



Kiwifruit grower – passenger risk checks

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

Kiwifruit growers and other passengers associated with other primary sectors may find they experience more interventions when returning to NZ 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. Therefore, it's important kiwifruit growers answer questions honestly, even if it means a short delay to the arrival process.

A brief summary is outlined below about what kiwifruit growers can do to help reduce biosecurity risk if they have visited an offshore orchard or farm; and 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 as well.
- Declare if you have visited 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 back into New Zealand kiwifruit growers may be questioned by a Quarantine Officer about the following:

- Occupation and reason for travel
- Countries visited and/or risk items they may be carrying
- Origin of risk item
- Other associated items the passenger may be carrying
- Length of time the risk item was last used
- Where the item was last used
- What activities they were used for
- Where in New Zealand they are likely to be used again

If the Quarantine Officer is satisfied the passenger poses a low biosecurity risk, and provided the passenger meets the 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 directly straight 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.