



## BMSB Seasonal Measures 2023-24 Industry Sessions Q & A

### BMSB Seasonal Measures

***If the break bulk cargo has been shipped outside the 120 hours window but less than extra 48 hours. Could Customs broker apply AEP code BMSBREL for lodging the full import declaration?***

No, they cannot. Goods that have shipped outside the 120 hour window but within the extra 48 hours require retreatment of the goods on arrival. A risk management plan must be submitted prior to the goods arrival and a clearance letter will be issued to facilitate the onshore treatment of the goods within 48 hours of arrival.

***What was the email address if the goods fall outside the 120hrs?***

The risk management plan should be sent to [spp@aff.gov.au](mailto:spp@aff.gov.au) prior to the goods arrival.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/before/brown-marmorated-stink-bugs/prepare-import#post-treatment-window>.

***Does the 120 hour window only apply prior to 1st December? What is the amount of time allowed between treatment & shipment of goods after 1st December?***

The 120 hour post treatment window only applies to goods treated in a target risk country prior to 1 December of the current BMSB risk season.

All goods treated on or after 1 December or any goods treated in a non-target country do not have to meet post treatment window requirements.

***With BBK cargo arriving from a BMSB Target Risk Country however remaining on board the vessel offshore and not being discharged - will this cargo be subject to BMSB measures or will SPP over-ride the BMSB measures and release the cargo due to nil concern?***

Cargo that is transiting on a vessel in Australia and not being discharged will not be subject to the measures. However, if a FID declaration is required for customs purposes, please contact the department at [spp@aff.gov.au](mailto:spp@aff.gov.au) prior to the goods loading so a risk assessment of the goods can be completed and a clearance letter issued if necessary.

***You mentioned random inspections. Could you please provide information on the percentage of containers that undergo inspection?***

Random inspections are completed at very low rates ranging between 1% and 3% of all consignments subject to the BMSB seasonal measures. Most are capped at one inspection per day per inspection profile.

***Goods shipped and treated from a non-target risk country, using non registered offshore treatment provider (because it's from non-target risk country and do not have to register), can a broker still quote AEP?***

Yes, a broker can still utilise AEP for the clearance of these shipments if the treatment certificates meet all requirements as per BICON. Please follow the BICON case for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug for appropriate AEI codes.





Please ensure you check the list of unregistered treatment providers to ensure that the non-registered treatment provider is not listed as unacceptable.

The use of AEI codes for unregistered treatment provider certificates can be found here:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/clearance-inspection/documentary-requirements/entity-identifier#unregistered-treatment-provider-treatment-certificates>.

***When material is more than 40M long and 30M high fumigation is going to prove rather difficult to achieve is this a matter of holding the movement until out of season?***

If the goods are target high risk goods and are shipped from a target risk country between 1 September and 30 April (inclusive) they will require treatment for BMSB. If they are being shipped as break bulk cargo this treatment must be completed offshore prior to arrival.

The department recommends discussing treatment requirements with approved treatment providers to determine the best treatment outcome for your cargo.

The decision on when to ship the goods is a commercial decision.

***If the container is booked to sail prior 1st September, but the vessel delays, let's say until 2 September 2023, can container be exempted from BMSB treatment as long as the container is sealed and closed prior 1st September?***

If the container is a sealed six hard sided container and has been packed and sealed prior to 1 September, a [sealing declaration](#) can be provided, and the container will not be subject to measures for BMSB.

If the goods are shipped as break bulk or in an open top or flat rack container, a sealing declaration will **not** be able to be used, and the goods will require treatment prior to arrival. The department recommends for these goods that have shipping dates close to BMSB season start, they are treated to ensure they meet import conditions on arrival.

***How do NUFT Decs apply to Flat rack/open top shipments after 1st Dec?***

[BMSB NUFT declarations](#) can be used for all cargo types providing the goods meet all requirements for BMSB NUFT.

***Does the 120 hour window suggest treatment is only effective against BMSB for 120 hours?***

The 120 hour post treatment window is the time frame utilised to minimise the potential reinfestation or cross contamination of goods with BMSB after treatment has occurred.

***If I have my breakbulk cargo treated and loaded in accordance with the requirements, but someone else has untreated breakbulk cargo on the same vessel, does this effect my cargo status?***

If your individual consignment has been treated and meets import requirements for BMSB on arrival, the status of other cargo on the vessel will not affect yours.

***Break Bulk - Can "VIN" field be printed on quarantine order as a standard practice? Currently it's not.***

Currently the VIN field is unable to be printed on quarantine orders. The VIN number can be entered on the line description which will enable it to be included on the printout of the quarantine order.





As per [Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements](#), section 6.8 the VIN or other unique identifiers can be added to either the VIN field or the goods line description field within the ICS.

