

# BMSB season recap

**Another BMSB season has passed without the unwanted pest establishing a foothold in New Zealand. A number of biosecurity activities have contributed to this positive result.**

## Border clearance operations

As with previous seasons, quarantine officers carried out targeted verification checks on imported cargo. The BMSB checks included supervised devanning of nearly 2000 containers and carrying out more than 3500 inspections of imported new vehicles and machinery on arrival.

All vessels (86) arriving from identified risk countries with breakbulk (uncontainerised) vehicles, parts or machinery faced surveillance on arrival.

Specialised BMSB detector dog teams assisted with the surveillance of airfreight facilities and Auckland's International Mail Centre.

In addition to normal clearance duties, quarantine officers greeted arriving air passengers from high-risk flights with information about BMSB and steps to take if any are found in baggage.

Officers continued to work with vessel operators and agents to ensure accurate reporting of BMSB finds by crew in transit. This information helped with risk assessment and determining what checks were required on arrival.

## Offshore auditing

Biosecurity NZ worked closely with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to coordinate an offshore treatment supplier approval and audit programme. There were joint and separate audits in the European Union and the United States.

## Japanese used vehicle programme

Seasonal requirements were once again in place for imported used vehicles from Japan, which has a native BMSB population. The requirements included mandatory heat treatment of each vehicle prior to shipment, use of residual insecticides, and additional inspections immediately before loading.

A Biosecurity NZ auditing team also travelled to Japan at the start of the BMSB season to check approved systems in place to manage biosecurity risks from imported used cars. The audits focused on treatment, cleaning, inspection processes, site management and staff training.

Other approved vehicle systems in both Japan and other exporting countries continued to work well.

## Import rules

Leading into the 2022/23 season, Biosecurity NZ made changes to the import health standard for sea containers, including making it a permanent requirement for cargo from Italy to be treated offshore during the BMSB season. A review of the rules for importing vehicles, machinery and parts found the existing standard was working well. There will be another review of this standard before the start of the upcoming season.

## Domestic surveillance

Domestic surveillance continued to provide early warning of possible incursions. This season, Biosecurity NZ had 172 traps at 86 high-risk sites. Our surveillance team collected 807 suspect samples for identification during the season. None tested positive as BMSB.

The Exotic Disease and Pest Emergency Hotline (number) was once again used to gather information and investigate potential sightings from the public. In the last week of the 2022/23 season alone (23 March to 30 April), there were 58 notifications of suspect BMSB. All tested negative.

## BMSB count

2022/2023	Total live	Total dead
Border	36	1700
Post Border	8	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1703</b>
2021/2022	Total live	Total dead
Border	39	2908
Post Border	23	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2917</b>

