audit



MANDARIN BIOSECURITY TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Accredited Person certificate course and the Transitional Facility Operator workshop are now available in Mandarin (Auckland region only).

Please go to the link below for more information:
www.agrichain-centre.com/biosecurity-training

Our Mandarin trainer and Biosecurity adviser is also available for consultancy and assistance with setting up a new facility or reviewing your current Biosecurity operating systems and processes.



RULE CHANGES REGARDING METHYL BROMIDE FUMIGATIONS

Recent changes to the control of fumigation means that buffer zones have increased to a minimum of 10 metres around sea containers undergoing fumigation. This has implications for many facilities. Buffer zones are not required on fumigation where methyl bromide recapture technology is used.

If you are unsure about how the changes impact your Transitional Facility contact your MAF Approved Treatment Suppliers to find out go to:

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/treat/approved



CURRENT APPROVED TRANSITIONAL FACILITIES (ATF)

Services on offer to existing Approved Transitional Facilities:

- Updating existing procedures written by us (within the past 2 years) at a preferential rate
- Internal Audit/ Site Assessments & Report for ATF Low-Risk Cargo and Risk Cargo Sites
- Reviewing your Biosecurity internal systems and processes and ensuring you are compliant and meet the TFGEN standards
- Onsite Accredited Person certificate course at a preferential rate (6 or more staff).

PLEASE CONTACT OUR BIOSECURITY ENQUIRIES TEAM. PHONE (09)414-4536 or 0800-247-424



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