

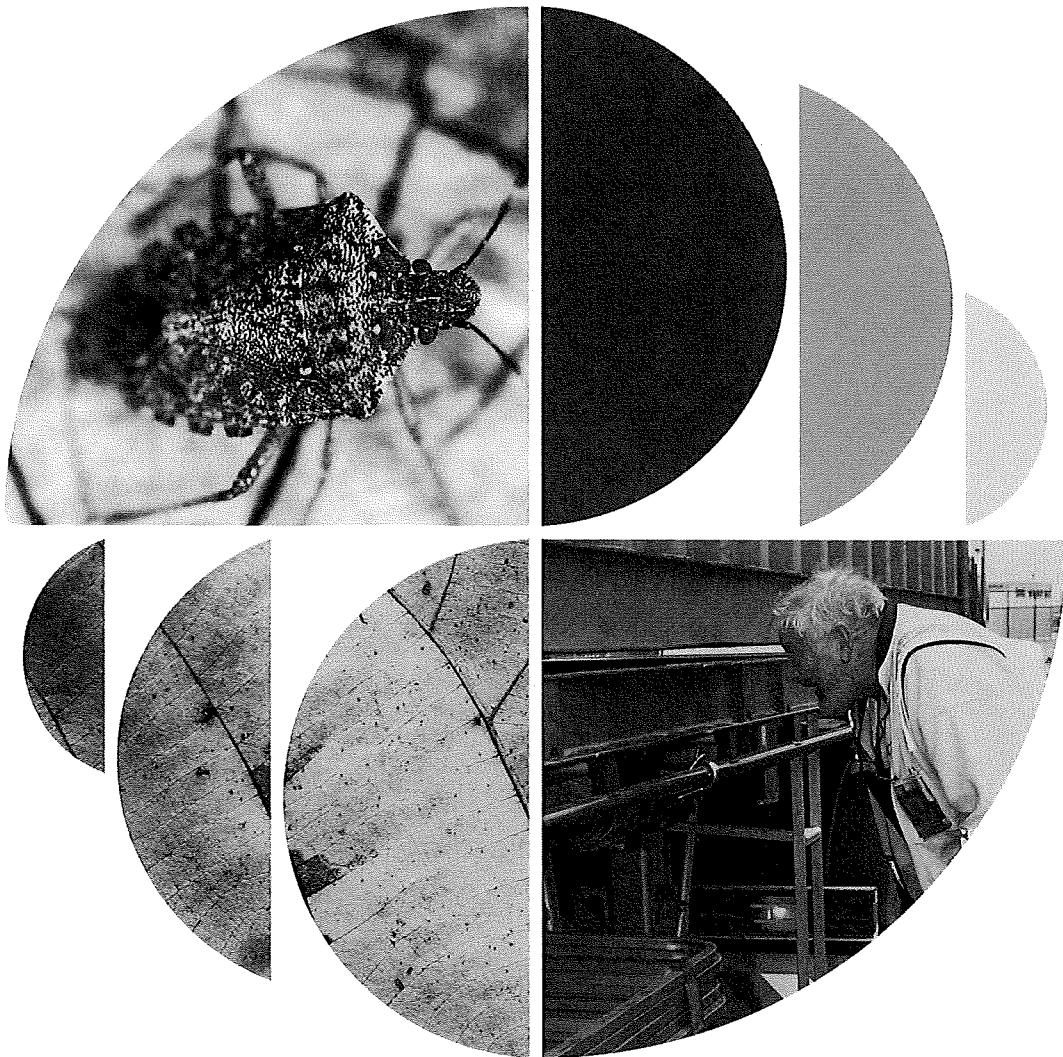


Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture

# Safeguarding Arrangements for the 2015-2016 Stink Bug Season Industry Guide

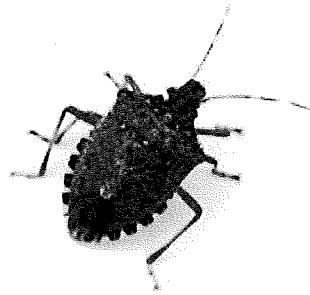
---

Cargo and Mail Section, Compliance Division



## Table of Contents

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>1. Introduction</b>                             | <b>3</b> |
| Purpose and scope of this document                 | 3        |
| <b>2. General eligibility and responsibilities</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>3. Application Process</b>                      | <b>4</b> |
| How to apply                                       | 4        |
| Supporting material                                | 4        |
| <b>4. Approval process</b>                         | <b>5</b> |
| Fees and charges                                   | 6        |
| Monitoring performance                             | 6        |