***Will the department allow importers to request 4.7 clearance without waiting for a fumigator to assess? E.g., if an importer wishes to use HT, not fumo and needs to do controlled unload into a chamber?***

There are no changes to how containers that are not suitable for onshore treatment are managed in relation to secure unpack at a Class 4.7AA.

The AA Class 4.7 cannot be used as a first option for treatment. Only after the initial Class 12 treatment provider notifies the department that the goods cannot be treated will a consignment be directed to a Class 4.7 treatment provider.

The department recommends that containers are packed to facilitate onshore treatment to minimise use of Class 4.7AA.

Further information can be found [here](#).

***Please confirm 120 hours is for break bulk, flat racks and open tops only? What is the shipped on board period for treated FCL's?***

The 120 post treatment window also applies to FCL containers.

Containers must be sealed within 120 hours of treatment completion.

Further information can be found [here](#).

***At what rate is the department going to select random consignments from UK and China for Chapter 94? As a high-volume importer, we could be severely impacted by this.***

Random inspections are selected at rates of between 1% and 3%. Random inspections are not profiled on suppliers or importers.

There have been no changes in random inspection rates for these goods and they remain the same as last BMSB season.

Inspection rates may change during the season based on detections of BMSB or other biosecurity risk material.

***Hi, previously when target goods are shipped into Au from non-target countries, sometimes goods that have been in storage in non-target countries for years, import docs had to be produced for clearance. Has thought been given to replacing that with a declaration instead?***

International trade documents (as defined in [Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements](#)) can be used to show goods were in non-target countries prior to 1 September. This is not limited to import documents. Declarations can be utilised in conjunction with trade documents to assist in linking documents to current consignments. The department is looking at ways to better target these goods and provide options for industries on how best to address the BMSB risk for these consignments.





***Are we allowed to fumigate target high risk goods at container level and then add non-target risk goods into that container afterwards as I believe we cannot fumigate outside of exporting container, in particular LCL shipments.***

All target high risk goods manufactured in or shipped from a target risk country must be treated for BMSB.

All containers with mixed goods or risk and non-risk must have the target high risk goods treated prior to packing with non-target goods if the container is not getting treated at the container level.

Goods can be treated within the container or prior to packing. The treatment must be conducted according to the methodology and be certified on a BMSB treatment certificate with a valid consignment link.

If the target high risk goods have been treated within the container and non-target risk goods are added after the treatment, particularly if the treatment is conducted prior to 1 December, the container must be packed and sealed within 120 hours of the treatment being completed. A sealing declaration can be utilised for this purpose.

Target high risk goods can also be treated prior to loading within the container. Treatments must be treated according to the relevant methodology and a relevant consignment link (HBOL, commercial invoice number etc).

***Are there any restrictions on Air cargo from US and Italy this year?***

There are no measures for air cargo this BMSB season. The department will monitor the pathway and profile cargo as necessary.

***Can we treat BMSB here in Australia if overseas vendor is unable to do it from their side pls?***

If goods are packed in sealed six hard sided container, onshore BMSB treatment is available.

Goods that are shipped as break bulk, including open top and flat rack containers, must be treated for BMSB offshore. Goods that arrive without treatment will be directed for export.

***If target high risk goods and non-target high risk goods are shipped together in a FAK container, then shipped to a tranship port (e.g., Singapore) and treated for BMSB, can the non-target risk goods be exempted from treatment at the tranship port?***

All target high risk goods manufactured in or shipped from target risk countries require treatment for BMSB.

If the container is being deconsolidated in Singapore for treatment of the target high risk goods, consideration should be given to the potential cross contamination of non-target risk goods that have been packed within the container on the voyage to Singapore.

If possible, the target high risk good could be treated in the original load port in the target risk country and linked to the treatment certificate via the HBOL.





***NZ allow fogging on arrival of boats & have allowed this for at least the last 3 seasons, in lieu of heat, MB or SF. We ask every year when Australia is going to get on board with this. There are at least 3 seasons of statistics that you could access from NZ on this so instead of saying we don't have enough data could you not just look at this?***

Pyrethrum spray is not a current treatment for BMSB and is not approved for the treatment of goods for BMSB for import into Australia.

Consideration must be given to the effectiveness of the treatment and the requirements for insecticidal spraying. New Zealand MPI requires a re-treatment of the goods within 24 hours of arrival and inspection by MPI within 48 hours of arrival. Given that our department manages a larger volume of cargo, not just BMSB but across the board, than our New Zealand counterparts, this is not something that would be able to be adequately managed onshore to contain the risk of BMSB.

The purpose of mandatory offshore treatment for break bulk goods (including open top and flat rack containers) is to ensure that the risk is adequately managed offshore prior to the goods arriving to minimise the risk of escape and emergence of this pest in Australia.

The department is investigating the use of Ethyl Formate as an additional treatment for BMSB, but this will not be approved for use in time for the upcoming BMSB season.

