



2022-23 BMSB Risk Season Industry Information Session

Questions and Answers

Seasonal measures

Q: For clarification: an additional treatment is not required if treatment is off the 120 hours treatment window, but actual shipping will be within 48 hours and we need a confirmation from the vessel carrier, that the shipment had been rolled?

A: Treatment is still required; however they may be permitted to be treated in Australia. Where break bulk cargo, including open top or flat rack containers have been treated prior to export to Australia, and the vessel has been delayed (but no more than 48 hours over the 120 hours), the goods may be treated on arrival in Australia providing:

An email is sent to spp@agriculture.gov.au prior to the vessel arriving in Australia, providing us with:

- Evidence the goods were delayed with the confirmation of the rebooking (normally correspondence from the shipping line)
- Confirmation (copy of the email) from the onshore treatment provider stating: the goods will be tarped within 24 hours of discharge, and they will be treated within 48 hours of discharge.

If we do not receive this, the goods will be prevented from discharge and directed for export.

The department recommends that if the goods are transhipping in a non-target risk country prior to arrival in Australia, that they be treated there. Non target risk countries are not subject to the 120-hour post treatment window

Q: The difficult part for us is the 120-hour rule with break bulk. With our current location in North America, there is no way we make this happen and our customers have to hold their shipments. By the time treatment is completed and the shipment goes to the rail and then on to the vessel, it passes the 120-hour rule.

A: We recommend where possible, treating in the port of export, or in a non-target risk country if they are being where the 120-hour window does not apply.

Q: Is the amended rule of 120-hour + 48 hours post treatment window valid both if a vessel is late and in case that the container is rolled on a different vessel?

A: If they are still on the wharf, and due to delays the original booking causes the goods to be delayed and shipped on board outside the 120 hours window (by up to 48 hours) and you can provide us with evidence. Evidence may include an email from shipping line with



new booking. If evidence is provided, then onshore treatment will be permitted providing the department is contacted prior to the vessel's arrival.

Q: I'd like to bring to your consideration that the extra 48hrs allowed to the 120hrs will be most likely useless from seaports where the service for AU/NZ is weekly, like Italy.

A: We understand that there can be logistical challenges, but it is important to ensure that we are effectively managing risk. We suggest discussing the timeframes with the treatment provider in the port of export to have the goods treated as close as possible to the export date. We recommend where possible, treating in the port of export, or in a non-target risk country if they are being transhipped where the 120-hour window does not apply.

Q: If a container is packed and sealed before 1 September, we can avoid BSMB treatment by filling a sealing declaration in. During the last season the container also had to be exported within 21 days from the date of sealing. Could you confirm that for the current season the rule that containers must be exported within 21 days from the date of sealing was removed and that you require just the sealing declaration?

A: Yes, we have removed the requirement to be shipped on board within 21 days of sealing for this BMSB season for containers sealed prior to 1 September. If you are packing and sealing your containers prior to 1 September and shipping in September, a sealing declaration is recommended to reflect they were packed out of season. The templates are found on our preparing to import goods during the BMSB season subpage.

Q: Will the department conduct random inspections for chapters 39, 94 and 95 only for goods which come exclusively from UK and China? Does this measure also affect shipments from every target risk country, such as Italy? If there will be random inspections for goods (chapters 39, 94 and 95) coming from every target risk country, are specific documents required?

A: 39, 94 and 95 are only for goods from United Kingdom and China and only subject random inspections. These tariffs from target risk countries are not subject to treatment or inspection.

Q: Is the Lantern Fly on your radar for the near future?

A: The department's risk area is monitoring the risks of the lantern fly as well as numerous other pests.

Q: Does the 120-hour window apply to goods from date of loading/close doors until date of Port ingate?



A: The 120 hours refers to the time between completion of treatment to when goods are sealed (containerised goods) or when they have been shipped on board the vessel (Break Bulk (BB), Open Top (OT), Flat Rack (FR)) as stated on the bill of lading.

Fumigation - when ventilation has started

Heat - when treatment has finished.

Q: Do any goods departing/boarded on vessel starting September 1 need heat treatment?

