

BUG BUSINESS

Biosecurity Requirements explained!

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BioSecurity

The Transitional Facility Solutions Service
for the New Zealand Import Industry

WWW.BIOSECURITYSOLUTIONS.CO.NZ



The AgriChain Centre

WWW.AGRICHAIN-CENTRE.COM

Bug Business is The AgriChain Centre's quarterly, plain English newsletter for TFOs (operators of Biosecurity Transitional Facilities). It's designed to help you understand and meet your Biosecurity obligations which are changing under the new MAF BNZ TF-GEN Standard.

In this issue:

- New TF-GEN Biosecurity Standard = More responsibility for TFOs
- TFO training - it's compulsory and commercially vital
- Help with Operating Procedures and Manuals
- The AgriChain Centre provides complete range of Biosecurity Solutions
- Update your contact and training details

1. NEW TF-GEN STANDARD = MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TFOs

The new TF-GEN Biosecurity Standard implemented last February, along with compulsory TF Operator (TFO) training and regular MAF audits, places even greater emphasis on Operator responsibilities for Biosecurity management.

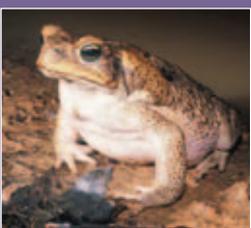
The current round of MAF audits has been focusing strongly on operational procedures, and for most Facilities that receive sea containers it means that the simpler 2-3 page procedures of the past have been replaced by a more comprehensive set of manual-based procedures. Whereas previously it was sufficient for a Facility to list the actions of an Accredited Person when documenting its Biosecurity procedures, there is now a requirement to document the full range of Biosecurity processes at the Facility.

As TFOs, you should now be asking yourself the following questions:

- Are all the specified requirements of a Facility met when the sea container arrives?
- Are there enough accredited staff to do the job in all circumstances?
- Is there enough room for the container to be placed correctly?
- Does the transporter know where to put the container if no one is present?

MAF needs to be confident that as a TFO you can cope with Biosecurity issues. If they are not confident they will have to audit you more frequently - at greater expense to you.

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By asking yourself the question: "Are all the requirements of a Facility met when the sea container arrives at my place?" you will be able to show MAF that you know what you are doing - and you will be audited less frequently!

The new TF-GEN Standard also requires a self assessment or internal audit of each Facility's operation to be held at a minimum of once a year. For small operations where the Operator and Accredited Person is the same person, this may often be sufficient.

For larger operations which use contract staff etc, the frequency of self assessment/internal audits may need to be monthly or even weekly in order to ensure that the Facility is operating correctly. As a TFO, the onus is on you to decide the frequency, based on your confidence that the job is being done right. If MAF turned up today, how confident would you be that all the requirements of your Facility are in place and operating correctly?

2. TFO TRAINING - IT'S COMPULSORY AND COMMERCIALY VITAL

As a result of the introduction of the new TF-GEN Standard (and the MAF audits) we have been experiencing an upsurge in TFO (Transitional Facility Operator) training. The audits have been making it very clear that **TFO training is compulsory** and that Facility managers must have a clear understanding of the responsibilities of their TFO role, including the specific details that must be included in the Facility's operating manual. The MAF audits are also revealing - sometimes with unhappy commercial consequences - that having completed an AP (Accredited Persons) course is no substitute for certified TFO training.

In a nutshell, the difference between TFO and AP training is 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 (Accredited Persons) 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 Biosecurity procedures at their individual Facilities fully comply.

The TFO course is also very helpful with explaining the finer points of the Standard. For example, MAF BNZ requires TFOs to have the authority to approve funding for repairs or to instruct staff. MAF also approves a person as a TFO for a specific Facility only, which means TFOs need to specify **all** imports handled at the Facility when an application to operate the Facility is lodged.

As for the "unhappy commercial consequences" mentioned above... When a MAF BNZ audit finds that a Facility manager either doesn't hold a current TFO training certificate or the Facility's procedures don't comply - MAF can close your Facility!

Need to sign up for TFO training? Call us toll free on 0800 247 424.

3. HELP WITH OPERATING PROCEDURES AND MANUALS

We've also noted that the more comprehensive procedures laid out in the operating manual have been causing confusion. In summary, the degree of complexity that is required for your Facility depends on the nature of the goods you import. The greater the risk, the greater the level of control and detail that is needed. If you need help with your procedures, talk to us. We are the specialists.

