

BUG BUSINESS

BIOSECURITY BEST PRACTICE FOR NEW ZEALAND COMPANIES



The Hadda Beetle

THE LATEST
BIOSECURITY
INCURSION

REASSESSING
THE RISKS:
FOOD SAFETY AND
THE PROPOSED
NEW FOOD ACT



WELCOME

Welcome to the new-look Bug Business, the biosecurity best practice magazine published quarterly by The AgriChain Centre, New Zealand's leading Biosecurity Training Provider and the publisher of HortSource.

As a Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry-Approved Independent Biosecurity Training Provider, The AgriChain Centre has run Accredited Persons and Transitional Facility Operator training courses since they were first introduced – but our experience in biosecurity management goes much further back than that. Over the years we have been asked many questions about biosecurity, so much so that in 2009 we launched our Bug Business newsletter. It was so well received that it has now grown into the larger publication you are reading.

In this edition of Bug Business you'll find coverage of a number of topical areas in biosecurity such as Transitional Facility Operator training, the vital economic and commercial importance of biosecurity management to New Zealand and how industry can make it work to its best

advantage. We also touch on the implications of the proposed new Food Act for importers, distributors and manufacturers.

The expanded Bug Business quarterly joins The AgriChain Centre's extensive range of industry support initiatives. In each, our aim is to provide our clients with clear and simple processes.

- We conduct regular training workshops throughout New Zealand in all main and regional entry ports as well as providing tailored, in-house training sessions on-site.
- We maintain a register of your company personnel who are involved in biosecurity and proactively advise you when these individuals require recertification.
- We have a Regional Client Management Team which is on hand to visit your Approved Transitional Facility and offer advice.

- We offer a range of signage and equipment options to ensure you have the tools you need for complete biosecurity compliance.
- We have developed an Accredited Persons ID Card to ensure your staff has the information they need quickly on hand, when it's needed.
- We offer innovative solutions and cost-effective packages to meet your needs, without any requirements of club or management fees.

For an obligation-free discussion on how we can benefit your business, please contact our Client Services Team on **0800 247 424**.



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THE HADDA BEETLE

THE LATEST BIOSECURITY INCURSION

By Keith Budd*



This article discusses the finding of a new bug in Auckland, which has implications for the potato and tomato-growing industries. It also outlines why swift biosecurity responses are vital for New Zealand's wellbeing.

The Hadda beetle was first discovered in Sir Dove-Myer Robinson Park in Parnell, Auckland in January 2010. As part of its initial response, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAF BNZ) quickly conducted a survey to find out how widespread the beetle was.

Investigations found 52 infestations of the beetle in 25 separate locations across central Auckland, some of which were at least 8.25 kilometres from the original detection site. The indications were that the pest had been present since at least 2006, that the distribution of the beetle was probably even wider and that an eradication response zone of 15km (43,000 hectares) would be required.

The Hadda beetle is a common pest of plants in the Solanaceae family (potatoes, tomatoes and eggplants). Both the adult and larvae Hadda beetles feed on the host plants and heavy feeding damage gives leaves a distinctive, lace-like appearance. The adult is an orange-coloured beetle of 7-10mm in size with around 28 black spots on its back.

“IT MAY LOOK CUTE, BUT THE HADDA BEETLE WILL COST THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY \$100 MILLION OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS.”

Biosecurity management options

MAF BNZ considered a number of management options:

1. Not to attempt eradication but to work with industry to assist in slowing the spread and to minimise the impacts of the beetle.
2. To attempt eradication by ground spraying the 15km response zone (43,000 hectares).
3. To attempt eradication by aerial spraying the 15km response zone (43,000 hectares).

MAF BNZ concluded that the eradication costs could be as high as \$200 million.

Estimated impacts

The Hadda beetle is found throughout Australia, Fiji and in all of our significant export countries and does not appear to cause major production issues. There are also unlikely to be any market access issues, but it does add another pest to the list that New Zealand growers have to manage. MAF BNZ has estimated that Hadda beetle is likely to cost the horticulture industry \$100 million over the next 20 years, but has

concluded after consultation with the industry that eradication of the Hadda beetle is not feasible.

There have been successful eradication programmes for Fruit Fly (1996), White Tussock Moth (1997), Painted Apple Moth (1999), Asian Gypsy Moth (2004) and Red Imported Fire Ant (2006). The eradication of the Southern Saltmarsh Mosquito (1998) is expected in July 2010.

The Hadda beetle incursion indicates that eradication of a pest or disease is not always feasible. To be so, eradication has to be technically and scientifically possible and also affordable and desirable.

As with all good decision-making about pest incursions, timely information is paramount. In the future it is hoped that industry will be prepared for more events with a known response activity under the Government Industry Agreement process that is currently under way.

