

Keeping FMD out

Biosecurity NZ ramped up its border defences following the recent detection of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Indonesia. Summarised here, the emergency measures demonstrate we are prepared to act quickly and decisively to protect New Zealand from emerging biosecurity threats.

Vessels

- Officers search arriving vessels from Indonesia for risk products, including crew footwear. Any detected footwear aboard a vessel is disinfected. Meat products must be sealed in a meat locker. Officers check locker security at any further port visits while the vessel is in New Zealand waters.
- We are working with shipping lines to increase awareness of FMD and the new measures. This includes discussion with vessel masters at ports of the first arrival.
- Any crew member leaving the vessel faces a baggage inspection.

Passengers

- Travellers who have been in Indonesia during the last 30 days are flagged to undergo enhanced risk assessment. This involves further questioning and baggage screening with a focus on finding potentially contaminated footwear. Targeted passengers must also walk over disinfectant mats.
- NZ Customs' eGate passport control system now features a new travel history question to help identify air passengers who have been in Indonesia.
- There is a temporary ban on personal consignments of meat and meat products. Previously, travellers from Indonesia could bring in declared processed meat.
- A wide-ranging public awareness campaign is in place to educate arriving travellers of the importance of declaring any goods that could carry FMD. The campaign includes in-flight announcements, digital noticeboards at airports and flyers for passengers.
- There have been regular updates to primary sector partners and the country's veterinary network to encourage anyone

who has been in contact with livestock in Indonesia to stay away from farms and animals in New Zealand for at least a week.

Mail

- There is a dedicated clearance process for mail arriving from Indonesia. The process involves visual profiling and screening with detector dogs and x-ray.

...continued overleaf



Footbath prototype trials at Auckland Airport.

The FMD threat

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease for cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep and pigs. The virus causes a high fever, followed by blisters inside the mouth and on the feet of the affected animal. The blisters can rupture, causing lameness. If the animal is left untreated, the disease can cause death.



Stocking up on footbaths

We're well stocked with footbaths should the FMD threat escalate.

When the FMD outbreak spread to Bali in July, we introduced disinfectant baths to sanitise the footwear of travellers who have recently been in Indonesia. This saw the initial purchase of 10 baths for use at international airports in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown.

We have since purchased another 50, which will provide capacity to cover port and airport traffic if the outbreak spreads.

Our health and safety people are using a prototype bath station at Auckland Airport to consider refinements. The current prototype incorporates features such as safety handles and a slip resistant surface made from recycled rubber.

Express freight

- Parcels from Indonesia are held on arrival for detector dog screening or manual inspection by officers.

Cargo

- Sea containers from Indonesia cannot be opened at transitional facilities (TFs) without the presence of a quarantine officer.
- TF auditing has been prioritised for facilities that receive containers from Indonesia.
- Officers have been carrying out checks at supermarkets, food stalls and other locations to ensure imported animal products are compliant with biosecurity requirements.

Cruise ships

- We have been working with cruise lines to alert passengers and crew of FMD requirements.
- Officers questioned and handed out information flyers to disembarking passengers when the first cruise ship of the season arrived on 12 August. We also trialled the use of a disinfectant mat for this pathway.
- We will finalise FMD requirements before the season revs up later this month.



Beef crackling intercepted in an express freight parcel from Indonesia.

FMD border controls – what’s next?

Biosecurity NZ and Australian officials are continuing to assess the risk posed by Indonesia’s FMD outbreak. We will adjust our border measures as required. We are also developing contingency plans should the emergency measures remain in place over summer and during the brown marmorated stink bug season. Planning is underway for how we would handle an outbreak in Australia or other Pacific countries.



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For more information:

- biosecurity.govt.nz/fosterpuppies
- facebook.com/MPIdetectordogs
- detector.dog@mpi.govt.nz



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