Contact: jwallace@agrichain-centre.com in the first instance for advice without obligation.

Training Locations

The AgriChain Centre provides both Accredited Person training and Transitional Facility Operator Workshops in the following locations:

- North Shore Auckland
- South Auckland
- West Auckland
- Hamilton
- Tauranga
- Napier
- Palmerston North
- New Plymouth
- Wellington
- Nelson
- Christchurch
- Dunedin
- Invercargill

TO MAKE A BOOKING

Phone 0800 247 424

Email:
jwallace@agrichain-centre.com
www.biosecuritysolutions.co.nz



4. SEA CONTAINER STANDARD

Recently a consultation document was released by MAF BNZ relating to the handling of sea containers:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-sea-containers>

MAF BNZ is also providing the background thinking about priorities around the sea container pathway and some of the drivers. The following document is an interesting background summary at to what the issues are around sea containers:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-sea-containers-segment-strategy.pdf>

Key areas to note are:

1. Prior to containers being transported from a port to a transitional facility (or between transitional facilities the importer must provide all relevant information (e.g. MAF BNZ BACC direction or Customs delivery order) to the transporters and transitional facility.
2. After discharge from a vessel, all containers must be placed on a hard sealed area. A container cannot be removed from the first port of discharge until the following requirements have been met:

All container information has been received and assessed by MAF BNZ; and either MAFBNZ has processed containers of concern within 48 hours of discharge; or an accredited person externally low risk containers of within 48 hours of discharge.
3. No person is permitted to open or devan a container until notification (e.g. BACC direction or Customs delivery order) has been received at the transitional facility where the container is delivered.

THE AGRICHAIN CENTRE PROVIDES A COMPLETE RANGE OF BIOSECURITY SOLUTIONS

As the country's most experienced independent Biosecurity training provider, The AgriChain Centre is ideally placed to help you with all your Biosecurity and training needs.

We are approved to run MAF BNZ's Accredited Persons and Transitional Facility Operator courses and have worked with MAF BNZ and other interested government departments on a regular basis since MAF's Biosecurity training programme began in 2004.

We produced the Sea Container Pathway CD for MAF BNZ in 2004 and also the first standardised MAF BNZ Biosecurity training material for training providers in 2006. We have also trained Biosecurity inspectors throughout the Pacific.

The AgriChain Centre provides a comprehensive range of cost-effective support services to help you to stay on top of your Biosecurity compliance requirements. These include:

- Accredited TFO and AP training courses
- Help with Biosecurity procedures and audits.

Low Risk Facility - We can help you write or review your written procedures and operating manuals: \$350 +GST.

High Risk Facility: We can help with reviewing and assessing your internal audit procedures and manuals: From \$650 +GST.

FOR BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Phone: 0800 247 424

Email: skenny@agrichain-centre.com

Website: www.biosecuritysolutions.co.nz



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT AND TRAINING DETAILS

As part of our service to you, we keep a database of when your staff have trained on TFO and AP courses and when their certificates expire - and we call you in advance to let you know.

Please fill in the form below if any of your details have changed and return it to us by: fax/ post/or by replying to this email.

You can also fill out this form online at:

www.agrichain-centre.com/bio_update_your_details.htm

For any queries or bookings please call 0800 247 424.

Fax: 09-414-6140

Post: The AgriChain Centre. PO Box 101-245, NSMC 0745, Auckland.

Email: Shirner: skenny@agrichain-centre.com

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM IF ANY OF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED:

Company Name:

Contact Person:

Email Address:

Your Preferred Training Location:

Postal Address:

Physical Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Name of "Operator",
Certificate Number & Expiry Date:

Name of "Deputy Operator",
Certificate Number & Expiry Date:

Name of "Accredited Person(s)",
Certificate Numbers & Expiry Dates:

What is your "Approved Transitional Facility" number?

Any Additional Information:

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HOW CAN THE AGRICHAIN CENTRE HELP YOU?

In addition to training we are happy to help you write or review your written procedures/operating manuals and answer any queries you may have. If we are unsure or feel you need more specific advice relating to your site we will refer you to the most appropriate person to help.

For any queries or bookings please call 0800 247 424.