***Keith Budd is Technical Director of The AgriChain Centre. Contact Keith on email: kbudd@agrichain-centre.com**



INTERVIEW

GETTING IN BEHIND

Keith Budd outlines the benefits of New Zealand’s decentralised approach to biosecurity clearance – and the vital role that specialist professionals in broking, freight forwarding, transport and logistics play in it.



By John Corbett

New Zealand importers and associated industries like brokers, freight forwarders and logistics companies play a huge role in biosecurity management today. How did that come about?

Their involvement increased following the 1980s port reforms and the introduction of the Biosecurity Act in 1993. This introduced the concept of a ‘shared’ responsibility for managing biosecurity risk around imports. By the late 1990s there was a universal understanding that sea containers posed a reasonable risk. The numbers arriving each year were steadily increasing (in 2008, for instance, there were 615,000!), and with only a few hundred MAF inspection personnel available at the country’s ports, 100% inspection was impossible. If you recall the several high-profile pest eradication campaigns that took place in the 1990s, there was considerable pressure for 100% inspection. The 1993 Act actually made provision for industry members to be accredited, and for a small country with limited resources, moving to an accreditation system was a very pragmatic step.

What would you say to the comment that accreditation imposes extra costs on companies?

I’d say that the system involves only minimal costs: for example, it costs only \$90 for a staff

member to attend an Accredited Persons training course – that’s pretty minor. And the payoff for companies that get their head around the documentation and processes involved in regulatory checks is better business practices, with the savings that inevitably flow from that.

Still, there are costs in terms of time...

The real costs in time are when MAF BNZ finds your processes to be non-compliant – and then you really get tied up! Biosecurity is vital to NZ’s wellbeing, the benchmarks for good biosecurity practice continue to rise and the penalties for non-compliance reflect it. It’s vital that everyone, from specialist professionals such as brokers, freight forwarders and logistics operators to the individual importers who are their clients, get in behind our biosecurity clearance system and understand that it’s not just a matter of ticking a box or relying on an annual MAF BNZ audit to maintain your standards. We all have to keep up-to-date with our information and processes and get it right every time. It’s not hugely complicated to do – and there are real benefits in it.

What are the benefits?

The benefits for instance of being able to receive your container directly at your store, factory, shop or processing centre. Compare

that with other countries which don’t have NZ’s very pragmatic and practical approach. The alternatives might be strict import regimes that stop every container at a port for inspection, with the added possibility of containers being returned to their point of origin for non-compliance. Another alternative might be licensed devanning centres or approved independent (of importers) sea container surveyors. With all those alternatives, everybody’s costs in time and money go right up.

Where does The AgriChain Centre fit in to this?

We’re an enabler. We’ve been a biosecurity specialist for many years and have an in-depth knowledge of both regulatory requirements and industry needs. We are also the country’s leading MAF-approved Independent Biosecurity Training Provider. If you are looking to improve your biosecurity processes and performance, talk to us. We’ll give you clear and simple solutions that will save you time and money.

Keith Budd is Technical Director of The AgriChain Centre. Contact Keith on email: kbudd@agrchain-centre.com

REASSESSING THE RISKS

FOOD SAFETY AND THE PROPOSED NEW FOOD ACT

By Anne-Marie Arts*

The AgriChain Centre has been heavily involved in developing Food Safety Programmes in the distribution, wholesale, and logistics industries for many years. But now, with the pending introduction of a new Food Act, there are changes afoot that will affect these industries. Below is a brief summary of the changes.

For over five years the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) has been working on the introduction of a new Food Act. It's needed because the existing legislation has become outdated and there are significant gaps and duplications amongst the various regulations.

The new Food Act is currently at the final technical drafting stage before it enters the Parliamentary machine. The Act is likely to come into law some time during the next year and although there are still some details to be worked out, the overall structure is clear. To view the full consultation document, go to: nzfsa.govt.nz/policy-law/projects/domestic-food-review.

There are three main elements to the new Food Act:

1. Food Control Plans. These are customised Food Safety Programmes for higher-risk food producers who are externally audited. Food Control Plans will apply to many New Zealand companies.

2. National Plans. These are for medium - to lower-risk businesses. There will be three levels of programmes and audit frequencies, depending on the level of risk the food poses, and NZFSA intends to develop a range of plans for industries to use and adapt.

- Warehousing and logistics companies will very likely need to monitor the provisions of the National Plans.
- Many distribution and transport service operators will also need to comply with the requirements in about year four of the five-year implementation plan (2013-2014).

- Companies with existing food safety programmes will also be able to maintain their programmes as Food Control Plans even if technically they could operate under a National Plan.

3. Food handler guidance. This is intended for occasional sellers of low-risk products, e.g. sausage sizzles for fund-raising.