## 1. Introduction

The Department of Agriculture (the department) is responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs that ensure Australia's agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable. The department seeks to achieve these outcomes by working with industries to achieve stronger biosecurity management for imported goods and minimise the risks of exotic pests and diseases entering the country that could significantly affect our communities, environment and \$51 billion agriculture sector.

Safeguarding involves the acceptance of a detailed, offshore seasonal pest risk management plan and system as an alternative to mandatory pre-shipment requirements or other regulatory interventions on new goods arriving in Australia.

### Purpose and scope of this document

This guide outlines how safeguarding arrangements can be used across the commercial and operational supply chain to manage the seasonal threat of brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB).

It is designed for manufacturers, importers and service providers involved in the imported cargo and shipping industries, and provides information about:

- eligibility requirements
- the approval process
- the additional resources and support material that is needed to prepare a proposal for a safeguarding arrangement.

This guide does not prescribe the requirements for an individual safeguarding arrangement. The department recognises that every industry and every client is different and no one set of criteria will meet the needs of all, nor manage all associated biosecurity risks as required.

A safeguarding arrangement will not override other import conditions for the goods.

The department reserves the right to decline any proposal submitted or cancel an approved safeguarding arrangement.

## 2. General eligibility and responsibilities

For a safeguarding arrangement to be approved initially for the 2015-2016 BMSB season, the proposal must provide the department with assurance that the goods being imported have been treated in a way that is equally effective or better than current pre-shipment treatment requirements.

The proposal should address the intended arrangements and impacts across the supply chain from manufacture to arrival in Australia. The department will only accept safeguarding proposals from overseas applicants/manufacturers when an Australian importer/entity is clearly identified in the proposal. This local entity will also be responsible for applying any onshore biosecurity measures as directed by the department due to a supply system failure or a change in the risk posed by the BMSB.

Note that a safeguarding arrangement such as this does not transfer the government's legislative powers to industry. It simply permits industry to perform defined functions, such as pest management, goods storage, movement, treatment, operational/administrative procedures, or processing of imported goods, without direct supervision by the department.



The department will consider safeguarding arrangements where:

- industry can demonstrate a good history of compliance with biosecurity requirements
- the volume or nature of imported goods makes the arrangement a viable option for all parties.

Industry is responsible for:

- providing the department with information and evidence to support a request for a safeguarding arrangement
- developing/maintaining business practices that can effectively manage biosecurity risks
- notifying the department of any expected changes to their circumstances or their procedures/practices once approved
- complying with the requirements of their approved safeguarding arrangement
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangement.

The department is responsible for:

- evaluating and approving safeguarding proposals
- monitoring the ongoing performance and effectiveness of an approved safeguarding arrangement.

### 3. Application Process

Information provided in a proposal must be accurate and supported by evidence such as a pest management plan, and photographs of the manufacturing plant and storage areas. Evaluation will not commence until the department is satisfied that all information necessary to make a decision has been provided. A detailed proposal will enable the department to better evaluate:

- all processes in the supply chain
- what is being done or is being proposed to manage the biosecurity risk posed by BMSB across the supply chain
- what is required and how well these outcomes can be achieved
- changes and improvements that need to be made.

#### How to apply

For approval to be granted prior to the commencement of the 2015-16 BMSB season, applications need to be received and approved by the department before 1 September 2015. Where applications are received or approved after 1 September, pre-shipment treatment requirements will apply until that safeguarding arrangement is approved.

All applications should be submitted to the department by emailing [airandseacargo@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:airandseacargo@agriculture.gov.au) with a covering letter outlining the proposal and primary contacts.

