



BUG BUSINESS - JULY 2019

Welcome to our July Bug Business.

We aim to keep you informed of what is happening and more importantly what you need to do as a business to keep up with increased requirements.

Read more here: <http://www.agrichain-centre.com/biosecurity/bug-business-biosecurity-newsletter>

Succession Planning within Transitional Facilities

Every Transitional Facility is required to have an MPI Approved Transitional Facility Operator (TFO).

Recently we have had a number of applications for change of Operators at Transitional Facilities. Businesses need to have a succession plan in place where a TFO may only need to give four weeks' notice to leave a position within the business. It can take MPI at least 6 weeks to process a new application for a change of TFO and Transitional Facilities have been suspended due to this gap in the process. Having a trained Deputy Transitional Facility Operator may enable you to keep your business operating in such circumstances. This is especially important in the following situation.

If you have specialised devanning procedures e.g. product arriving in a bladder being pumped directly into silos or holding tanks, MPI needs to know. This can affect the steps taken when MPI consider a suspension notice. If you have specialised procedures where your product cannot be devanned anywhere, ensure these are detailed in your approved manual. In addition, consider a contingency plan in the event of the departure of the TFO.

The TFO's role is to ensure that the legal requirements are met including:

- The Transitional Facility meets the requirements of the relevant standards, including TFGEN.
- The Transitional Facility is used for the purpose specified in this Transitional Facility Manual.
- An appointed and currently trained Accredited Person (AP) is present at all times for the unpacking of Uncleared Risk Goods.
- Resources are in place for maintaining the physical structure of the Transitional Facility.
- The requirements are detailed in the Transitional Facility Operating Manual and can be met.

Remember, a Deputy TFO undertakes the same training as a TFO but is not approved as an Operator until appointed as the TFO of a Transitional Facility by MPI. Having a Deputy TFO can assist in reducing the hassles if the TFO resigns.

Need help or want to know more? Please contact our team by phone on 0800 247 424, or by email at info@agrichain-centre.com.



Good Record Keeping – Why it is Important

The saying “if it’s not in writing, it didn’t happen,” is often said within the workplace and with good reason. Documentation provides a written account of what actions have been taken or need to be taken. Unfortunately, human memory isn’t perfect, and it is easy to forget over time.

Records form a vital part of business operations; these may be electronic or paper. Either way it is important that records are filed in a way to enable easy retrieval. This is especially important when undergoing either external or internal audits. Having accurate and easily retrievable documentation gives MPI a level of confidence that you are responsible and understand your role as a Transitional Facility.

Here are the most common mistakes we see in facility manuals.

1. Beware selecting tick boxes! It is too easy to select the wrong option.
2. Do not use white out to correct a mistake on paper records – use a single line to cross out the error then rewrite the correct answer; this allows tracking of previous versions.
3. Always use document control processes with electronic records. Archive old versions and ensure every document has a date and version number which is updated when a change is made.
4. Ensure any printed-out hard copy records match the latest electronic version. Dispose of old paper copies.
5. Double check any dates, names, addresses and certificate numbers as this is where errors occur.

As a Biosecurity service provider, The AgriChain Centre regularly observe Transitional Facility records. The record keeping is generally good. However, manuals tend to be outdated (these need to be reviewed annually) and log sheets tend to have missing information (such as actions taken or the AP number). While these mistakes do not directly impact day to day operations, they can raise ‘Red Flags’ for MPI resulting in them undertaking a more thorough inspection.

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Myrtle Rust

Myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the myrtle family. This disease has now been found throughout the North Island of New Zealand and in some isolated locations at the north-west of the South Island. It arrived in New Zealand via our northerly winds from Australia.

Biosecurity New Zealand and MPI were focused on eradication and surveillance of this disease. However, now that myrtle rust has established itself in New Zealand, the focus has shifted towards a better understanding of the disease and identifying ways to treat or manage the disease.

Myrtle rust attacks the new growth of infected plants. The disease can cause deformed leaves, leaf loss, damaged fruit, canopy dieback and stunted plant growth. Repeated infections will eventually kill the plant or leave it exposed to other diseases.

This disease can significantly reduce the numbers of our 37 native myrtle species including pōhutukawa and rātā, mānuka and kanuka. Exotic feijoa and eucalyptus are also species affected.

Biosecurity New Zealand and MPI have developed tools to assist New Zealanders in identifying myrtle rust on their property or in public spaces. These include the development of the myrtle rust website (www.myrtlerust.org.nz/) and the New Zealand's Myrtle Rust ID Guide. The symptoms sequence to look for are:

- Bright yellow clusters of powder appearing especially on the underside of the leaf
- Followed by brown/grey rust pustules developing on older lesions
- Then grey spore growth on undersides of leaves
- Finally, plant death.

If you believe that you have seen the above symptoms on a myrtle plant, then you should not touch it, as you run the risk of spreading the disease. Instead if you have a mobile phone on you, take a photo and submit it to the iNaturalist website (www.inaturalist.org). Biosecurity New Zealand and MPI can obtain this information and use it in their research programs and confirm whether your identification is correct. Alternatively, you can contact MPI directly on 0800 80 99 66.



Initial stages of myrtle rust on a young plant. Image obtained from www.myrtlerust.org.nz