A: Yes. All target high risk goods shipped as BB, FR & OT that have a shipped on board date of 1 September onwards as reflected on the bill of lading, and will require offshore treatment with one of the three approved BMSB treatments. If they are containerised they can be treated onshore, however the department recommends offshore treatment where possible.

Q: Could the new additional 48-hour post treatment rule be applicable for conditions such as vessel delays and rivers closed due to fog?

A: If the goods have already been loaded on the vessel, then the 120 hours no longer applies. If they are still on the wharf, and due to delays the original booking causes the goods to be delayed and shipped on board outside the 120 hours window (by up to 48 hours) and you can provide us with evidence. Evidence may include an email from shipping line with new booking. If evidence is provided, then onshore treatment will be permitted providing the department is contacted prior to the vessel's arrival.

Q: Will an insect Fogger in an enclosed container post heat treatment help?

A: If there are any live pests at the end of a treatment fogging can assist in disturbing BMSB and making them move.

Fogging is currently not an approved treatment as it does not kill the pests, which is a requirement of biosecurity treatment. They have been used on occasion as an inspection aid.



BMSB treatments

Q: Does the pressure test have to be carried out in containers and chambers, or just in chambers?

A: Only fumigation chambers which meet the criteria listed under [section 3.4.1 of the methyl bromide fumigation methodology](#) or [section 3.4.1 of the sulfuryl fluoride fumigation methodology](#) must be pressure tested.

Q: Is the virtual audit done during a treatment, post-treatment or pre-treatment? How does it work?

A: Virtual auditing is conducted using information from treatment documents and if required videos of a single treatment and photos of all equipment. Requests for treatment documents including records of treatment and treatment certificates are sent via email to the treatment provider. Once received the documents are assessed and follow up questions or evidence is requested. Where non-compliance is detected an interview with the treatment provider is conducted to discuss treatment practices and address the causes of non-compliance. All the information and the outcomes of the interview are used to determine the outcome of the virtual audit.

Q: If we have face-to-face audits, will records be required to be provided on paper again or is digital provision of documentation sufficient?

A: It is likely to be a combination. In some cases, the department may request documentation digitally for face-to-face audit and will also look at documents we receive more recently.

Records of treatment are required to be completed in the field as tasks are completed and must be maintained for 2 years as per section 8.2 of the [Offshore Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Treatment Providers Scheme](#). There are no current restrictions for records to be maintained digitally or on paper. However, they must meet the requirements of the BMSB scheme and the relevant [treatment methodology](#).

Q: What is the timeframe for approval on re-registering applicants? How will applicants be notified?

A: The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry aims to get registration approvals done within 5-10 business days however this is dependent on the supporting documents that are provided and the number of applications that are pending. The department has worked to improve the ability to capture and assess information. If the department receives



all required information the turn around on applications will be shorter. You will be notified via email or acknowledgement letter if you have been approved.

The list for offshore providers is published and updated regularly – we aim to do so multiple times a week. It is important to note that treatments cannot be conducted for Australia or New Zealand until a treatment provider appears on their lists.

[List of offshore BMSB treatment providers - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#)

Q: Last season Sigbox was used to upload video evidence of proper treatments. It was difficult uploading videos from mobile directly to Sigbox, has this been resolved?

Will Sigbox continue to be used this BMSB Season?

A: SigBox will be used again. SigBox is the department's secure file sharing platform, and it conforms to the Australian governments Information Security Manual. It is important for the department to appropriately protect the data we request and handle.

If you are experiencing difficulties using SigBox, please reach out to the department and we will endeavour to assist where possible.

Further information

Stay updated on the BMSB seasonal measures by visiting the following webpages

www.agriculture.gov.au/bmsb

Google: **MPI Brown marmorated stink bug guidance**

Note: The new season NZ Vehicle and Machinery Standard is now available on the MPI website.

Any additional questions relating to the policy for seasonal pests can be emailed to:

spp@agriculture.gov.au

BMSB@mpi.govt.nz

Any additional questions relating to BMSB treatments can be emailed to:

BMSBtreatments@agriculture.gov.au

BMSB@mpi.govt.nz