#### Supporting material

The following is a list of information the department may need to assess the safeguarding application:

- Basic information on the organisation
  - contact details for key senior management offshore and onshore
  - products and related non-commodities (for example, goods, containers and packaging or wrapping used in or around the goods)
  - the volume or frequency of goods being exported



- an overview of partners/companies involved in the manufacturing process (for example transporters, parts suppliers) and the level of influence over their activities.
- Description of the existing or proposed pest management system offshore
  - an overview of current (or intended) practices, processes and procedures that will provide equivalent/improved biosecurity controls across the import pathway
  - pest management measures already in place or proposed internally in the plant to monitor for incursions of BMSB and other seasonal pests (bug traps, bug zappers)
  - contingency arrangements to manage system failures
  - how goods will be stored post manufacture and measures taken to ensure infestations do not/cannot occur during storage and/or en route to Australia (such as shrink wrapping or otherwise protecting exposed cabin areas, containerisation if possible, storing goods undercover and away from pest entry points)
  - pest management measures including traps in the vicinity of the plant to monitor for this pest. The websites [Rutgers \(njaes.rutgers.edu/stinkbug\)](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/stinkbug) and [Stinkbug-info \(stinkbug-info.org\)](http://stinkbug-info.org) have information on monitoring for BMSB.
  - planned surveillance measures for checking the external surfaces of the plant's buildings for stink bug aggregations in peak season
  - arrangements for monitoring, internal audit, data collection and reporting.
- Description and location of plant facilities
  - location details (metropolitan/rural) and surrounding environment (e.g. proximity to open fields, agricultural land, forest)
  - the type of building(s) where goods are manufactured, and their date of construction
  - how the goods are to be transported between the manufacturer and the port of loading
  - travel distance between the manufacturer and the port of loading, including the type of rural areas the goods will travel through.
- Description of staff training and proposed communication activities
  - liaison with local biosecurity authorities in the US on the 'start of the season' in your area
  - awareness training for staff, for example, identification posters on notice boards, company newsletters to staff, other information as required. The [department's fact sheet \(agriculture.gov.au\)](http://agriculture.gov.au) can be used.

## 4. Approval process

On receipt of a proposal from a manufacturer or other entity with relevant supporting information (including photographs, pest system certification and reports, assembly line plans and entry points, storage area maps etc), the department will undertake a 'desk top' audit of the outlined system and advise the manufacturer if any further information or measures are needed. The department may visit any specified facility/business stated within a safeguarding arrangement proposal to gather additional information on the supply chain from offshore to onshore.

Approval will be granted once the department is satisfied that the system is capable of fully mitigating this risk offshore and across the supply chain.



Approved safeguarding systems will apply to all target goods shipped from United States' ports from 1 September 2015 to 30 April 2016.

If there is an infestation discovered in these or other goods, emergency measures may need to be reactivated, which may cause the arrangement to be refined or cancelled depending on the risk assessment at that time, in consultation with industry.

A list of approved manufacturers/entities and their primary goods under the safeguarding system will be published on the department's website. This will provide some surety to industry including carriers (transport companies, shipping lines), and stevedores that the goods in question represent a lower risk of BMSB infestation and should be permitted to be discharged to the wharf of arrival unless the department has identified emerging biosecurity threats on the consignment which may result in the cancellation of the arrangements.

Other information provided by industry to support their proposal will only be used for evaluation purposes. It will not be used or disclosed to third parties for any other purpose except where consent is provided or the department is required or authorised by law to do so. Industry information will be used and stored in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles.

### **Fees and charges**

All costs associated with development and submission of the application is incurred by the organisation seeking approval of a safeguarding arrangement.

Fees will be payable under Section 86E of the *Quarantine Act 1908* for services performed by the department including the assessment of alternative arrangements, regardless of whether final approval is granted. Fees and charges information can be accessed on the [department's website](http://www.agriculture.gov.au) ([agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)).

### **Monitoring performance**

The department will verify the ongoing performance of any safeguarding arrangement through verification inspection and surveillance activities on the goods' arrival in Australia. Cargo associated with non-compliant entities will be subjected to increased intervention by the department.

At the department's request, industry clients need to demonstrate that they can continue to meet the requirements of the safeguarding arrangement. If this is the case, then in consultation with the entity, the department may request, additional information including:

- administrative requirements such as records of staff training, documented quality standards and regular activity/compliance reports
- physical requirements: pest management records, scheduled maintenance records
- operational requirements: awareness and technical training and documented procedures for staff, and contingency plans if a pest is intercepted on or near the premises
- compliance requirements: internal or third party audit results.