Even though the department does share the Offshore Treatment Providers scheme for BMSB and there are similarities to some of our import requirements for BMSB, the import requirements are different for each country and pyfogging / insecticide treatment is not an approved BMSB treatment for Australian import conditions.

## **BMSB Treatments**

### ***Could we get the list of treatment providers from Singapore and India?***

A list of all registered and unregistered treatment providers can be found on the [Offshore Treatment Providers](#) page.

Approved BMSB treatment providers can be found on List of Treatment Providers. The list is being updated regularly with treatment providers that have completed the registration process. Please sort the list via country.

As both Singapore and India are non-target risk countries, an approved treatment provider is not required to be used to treat goods for BMSB. Please however check the list of treatment providers and list of unregistered treatment providers to ensure they are not listed as suspended, withdrawn, under review or unacceptable.

### ***What are the time frames to have offshore treatment providers approved?***

If all documentation is provided at the time of submitting, our time frame currently is 10 working days.

Please note, this may change if we have a large volume within a short time frame.





***Does the List of Treatment Providers include the treatment providers 'treatment capabilities' (Their ability to conduct treatment on containers, break bulk, individual goods, or indoor treatments)?***

The List of Treatment Providers does not include the treatment capabilities of the provider. This was previously published; however, the information was optional information provided by treatment providers and intended as a guide only.

## Safeguarding

***Is there any change materially to the safeguarding arrangement and what are timelines for approval for safeguarding arrangement?***

The only changes to the Safeguarding Arrangements Scheme relate to the ABF import reports. Reapplying applicants now only need to supply a report for the previous 12 months, where new applicants still need to supply a 3-year report.

Reminder for all applicants supply chains that end in an Australian delivery/unpack site in a rural area cannot be accommodated by the scheme.

***Does each supplier require a separate application?***

No, on the online application form there is a button located at the end of the initial supplier information section that allows you to add additional supplier details. Please note that supply chains that consist of distribution centres where there a multiple suppliers cannot be accommodated by the Safeguarding Arrangements Scheme.

Further information can be found on the [Safeguarding Arrangements](#) webpage.

## Vessels

***When can we submit VSPS application for approval? Is there a new application format for this year?***

The VSPS application process is the same as last season and applications can be sent in now.

***What are the requirements for vessel imports, i.e., vessels arriving into port under their own power?***

Vessels imported under their own power are not subject to measures for BMSB and will be subject to inspections once pre-arrival documents are lodged.

## Other

***Is the staffing adequate to meet the 2023-2024 season in order to avoid lengthy delays in processing?***

Staffing is managed by the Assessments Management team. The department recommends early submission of documents or use of AEPCOMM to avoid any delays to cargo on arrival.

***Are the emails correct @aff or should it be [SPP@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:SPP@agriculture.gov.au)?***

Yes, with the change of the department name with the new Federal Government, email addresses have been aligned to reflect the new department name.





***Will the department implement any process to expedite releases for onshore post treatment?***

Releases for onshore treatment are managed by the Onshore Assessments team. Please contact [treatments@aff.gov.au](mailto:treatments@aff.gov.au) for further information or any additional questions regarding onshore post treatment releases.

***Are you considering any technology for the automated detection of BMSB?***

The Department's Biosecurity Innovation Program has been considering an AI app for the Detections of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/research-innovation/program#ai-apps-for-the-detection-of-brown-marmorated-stink-bug-and-exotic-bees>.

Further information can be found on the Biosecurity Innovation Program webpage.

**Master Consolidators 2023-24 Industry Session (15 August 2023)**

***Will the presentation be available to industry in either PowerPoint and will a recording of this session be available?***

We are not recording this session; however, we will be putting a copy of this presentation up on the website.

***I thought this presentation was on the 16th or is there another session on the 16th?***

The date was changed and published on IIAN [159-2023](#) due to the public holiday on the 16 August in QLD.

***Hi, have just created an account for MC portal, and looks the MC lodgement is missing at the moment, how long it will take to have this access updated? thank you.***

New users must complete a [registration form](#) and send back to [spp@aff.gov.au](mailto:spp@aff.gov.au), **prior** to signing up or activating their account in the new portal so we can ensure you are assigned to the correct MC branch. If a new user signs up without completing a registration form, the declaration form will not be available to that user in the new portal.

***If we need to escalate our queries and haven't received a response is there an alternate contact?***

Please email [spp@aff.gov.au](mailto:spp@aff.gov.au). Due to the number of emails we receive, especially at the start of season, please allow up to 10 working days for a reply.

***Just confirming that the container will be re-directed overseas IF there is cargo that has not been treated in the container i.e., a FAK container and there is cargo that cannot be treated i.e., Food.***

If the container cannot be treated onshore at the container level, it will be directed for export for treatment. Deconsolidation and removal of lines prior to treatment will not be approved.

***Can you please send the link to the guide?***

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/before/brown-marmorated-stink-bugs/lccontainers#lodging-bmsb-master-consolidator-declaration>.

