



PEST REPORT SUMMARY

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

May 2017

1. Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) remains a biosecurity risk to New Zealand. It is possible the expanding distribution of BMSB in Europe and very recently South America, heightens the risk of establishment in New Zealand. September to April is a risk period as it is unlikely BMSB arriving during the winter months would result in establishment of a viable population. During the risk period MPI targets pathways and commodities considered likely to have BMSB contamination.
2. During the 2016/2017 risk period, 152 interception events¹ were reported; 120 of dead BMSB, 22 of live BMSB (all less than five insects) and 10 incorporating both life states. This is an increase on previous risk periods, reflecting both increased inspection efforts by MPI and a growing presence of BMSB in Europe and North America.
3. BMSB were primarily intercepted through the sea cargo pathway (87%), followed by the air passenger pathway (4%) and vessel pathway (4%) during the risk period. Interception events also occurred through the air cargo and air mail pathways.
4. During the risk period, the majority of interception events occurred in the Auckland (69%) and Canterbury (18%) regions, followed by Otago (4%) and Wellington (3%). Interception events in all other regions each accounted for no more than 2% of the total.
5. The majority of interception events occurred in goods originating from Italy (57%) and the United States (24%), followed by Japan (7%), Unknown Origin² (4%), China (3%) and Hungary (2%). Interception events relating to goods originating from Korea, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Switzerland and Taiwan each accounted for no more than 1% of the total.
6. Both new and used vehicles and machinery were the commodity most associated with BMSB interception events (42). New tractors were the commodity associated with the most BMSB interception events (16) during the risk period, all except one event related to dead BMSB. This cargo is now being voluntarily treated pre-shipment.
7. A total of 17 BMSB aggregations³ were reported during the risk period; 14 of dead BMSB and three incorporating both life states, one of which consisted of a live aggregation. These aggregation events were intercepted in goods originating from Italy (13), China (2), Slovenia (1) and the United States (1).
8. Investigations for three separate BMSB post-border finds were conducted during the 2016/2017 risk period, following interceptions of single live BMSB in New Plymouth, Christchurch and Whitianga. All post border interception events were likely isolated hitchhikers related to tourist travel.
9. Since early 2015 MPI have increased intervention methods and engaged in education programmes for public and industry stakeholders, to mitigate the risk posed by BMSB. As a result of this education campaign, the MPI Exotic Disease hotline recorded a total of 451 calls about BMSB during the 2016/17 risk period.
10. Given the high rate of interception events originating from Italy, MPI representatives will be travelling to Europe (including Italy) in May 2017 to discuss the biosecurity risk to New Zealand with authorities and industry stakeholders, and exploring ways to reduce the risk by establishing good biosecurity practices before shipping goods.

¹ Interception event : One or more BMSB

² Origin is unknown where interception events have occurred from post-border finds.

³ Aggregation is defined as five males and five females, with a 50% chance of establishment.