

ISSUE 2 | APRIL : MAY 2011

BUG BUSINESS

BIOSECURITY BEST PRACTICE FOR NEW ZEALAND COMPANIES



A Reminder

TRANSITIONAL FACILITY
OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Biosecurity

LOOKING BACK - AND AHEAD

DO'S AND DON'TS

TRANSFER OF UNCLEARED GOODS

INTERNAL AUDITS

BIOSECURITY SUPPORT
SERVICES INITIATIVES



AGRICHAIN-CENTRE.COM

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our Bug Business Newsletter. We aim to present, in simple terms, the information needed to ensure your Transitional Facility meets required MAFBNZ standards. We also present several of our new initiatives.

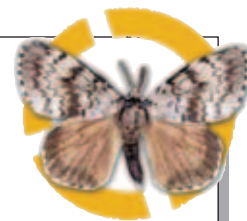
Our business has a lot to do with production from the land - hence our name: *The AgriChain Centre*. We know very well the consequences of new pests and diseases arriving in New Zealand. We also know the simpler a system is, the easier it is to meet the requirements. Our focus as a business is to provide user-friendly advice and services that helps your company achieve biosecurity compliance and help protect New Zealand.



As a service to you we are now on **Facebook!** We want to answer your biosecurity queries about how to manage your transitional facilities. Our aim is to assist and guide you in an informal and interactive forum. All you need to do to join our Facebook page is go to our website www.agrichain-centre.com and click the "FACEBOOK" button on the homepage. You can then ask questions, post comments and keep updated with biosecurity standards and requirements. You can also join us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter: www.twitter.com/AgriChainCentre](https://www.twitter.com/AgriChainCentre)



A Reminder



TRANSITIONAL FACILITY OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Over the last 12 months we have observed that owners and managers of Transitional Facilities are increasingly passing the operational aspects of biosecurity activities to general operations staff.

This can only be done if a Duty Operator role is established formally and the Duty Operator has attended a TFO training course. Alternatively an Accredited Person (i.e. a person trained to check the containers) is trained to manage that function.

Whichever process is used, businesses should be aware of MAFBNZ's expectations, which are:

- That the Operator has written authority for managing the resources and operation of the Facility.
- The Operator is responsible for ensuring that the Facility meets the requirements of the MAFBNZ standard.
- The Facility is used for the purpose that has been specified in the Operating Manual.

- Resources are in place for maintaining the Facility.
- The requirements outlined in the Operating Manual can be met.

It is also important that Operators maintain an overview of the Facility's biosecurity operations as a breach may result in increased audits and therefore costs.

It could also mean a prosecution, as MAFBNZ is seeking to improve compliance in this area.

The AgriChain Centre offers a variety of support services for Operators and Transitional Facilities ranging from full assistance with establishing a Transitional Facility (including training, provision of biosecurity signs and equipment, developing the Operating Manual and completing the application process) to onsite reviews and assessments designed to capture improvements, update procedures and measure compliance with current requirements.

Biosecurity

LOOKING BACK - AND AHEAD IN BIOSECURITY

By Keith Budd

2010 wasn't the greatest year, in terms of biosecurity, for New Zealand's \$2.2 billion horticulture industry. It started with the disappointing news of a new pest, the Hadda beetle, being found in an Auckland park and ended with a flurry of activity as authorities worked to contain a new disease of Kiwifruit.

One bit of good news though is that the importation of goods in sea containers wasn't the contributing pathway for the kiwifruit event. And as far as I am aware, the circumstances surrounding the introduction of the Hadda beetle were also not due to a breakdown in the Transitional Facility process.

The Transitional Facility process, whereby importers may bring imported sea containers to their premises and their Operators and Accredited Persons manage the checking of the containers to determine if they are a biosecurity risk, has worked well again in 2010.



But that doesn't mean there is any room to relax and be less vigilant: now that Facilities have had a good period of time to bed-in their procedures, MAFBNZ is adhering strictly to its audit criteria.

