



June 2020

2019-20 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) end of season wrap



Registered BMSB treatment providers

With the 2019-20 BMSB risk season coming to an end, Australia and New Zealand would like to thank all those involved with the Offshore BMSB treatment Providers Scheme (the scheme) for their efforts to help stop BMSB entering Australia and New Zealand.

This update provides a summary of the 2019-20 BMSB risk season and details for the 2020-21 BMSB risk season.

The BMSB risk measures put in place for the 2019-20 BMSB risk season and your efforts to conduct compliant and effective BMSB treatments have proven successful. BMSB interceptions are down and treatment compliance has improved.

The department and NZ MPI thank you for your efforts in helping achieve these positive results.

2019-20 BMSB risk season

The BMSB measures and scheme expanded from nine target risk countries in 2018-19 to 33 in 2019-20. Treatment providers from non-target risk countries were also registered on the scheme. In total, 218 treatment providers from 27 countries were registered for the 2019-20 BMSB risk season.

Having cargo treated offshore has reduced delays in processing cargo onshore significantly.

To spread the message on the BMSB risk measures and treatment requirements, industry information sessions were held in the United States (four), Turkey (two) and one each in Germany, France, Italy, and Canada (teleconference). These sessions provided a great opportunity to communicate directly to treatment providers and affected export industries and answer any questions they may have. We strongly encourage all treatment providers and their clients to attend future industry information sessions.

Compliance management

To manage and verify treatment provider compliance the department and NZ MPI conducted a mix of desk-top and on-site compliance monitoring activities.

The desk-top assessment activities included assessing both treatment certification and records of treatment from all active treatment providers. Over 3000 individual documents were assessed, with treatment providers receiving feedback on their compliance and guidance on fixing any non-compliance.

Conducting on-site compliance audits saw the department and NZ MPI visit seven countries to conduct 63 audits. Most treatment providers demonstrated compliance with the scheme's requirements with corrective action requests issued where non-compliance was identified.

During the season six treatment providers were suspended with two being reinstated after demonstrating they had addressed the non-compliances identified and that they can now conduct compliant and effective BMSB treatments.

A series of BMSB factsheets were developed to help improve the understanding of the scheme's commodity suitability requirements and the requirements of the heat, sulfur dioxide and methyl bromide treatment methodologies. A link to these factsheets is available at: www.agriculture.gov.au/import/before/brown-marmorated-stink-bugs/offshore-bmsb-treatment-providers-scheme. French, German, Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish translated versions of these factsheets will also soon be added to the website

2020-21 BMSB risk season

The department and NZ MPI are busy preparing for the 2020-21 BMSB risk season and will publish the risk measures and the 2020-21 scheme application forms on their websites in the coming weeks.

NZ MPI has published proposed changes to import standards which are available here:

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/vehicles-and-machinery/requirement-documents-for-importing-vehicles-machinery-or-parts/brown-marmorated-stink-bug-requirements/

Registration renewal

Treatment providers registered in 2019-20 will need to re-apply for 2020-21 scheme registration and will be emailed directly when the application process has commenced. The 2020-21 scheme application form will contain guidance to assist treatment providers to better understand what information and supporting documentation is required. Information provided as part of 2019-20 registrations will also be utilised to streamline the re-registration process.

COVID-19

Whilst previous seasons have seen on-site compliance audits and industry information sessions conducted, due to COVID-19 during 2020-21, the scheme will be managed differently. We be looking to implement video teleconferencing for information sessions where possible and will continue to conduct desk-top compliance assessment activities. We will continue to communicate with registered treatment providers as the season progresses with updates on any changes to the COVID-19 restrictions being applied.

Thanks

Finally, the department and NZ MPI would like to again thank all those involved in the scheme for their efforts in conducting compliant and effective BMSB treatments to help keep Australia and New Zealand BMSB free.

We continue to be available via email at BMSBtreatments@awe.gov.au and standards@mpi.govt.nz to answer any questions you may have and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards

The Department and NZ MPI BMSB team

