



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
**and Water Resources**

Ref: 2017/000910E

Mr Brian Lovell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Federation of International Freight Forwarders  
Westfield Office Tower  
Suite 403, Level 3  
152 Bunnerong Road  
EASTGARDENS NSW 2036

Dear Mr Lovell

I am writing to request your assistance in managing the biosecurity risk posed by one of the most significant plant pests—the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).

As you know, for the last few years the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has put seasonal measures in place to safeguard Australia's industries and environment from BMSB. The support of the Australian Federation of International Freight Forwarders and its members has been critical to the success of the measures, and greatly reduced the number of detections in Australia and level of risk.

The department is aware the bugs are now spreading throughout Europe, and is monitoring arriving cargo from European ports, particularly goods loaded or originating from areas with high levels of BMSB populations, such as Northern Italy. To date, there have been low levels of detections in Australia. However, given the significance of this pest, should the level of detections change the department may need to introduce pre-shipment treatment requirements for high risk cargo from Europe, similar to those in place for the United States. We hope this will not be necessary as we appreciate it could result in delays in clearance times and increased costs for industry as a result of inspection and treatment on arrival.

To avoid the need for stronger action, we have elected to issue the attached notice to shipping lines, encouraging them and their clients to take preventative actions prior to shipping. While we will be writing to key shipping lines individually, I would appreciate if you could also circulate the notice to your members.

I thank you in advance for Australian Federation of International Freight Forwarders' continued support in managing the BMSB risk. If you have any questions, I can be contacted on 02 6272 3850 or you can email [airandseacargo@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:airandseacargo@agriculture.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Leanne Herrick  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Pathway Compliance

30 January 2017