

BMSB SEASON 2025/2026

Everything you need to know



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What is BMSB?

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)



- Known as the *Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)*
- Originates from Asia, North America, Europe, Oceania and South America, Exotic to Australia
- Described as a shield shaped marbled bug up to 17 mm long that eats crops and ornamental plants

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) (*Halyomorpha Hays*) is an exotic pest to Australia. Native to China, Japan, Korea and other Asian countries, the species has rapidly spread into USA and Europe, it is now considered a seasonal hitchhiker pest that can enter from several overseas nations.

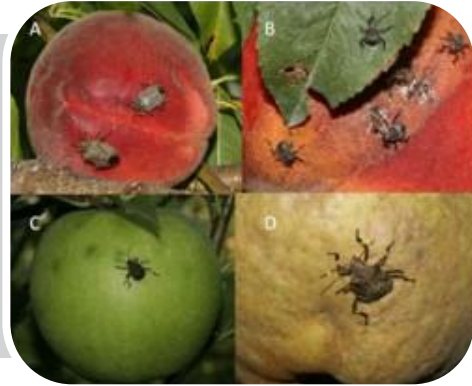
BMSB is shield shaped, mottled brown with a smooth rounded shoulder. It can grow up to 17 mm long and feeds on crops and ornamental plants. The bug produces an unpleasant odour when crushed.

Australia is one of the few countries in the world to remain free of major pests, diseases and weeds that can affect human, animal or plant health, so it is imperative to adhere to the BMSB procedures to protect our Biodiversity and Agricultural Industries.



Why is BMSB a concern?

BMSB poses a significant risk to Australia's agriculture



- Damages agricultural crops, fruits, nursery stock and ornamental plants
- Feeds on over 300 plant species
- A smelly nuisance in homes and buildings
- Hitchhike on imported goods

BMSB is exotic to Australia and must be kept out. They hitchhike on imported goods, including personal items, machinery, vehicles, ships, boats and aircraft.

The bugs damage agriculture crops, nursery stock and ornamental plants. They feed on over 300 plant species, including sweet corn, tree nuts and fruits such as apricots, figs, apples, peaches and citrus.

The bugs pierce through the skin/surface of fruits and inject saliva, feeding on the juices of the fruit. This leaves dimpling on the externals, rotting and corking of the insides of the fruit. If impacted fruit is used for juice production, it could ruin the entire batch.

While this exotic stink bug looks similar to native stink bug species, it would devastate crops and ornamental plants and become a smelly nuisance if it established in Australia.

Ken Walker, PaDIL.



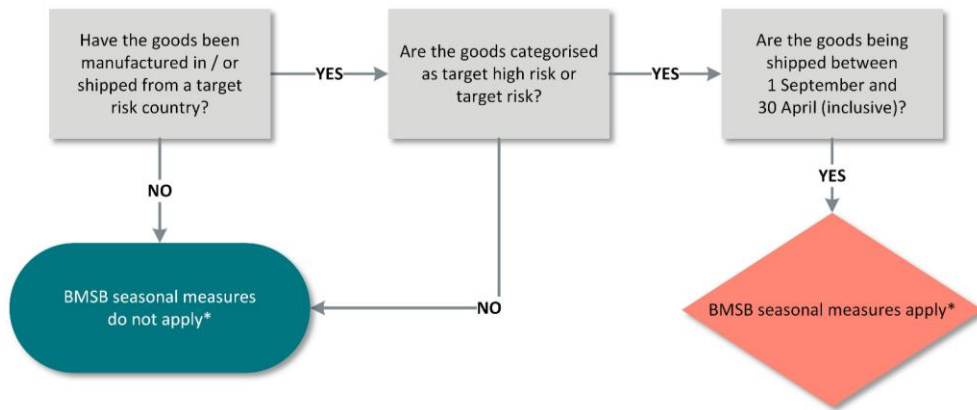
Who does BMSB affect?

