



# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## BMSB Risk Update November 2017

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is considered one of the greatest pest threats to the kiwifruit and many other horticultural industries as its entry and establishment would result in significant production impacts.

### Over the latest reporting period and since our last update in October:

- There have been 12 interception events at the border, comprising 19 BMSB. Two bugs were found alive, the other 17 were found dead. Detailed interception data for this reporting period is shown in the table below.
- The two live BMSB were intercepted by accredited staff at Transitional Facilities who found the bugs in containers of freight.
- This is an increase on the previous reporting period where there were six instances of individual, dead, BMSB reported at the border.



| <i>Pathway</i> | <i>Month</i>  | <i>Country of origin</i> | <i>Host</i>           | <i>Number</i> | <i>Life state</i> |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Vessel         | October 2017  | USA                      | Vehicles              | 1             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | October 2017  | USA                      | Non-risk goods        | 1             | Alive             |
| Sea container  | October 2017  | USA                      | Personal effects      | 4             | Dead              |
| Vessel         | October 2017  | USA                      | Vehicles              | 1             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | October 2017  | Italy                    | Non-risk goods        | 2             | Dead              |
| Aircraft       | October 2017  | China                    | Air freight container | 1             | Alive             |
| Sea container  | October 2017  | Italy                    | Non-risk goods        | 2             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | November 2017 | China                    | Non-risk goods        | 1             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | November 2017 | China                    | Stored products       | 1             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | November 2017 | Japan                    | Car parts             | 3             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | November 2017 | Italy                    | Non-risk goods        | 1             | Dead              |
| Sea container  | November 2017 | Italy                    | Non-risk goods        | 1             | Dead              |

- Since the start of the high-risk season in September, there have been 19 interception events at the border, comprising 26 BMSB. There have not been any reports of post-border interceptions. Most finds are dead bugs, occurring in containerised sea cargo, which is consistent with previous years.

Over the high-risk period all interceptions both at the border and post border are a reminder that we must always remain vigilant and keep watch – the earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

### What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Proactive initiatives underway by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to manage the risk of BMSB crossing our borders during this year's high-risk period continue. Currently, 100% of full containers of cargo from Italy and Hungary are targeted for inspection and 75% of full containers of cargo originating from ports in the USA identified as high-risk for BMSB are also being targeted for inspection.

- MPI has adjusted requirements for cargo in refrigerated containers so that chilled goods (such as fresh produce) now require BMSB inspection, and is working with staff responsible for inspections to draw extra awareness to BMSB and ensure vigilance with the new requirements.
- An industry-wide group (including a representative from KVH) has returned from a visit to Chile to learn about the initial stages of BMSB detection there and to assist officials based on New Zealand's readiness programme. The trip objectives were to better understand BMSB's distribution in Chile, and to test our own response strategies.
- The group also took part in tests of BMSB lures and assisted in establishing a delimiting survey for BMSB by setting up sticky traps in an area likely to be the epicentre of a small population within Santiago. The grid will be monitored over the coming months and findings shared with the New Zealand group to assist in refining our own information and plans for responding to BMSB. To date, one BMSB has been found on a trap and three bugs were found in a tree next to a trap.
- KVH is a member of a steering group seeking Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pre-approval to release the Samurai Wasp should BMSB establish here. The wasp is our most promising control strategy, and a natural enemy of the BMSB that can provide ongoing population suppression. The application for pre-approval is currently being finalised.

### Where else is it found?

BMSB is native to parts of Asia, but has been invading North America, and more recently Europe. The bug continues to spread in Italy with new detections in regions north of Rome and Sicily. Italian authorities are also seeing an increase in BMSB numbers in Genova, Rome and Naples (where there is a port).

Over the past 12 months BMSB has established in Bulgaria and Hungary, and it has been detected in Santiago. This is significant as it is the first known population find in the Southern Hemisphere, which increases the risk to New Zealand as there is greater seasonal alignment between our countries making it easier for the pest to establish on arrival.

### What you can do

Watch the BMSB videos on the KVH [website](#) to understand what this pest looks like and the risk it poses. Talk about it with your friends and family and ensure they are aware too.

***If you see this pest, or anything else unusual catch it, take a photo and report it to either MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.***

