

KVH Best Practice Advice

Kiwifruit grower – passenger risk checks



KIWIFRUIT GROWERS RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS TRAVEL

As incoming passengers to New Zealand can pose a biosecurity risk based on their recent offshore activities, all passengers entering the country are subject to a risk assessment by a Quarantine Officer. This assessment considers occupation.

Kiwifruit growers and other passengers associated with primary sectors may find they experience more interventions when returning to New Zealand, as they potentially pose a greater biosecurity risk based on the likelihood they have visited offshore orchards and farms during their travels.

These assessments (verbal and passenger arrival cards) are part of a robust border protection process and are in place to help protect New Zealand's primary industries and environment from unwanted pests and diseases.

A summary about what kiwifruit growers can do to help reduce biosecurity risk if they have visited an offshore orchard or farm is outlined below, including what they can expect when arriving back in New Zealand.

Kiwifruit growers returning to New Zealand should:

- Before departing for New Zealand, clean all risk items (e.g. shoes and equipment) that may have come into contact with soil or plant material on offshore orchards and farms. Ideally use a sanitiser.
- Declare any visits to an orchard or farm while overseas.
- Declare or dispose of any risk goods on entry (e.g. food items).
- Answer all questions honestly, even if it means a short delay getting through border clearance.

As an extra precaution, growers may choose to wash all risk items before entering their own orchards back in New Zealand.

When arriving in New Zealand, kiwifruit growers may be questioned by a Quarantine Officer about:

- occupation and reason for travel
- countries visited and/or risk items they may be carrying
- origin of risk items
- where risk items were last used, what they were used for, and the length of time they were used
- where in New Zealand risk items are likely to be used again.

If the Quarantine Officer is satisfied the passenger poses a low biosecurity risk, and meets eligibility criteria, they will be directed through the Green Lane in exiting the airport. However, should there be reason to question the passenger's declaration they may be directed for further investigation. It is likely kiwifruit growers who have been on orchards may require further intervention.

KVH is committed to working with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to ensure biosecurity risk is managed at New Zealand's borders to protect the kiwifruit industry. If growers are concerned they have returned to New Zealand and have not been subject to adequate risk assessment, or have been directed through the Green Lane after declaring they have been in contact with biosecurity risk environments and items without being risk assessed, they can contact KVH on 0800 665 825 or email info@kvh.org.nz who will follow up with MPI.