My experience, from talking to businesses that have Transitional Facilities and some of the many thousands of Accredited Persons we train annually, is that they all know the importance of biosecurity to New Zealand and are keen to play their part in keeping new pests and diseases out.

In 2010 we introduced the Accredited Person card. This AgriChain initiative has proved a hit with recipients. It gives Accredited Persons a handy reminder of their MAFBNZ AP number and expiry date.

In 2011 we will see a fully revised training programme from MAFBNZ that will remain relevant and engaging for new or reaccrediting Accredited Persons alike.

**Keith Budd is Technical Director of The AgriChain Centre.
Email: kbudd@agrchain-centre.com**

DO'S AND DON'TS



TRANSFER OF UNCLEARED GOODS

When a sea container arrives in New Zealand it goes through a biosecurity assessment process that results in MAFBNZ determining what actions should be undertaken.

The sea container is then released to a Transitional Facility for further action, which either includes being checked by an Accredited Person or being held until a MAFBNZ inspection can be undertaken.

In all cases, the sea container is directed to a Transitional Facility. If the sea container and/or risk goods are not checked at your Facility and are transferred elsewhere, a new BACC (Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate) must be requested.

In a recent incident a sea container was transferred to a business partner who had heavier equipment for dealing with the consignment. Although the paper work was passed on and a verbal instruction was given, the goods were not held for inspection as instructed on the BACC. This resulted in a full MAFBNZ investigation.

INTERNAL AUDITS



The Transitional Facility Operator must carry out regular self assessments of the facility activities to verify that activities continue to follow the procedures outlined in the operating manual.

This should occur at a minimum once per year. Depending on the types of goods imported higher frequency of self assessments may be required. The operating manual itself should also be reviewed on an annual basis.

IF REQUIRING GUIDANCE OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE AGRICHAIN CENTRE TO CONDUCT YOUR INTERNAL AUDIT, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT OUR TEAM: 0800-247-424

BUG BUSINESS



BIOSECURITY SUPPORT SERVICES INITIATIVES

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



BIOSECURITY SOLUTION PACKAGE FOR NEW ATF HIGH RISK CARGO FACILITIES

This Biosecurity package is designed for more complex (High Risk) cargo and is a set up package for your new ATF Site. Our Biosecurity Advisors will undertake a site assessment and assist you to meet your obligations. We also include the required biosecurity signage for your convenience.



BIOSECURITY SOLUTION PACKAGE FOR NEW SEA CONTAINER - LOW RISK FACILITIES

The Low Risk Cargo Solution package includes the required signage and consultation with our Biosecurity Advisors. We compile a Biosecurity Operating Manual once a site assessment has been undertaken.



BIOSECURITY SOLUTION OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED ATF SITE'S. THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE:

- An Internal Audit / Assessment and written report
- Updated High Risk Cargo Biosecurity Operating Manual*
- Updated Low Risk - Sea Container Biosecurity Operating Manual*
- Tailored Inhouse Course at a preferential rate (minimum 6 people)

* We will update your Biosecurity Operating Manual if it was written by The AgriChain Centre.



CONTAINMENT FACILITIES

A quotation will be provided according to your specific needs.



SIGNAGE

Transitional Facilities must have a sign displayed at their ATF Site where containers are being devanned and to identify the area where goods are not cleared and access is restricted to approved persons only.

Please see our website www.agrichain-centre.com for the biosecurity signage we have to offer.



BIOSECURITY EQUIPMENT KIT

We have the required equipment available for Accredited Persons to unload sea containers. If you would like to order or need more information please see our website: www.agrichain-centre.com/biosecurity-tfo-signage-and-kits

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



PUBLISHER'S CONTACT DETAILS:

The AgriChain Centre Ltd
PO Box 101-245, NSMC,
Auckland 0745,
New Zealand.
Telephone: +64-9-414-4536 or 0800-247-424.
Facsimile: +64-9-414-6140.
www.agrichain-centre.com

Dr Hans Maurer Publisher
John Corbett Editor
Keith Budd Publication Manager
kbudd@agrichain-centre.com
Lisa Ritchie Media Co-ordinator
lritchie@agrichain-centre.com