Timing

Once the Food Act passes into law, a five-year timetable for implementation will commence. The main effect on the horticultural industry will be in year three, which looks to be 2012-2013.

If you need any help or advice about Food Safety Programmes and/or the proposed Food Act, talk to Carolyn Brown at The AgriChain Centre.

Phone **(09) 414 4536**

or email: cbrown@agrchain-centre.com

***Anne-Marie Arts is Commercial Director of The AgriChain Centre. Contact Anne-Marie on email: amarts@agrchain-centre.com**

BioSecurity

The Transitional Facility Solutions Service
for the New Zealand Import Industry

WWW.AGRICHAIN-CENTRE.COM



Check our website
for details or phone
0800-247-424

The AgriChain Centre offers
different support solutions to suit
your needs, imported commodity type
and the nature of your facility

- ▶ Accredited Persons Sea Container Checking Courses
- ▶ Transitional Facility Operator Workshops
- ▶ Procedures, Solutions & Support
- ▶ Weekly training courses in Auckland
- ▶ Monthly training courses in all other main centres
- ▶ In-house courses by arrangement

The AgriChain Centre is a Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Approved Independent Biosecurity Training Provider

EQUIVALENCE + CO-MANAGEMENT = TIME AND COST SAVINGS FOR INDUSTRY

By Keith Budd

Although New Zealand is free of many serious pests and diseases, our biosecurity systems are under pressure through growth in international trade and travel. An effective biosecurity system cannot rely solely on traditional border inspection or certification from overseas countries. What is increasingly needed is a partnership approach between industry and regulatory authorities such as MAF BNZ.

This is where Equivalence and Co-management fit in. In plain English, they are systems options that MAF BNZ can use to help manage biosecurity issues both offshore and at the border. Their key feature is that they allow industry the opportunity to come up with new risk management options which MAF BNZ will assess.

Some examples of equivalence or co-management systems include:

- the development of different ways of managing the cleaning of cars or the shipping of containers at ports. One notable example is the work the NZ Overseas Movers Association (NZOMA) is doing relating to the management of personal effects containers.
- the better management of complex storage and devanning processes when a company has multiple sites and products with varying risk profiles. Better management means better time and cost management.

What does the application process entail?

The company prepares a proposal and submits this to MAF BNZ. The applicant must clearly show how the risk good(s) will be processed to meet the required standards and

processes. This includes having contingency systems in place to deal with non-compliances. These must be documented, along with the quality assurance systems.

All costs associated with development of the application and undertaking any trials are incurred by the applicant company. MAF BNZ will provide guidance and answer questions but will not engage in research or development of a proposal.

The AgriChain Centre team is experienced in proposal submissions and can coordinate and assist companies who are interested in taking a greater role in the biosecurity risk management of their import process.

For more information contact Keith Budd at The AgriChain Centre. Email: kbudd@agrichain-centre.com

TFO TRAINING

WHY IT'S VITAL TO STAY UP-TO-DATE

As a result of the introduction of the new TF-GEN Standard (and the MAF BNZ audits that go with it) we have been experiencing an upsurge in Transitional Facility Operator (TFO) training. The audits have been making it very clear that **TFO training is compulsory** and that TFO managers must have a clear understanding of the responsibilities of their role, including the specific details that must be included in their facility's operating manual.

The audits are also revealing, sometimes with unhappy commercial consequences, that having completed an Accredited Persons (AP) course is no substitute for certified TFO training.

In a nutshell, the differences between TFO and AP training are as follows:

- The TFO course is a workshop which focuses on the management requirements of a facility as outlined in the TF-GEN Standard.
- The AP course is specific to the biosecurity checking of the sea containers when they arrive and are being unloaded.
- TFO training is required every 4 years.
- AP training is required every 2 years.

One of the most important topics covered in the TFO workshop is biosecurity roles and responsibilities. This explains what management procedures need to be in place at Transitional Facilities in order to meet the

TF-GEN Standard. TFOs find this workshop of considerable assistance in ensuring that the procedures at their facilities comply fully.

It's also worth noting that because MAF approves a person as a TFO for a specific facility only, you must clearly specify all of the imports you handle at the facility when lodging an application to operate a facility.

As for the "unhappy commercial consequences" mentioned above – they can be very unhappy. If a MAF BNZ audit finds that a facility manager either doesn't hold a current TFO training certificate or that the facility's procedures don't comply, MAF BNZ can close the facility!

If you need to sign up for TFO training, call us toll free on **0800 247 424**.

INTRODUCING THE BIOSECURITY AP CARD

An innovative and practical new idea from The AgriChain Centre makes biosecurity compliance even simpler.

As part of our commitment to improve our services to the importing community, The AgriChain Centre is pleased to announce the introduction of the biosecurity AP Card.

