



Notice to Industry

30 April 2015

26/2015

Cessation of Emergency Measures for Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

Who does this notice affect?

This notice is of interest to clients in the import and shipping industry, including importers and customs brokers associated with the importation of targeted break bulk and containerised vehicles (including boats), machinery, and automotive parts shipped from the United States.

What has changed?

The Department of Agriculture (the department) will cease the emergency measures for the stink bugs from 1 May 2015. This means that target goods arriving on or after this date will no longer be subject to pre-shipment treatment requirements.

This pest has been routinely intercepted in small numbers on a range of goods from a range of overseas countries over the last decade. However, this season, these pests were intercepted in very large numbers, in a viable condition, in cargo imported from a number of load ports in the USA.

As a result of the emergency measures introduced by the department to manage this significant biosecurity risk, there have been no further viable stink bugs interceptions over the last few months. The department continues to intercept a few stink bugs but these represent a considerably lesser biosecurity risk and can be managed under existing controls at the border for this and other hitchhiking pests.

The department would like to acknowledge that the successful completion of this season's emergency could not have been achieved without the continued and active collaboration of our industry partners over this period.

The department will use the experiences and data from the current season's emergency to prepare a forward policy and operational strategy to deal with this pest in future seasons. These should be available for consultation and comment mid June, well in advance of the commencement of the next season for this pest in October/November.

In the interim, importers are again reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that their goods are imported free of biosecurity risks such as this stink bug in all months of the year, not just during seasonal emergency periods.

Further information

For any enquiries, please email airandseacargo@agriculture.gov.au