



June  
2019

# Seasonal measures for the 2019–20 brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) risk season



In response to the rapid expansion of BMSB throughout Europe and North America, the Department of Agriculture has strengthened the seasonal measures to manage the risk of BMSB arriving in Australia during the 2019–20 BMSB risk season.

For the 2019–20 BMSB risk season, measures will apply to:

- certain goods manufactured in, or shipped from target risk countries, and/or
- vessels that berth at, load or tranship from target risk countries, from **1 September 2019** and that arrive in Australian territory by **31 May 2020** (inclusive). You must comply with these measures for vessels and goods during the BMSB risk season.

## Target risk countries

The following countries have been categorised as target risk:

Albania	France	North Macedonia
Andorra	Georgia	Romania
Armenia	Germany	Russia
Austria	Greece	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Hungary	Slovakia
Belgium	Italy	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Spain
Bulgaria	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Canada	Luxembourg	Turkey
Croatia	Montenegro	United States of America
Czechia	Netherlands	

Japan (heightened vessel surveillance will be the only measure applied).

In addition, the department continues to review the changing risk status of BMSB and will also be undertaking random onshore inspections on goods from other emerging risk countries to verify pest absence in goods.

## Vessel surveillance and inspections

All roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) vessels will be subject to heightened vessel surveillance during the season.

All ro-ro vessels that berth at, load or tranship in target risk countries from 1 September 2019 and that arrive in Australian territory by 31 May 2020 (inclusive) will be required to:

- conduct self-inspections and respond to specific questions as part of the pre-arrival reporting requirements, and
- undergo a mandatory seasonal pest inspection on arrival in Australia.

## Vessel Seasonal Pest Scheme

A Vessel Seasonal Pest Scheme (VSPS) will be introduced for the 2019–20 risk season as an alternative vessel clearance pathway for ro-ro vessels.

- Only ro-ro vessels that are eligible for the VSPS and have detected no insects on board will be exempt from the mandatory seasonal pest inspection.
- The department will continue to perform inspections on vessels for other biosecurity reasons unrelated to BMSB. The nature of these inspections will vary based on the particular biosecurity risk being managed.

## Goods

A full list of the tariffs for the 2019–20 season is available at [agriculture.gov.au/bmsb](http://agriculture.gov.au/bmsb).

- Target high risk goods will require mandatory treatment
- Target risk goods will not require mandatory treatment
- All target high risk and target risk goods will be subject to increased onshore intervention through random inspection.

## Treatment requirements

### Mandatory offshore treatment

#### Break bulk consignments

Mandatory offshore treatment of target high risk goods shipped as break bulk cargo, including goods shipped in open top containers or on flat rack containers, will be required. Untreated break bulk will be denied discharge and be directed for export on arrival.

Target high risk goods requiring mandatory offshore treatment that arrive untreated, or treated by an unapproved treatment provider in a target risk country, will be directed for export on arrival.

### Mandatory offshore or onshore treatment

#### Containerised cargo shipped as LCL and FAK containers

Mandatory offshore or onshore treatment of target high risk goods shipped in sealed six hard sided containers will be required. LCL (Less than Container Load) and FAK (Freight of All Kind) containers with target high risk goods will be managed at the container level for BMSB risk prior to deconsolidation. Containers treated offshore will be subject to early reporting to enable timely movement off wharf and will be permitted to deconsolidate.

Containers seeking onshore treatment will also be subject to early reporting and will be permitted to move to an Approved Arrangement site for treatment at the container level (deconsolidation or segregation of goods will not be permitted).

#### Containerised cargo (other than LCL and FAK containers)

Mandatory offshore or onshore treatment of target high risk goods shipped in sealed six hard sided containers will be required. Deconsolidation or segregation of goods will not be permitted.

Consideration must be given to ensure containers are packed in a manner that will enable effective onshore treatment where required, to avoid possible export of goods.

## Treatment options

The approved treatment options for BMSB risk are heat treatment, methyl bromide fumigation and sulfuryl fluoride fumigation. For information on proposed treatment rates, visit [agriculture.gov.au/bmsb](http://agriculture.gov.au/bmsb).

## Offshore BMSB Treatment Providers Scheme

Offshore treatment providers in target risk countries must first register and be approved by the department. Existing treatment providers will also need to re-register with the department. Goods that are treated by a treatment provider in a target risk country that is not registered with the scheme will be directed for export or onshore treatment (if permitted).

## Safeguarding Arrangements Scheme

A scheme which allows certain goods and supply chains to be recognised under safeguarding arrangements has been developed. Under the scheme, approved participants will be recognised for their ability to manage biosecurity risk and seasonal hitchhiker pest risk, such as BMSB offshore, from the point of manufacture to the point of embarkation. The scheme will consider the ability of an applicant to manage biosecurity and seasonal hitchhiker pest risk through an assessment of supply chains and offshore facilities. The scheme will be trialled with select industry participants before becoming open to broader industry applicants.

## Further information

For full details on the 2019–20 BMSB seasonal measures and for information on how to prepare for import during the BMSB season, visit [agriculture.gov.au/bmsb](http://agriculture.gov.au/bmsb).

Any questions relating to the policy for seasonal pests can be emailed to [spp@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:spp@agriculture.gov.au).



1800 900 090 or  
+61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia)



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