At present, every person who successfully completes a training or retraining course as an Accredited Person for biosecurity clearance receives an official certificate issued by MAF BNZ. From May 2010, every Accredited Person trained by The AgriChain Centre will also be issued with a complimentary Accredited Persons card (AP Card).

The card contains the Accredited Person's name, AP number and facility code (or ATF number). On the reverse of the AP Card is a list of important contact numbers to assist the Accredited Person if contaminants are found.

At The AgriChain Centre we are always looking for ways to make biosecurity compliance simpler and we see the Biosecurity AP Card as a simple but logical way for companies and APs to have all the information they need in one place when they quickly need it. The idea of the Card has been warmly welcomed by our many clients and we look forward to issuing you with one when you complete your AP training with us.

Please note: the Biosecurity AP Card is not an official identity card.



MANAGE YOUR BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS BETTER WITH TOTAL SOLUTIONS PACKAGES

Here at The AgriChain Centre we've noted an increasing number of new applications from businesses wishing to investigate the cost and time savings of devanning sea containers on-site.

We also receive calls from existing Approved Transitional Facilities (ATFs) who have had less than favourable audits from MAF BNZ and who are confused about what they are required to do in order to maintain their approval status.

In response, we recently introduced two 'Total Solutions Packages' to assist clients with low-risk ATF sea container sites. These include a

visit by an experienced biosecurity Co-ordinator to evaluate your site or offer any compliance advice.

For a fixed investment we will fully support you in the application process. We provide full training plus all the relevant forms and documentation you need to prepare your application.

A large element of the Transitional Facility Operator (TFO) role in ATF applications is the preparation of the Procedures Manual which needs to accompany your application to MAF BNZ. We will prepare and produce your manual to cover all the requirements

and ensure you are fully aware of any legal obligations. While we cannot guarantee that your ATF application will be granted by MAF BNZ, we will help you manage the application process to ensure the process is as smooth as possible.

In addition, The AgriChain Centre also runs Accredited Person (AP) and Transitional Facility Operator (TFO) training courses on behalf of MAF BNZ.

Biosecurity compliance is our business. Adopting one of our Total Solutions Packages leaves you time to concentrate on your business.

THE BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING WITH BUG BUSINESS

Bug Business magazine enjoys an extensive and targeted readership of at least 6,500 businesses who actively import freight into New Zealand. A free copy of Bug Business is circulated to these businesses every quarter, addressed personally to senior managers or to TFOs – the Transitional Facility Operators who manage their company's importing activities.

Bug Business' prime audience are managers or business owners with the authority to make purchasing or capital investment decisions on behalf of their companies – a highly valuable readership to project your goods or services to. These readers include importers of all sizes, distribution centres, freight forwarders and logistics and transportation companies.

As well as investing heavily in materials handling equipment, transportation services, general warehouse supplies, fleet leasing and employment services, Bug Business readers maintain their biosecurity compliance through the purchase of services from waste disposal companies, pest control and signage

providers. As importers, they utilise the services of Customs and freight forwarders, financial institutions and container and shipping companies and agents.

Our experience with the newsletter version of Bug Business tells us that our audience is highly receptive to a printed version of Bug Business and regards its content as relevant and informative for their business operations. Bug Business newsletters also have a large secondary audience of Accredited Persons – the personnel who devan and unload sea containers in New Zealand. According to MAF BNZ statistics, there are some 38,000 Accredited Persons nationwide.

If you provide goods or services to our target market, we invite you to share in the benefits that exposure in Bug Business magazine provides. We offer a range of cost-efficient options and will provide a solution that meets your expectations and budget. Please contact our team to discuss this opportunity personally.

UPCOMING ADVERTISER CATEGORIES IN BUG BUSINESS MAGAZINE

- MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES
- WASTE DISPOSAL COMPANIES SHIPPING AGENTS AND COMPANIES
- FREIGHT FORWARDERS, FINANCIAL - BANKS, OVERSEAS TRANSACTIONS
- PEST CONTROL SERVICES GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY BODIES
- PEST CHEMICALS PRODUCERS GENERAL BUSINESS AND WAREHOUSE SUPPLIES
- SIGN COMPANIES, FLEET LEASE COMPANIES
- CONTAINER PARKS, EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KEITH BUDD.
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BUG BUSINESS KEY FACTS

DISTRIBUTION

- Addressed to 6,500 businesses nationwide.
- Mailed direct to key audience of senior business decision makers and company executives.
- Large secondary readership of Accredited Persons who devan and unload sea containers.
- Receptive target audience established over 5 years.
- Uncomplicated, informative layout – Full process colour
- Published by The AgriChain Centre, New Zealand's leading consultant in biosecurity compliance.



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