There are seasonal measures that affect importers of targeted goods from targeted countries



- New Zealand and Australian importers of;
- Targeted goods from;
- Target risk countries and;
- Shipped via Seafreight between;
- 01 September to 30 April (inclusive)

BMSB seasonal measures affect importers of **targeted goods** that are manufactured in or shipped from **target risk countries**, and have shipped via Seafreight between **01 September and 30 April** (inclusive). BMSB measures also apply to vessels that berth, load or tranship from target risk countries within the same period.



Source: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

What are the BMSB seasonal measures?

Seasonal measures include specific treatment methodologies which are subjective to different types of sea cargo



- Target high risk goods require mandatory treatment
- Target risk goods are subject to random inspection
- Standard FCL & LCL can be treated offshore or onshore
- Breakbulk must be treated offshore only
- Heat, Methyl Bromide, Sulfuryl Fluoride & Ethyl Formate treatment only
- Specific packing requirements to be followed

Goods that are classed as target high risk require mandatory treatment. Goods that are classed as target risk are subject to random inspection. Goods that are not targeted are not subject to BMSB measures unless packed with targeted goods.

Target high risk goods must be treated by an 'approved' treatment provider. Treatment certificates will not be accepted from treatment providers that are unregistered, suspended, withdrawn or under review and will be rejected from entry and subject to additional mandatory treatment measures, which may or maybe offshore and of high expense.

Standard FCL and LCL consignments can be treated offshore or onshore, whereas Breakbulk must be treated offshore only.

- LCL must be treated at the container level
- Breakbulk (includes Open Top, Flat Rack and Modified Containers) will be directed for export if not treated offshore

Treatment options currently include Heat Treatment, Methyl Bromide Fumigation, Sulfuryl Fluoride Fumigation and Ethyl Formate Fumigation.

Treated consignments maybe subject to random verification inspections.

There are specific packing requirements that allow treatments to work effectively. Consignments that are not packed to the required standard will be directed to a 4.7 depot for a complete unpack and fumigation, which may require to perforate packaging.

Who are the target risk countries?

There are many countries that have been identified as Target Risk



- There is a list of [Target Risk Countries](#) that are subject to BMSB measures for targeted goods
- This list is subject to change and continuous review

Target Risk Countries

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Canada
* China (heightened vessel surveillance only)
Croatia
Czechia
France
Japan (heightened vessel surveillance only).
Georgia
Germany
Greece

Hungary
Italy
Kazakhstan
* Republic of Korea (heightened vessel surveillance only)
Kosovo
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Montenegro
Moldova
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Republic of North Macedonia
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia

Slovenia
Spain
Switzerland
Türkiye
Ukraine
United States of America
Uzbekistan

What are the emerging risks and who are the countries?

There are several countries that have been identified as Emerging Risk



- There is a list of [Emerging Risk Countries](#) that may be selected for random onshore inspection
- This list is subject to change and continuous review
- New this year, USA and China Target High Risk HS Code Cargo arriving via Air will be Subject to Random Inspections upon arrival.

Emerging Risk Countries

China
Japan
Republic of Korea
United Kingdom

Random inspections will apply to goods shipped from emerging risk countries between 01 September to 30 April (inclusive).

Additional Tariff Chapters

39
94
95

In addition to the target high risk goods, these chapters will be subject to random inspections for emerging risk countries only.

Important Note

Airfreight consignments of target high risk goods shipped from United States of America and China between 01 September to 30 April (inclusive) will be subject to random inspections.

What are the targeted goods?

Goods that fall within the following tariff classifications have been categorised as Target High Risk Goods or Target Risk Goods



- [Target High Risk Goods](#) will require mandatory treatment for BMSB risk
- [Target Risk Goods](#) are only subject to increased onshore intervention through random inspection

Target High Risk Goods

44 - Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal
45 - Cork and articles of cork
57 - Carpets and other textile floor coverings
68 - Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials
69 - Ceramic products – including sub chapters I and II
70 – Glass and glass ware
72 - Iron and steel - including sub chapters I, II, III, IV
73 - Articles of iron or steel
74 - Copper and articles thereof
75 - Nickel and articles thereof
76 - Aluminium and articles thereof
78 - Lead and articles thereof
79 - Zinc and articles thereof
80 - Tin and articles thereof
81 - Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof
82 - Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal

83 - Miscellaneous articles of base metals
84 - Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof
85 - Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles
86 - Railway or tramway locomotives, rolling-stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings and parts thereof; mechanical (including electro-mechanical) traffic signalling equipment of all kinds
87 - Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof
88 - Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof
89 - Ships, boats and floating structures

Target Risk Goods

27 - Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes
28 - Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes - including sub chapters I, II, III, IV and V
29 - Organic chemicals - including sub chapters I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIII
38 - Miscellaneous chemical products
39 - Plastics and articles thereof - – including sub chapters I and II
40 - Rubber and articles thereof
48 - Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard
49 - Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans
56 - Wadding, felt and nonwovens; special yarns; twine, cordage, ropes and cables and articles thereof

New, Unused and not Field Tested (NUFT)

Goods that fall within the following tariff chapters and manufactured from 01 December may be eligible for the NUFT scheme



- [*New, Unused and not Field Tested*](#) goods manufactured from 01 December and classified under certain tariff chapters may be exempt from mandatory treatment with a BMSB NUFT declaration.

NUFT Criteria

The BMSB New, Unused and not Field Tested (NUFT) scheme allows for an exemption of mandatory treatment.

The BMSB NUFT criteria relates to goods classified under certain tariff chapters and have a manufacture start date on or after 01 December of the current BMSB risk season.

Refurbished goods do not meet the criteria.

A BMSB NUFT declaration may be used for eligible goods shipped as FCL, LCL or Break Bulk provided the goods are not packed with other untreated high risk non-eligible tariff goods.

Eligible Tariff Chapters

82
84
85
86
87
88
89

Safeguarding Arrangements Scheme

The scheme provides an alternative clearance pathway for **target high risk goods** shipped in a sealed six hard sided container from **target risk countries**



- Approved importers may avoid mandatory treatment for eligible consignments under the [Safeguarding Arrangements Scheme](#)
- All consignments are subject to 100% documentation assessment and random verification inspections, which replaces the mandatory treatment requirement.

Eligibility Criteria

- Goods must be imported into Australia by a single importing entity that has a valid Australian Company Number (ACN) and/or Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Goods must be transported in a sealed six hard sided shipping container.
- Goods must be stored indoors between manufacture and export to Australia.
- Mitigation processes must be established (and demonstrated) throughout the supply chain to safeguard the goods from exposure to and contamination by BMSB, exotic pests and other biosecurity risks.
- Contingency processes must be established (and demonstrated) that can be deployed immediately in the event BMSB is detected at any point in the supply chain.
- Container unpack location in Australia must be in a metropolitan location according to the department's Postcode delivery classifications webpage.
- If approved, all supply chain staff must complete Biosecurity Awareness training, including BMSB identification. The department will provide an information package upon approval of application.
- Submit a supply chain compliance audit per supply chain (including all manufacturing and storage sites), confirming adherence to the department approved supply chain plan, within 60 days of receiving formal approval for the current season.

Application

- Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria to apply for the scheme.
- Applications are open from 28 July 2025 to 30 January 2026.
- Participation in the scheme requires an annual application.
- All applications are subject to approval.

Heat Treatment

Heat treatment is one of the four approved options for BMSB treatment



- [Heat Treatment](#) is an approved option for BMSB treatment and includes a minimum standard
- Onshore approved providers can be found on [the list of approved arrangement providers](#)
- Offshore approved [AusTreat](#) providers can be found on the [list of pre-border biosecurity treatment providers](#)

Heat treatment by an 'approved' provider can be used for all good types and sizes.

- 56°C or higher at the coldest surface of the goods, for a minimum of 30 minutes or
- for individual goods weighing less than 3000 kg shipped as break bulk only, 60°C or higher at the coldest surface of the goods, for a minimum of 10 minutes

Note: Individual goods shipped as break bulk weighing less than 3000kg treated at 60°C for 10 minutes require evidence within shipping documentation that they are less than 3000kg for these treatments to be accepted.



Methyl Bromide Fumigation

Methyl Bromide Fumigation is one of the four approved options for BMSB treatment



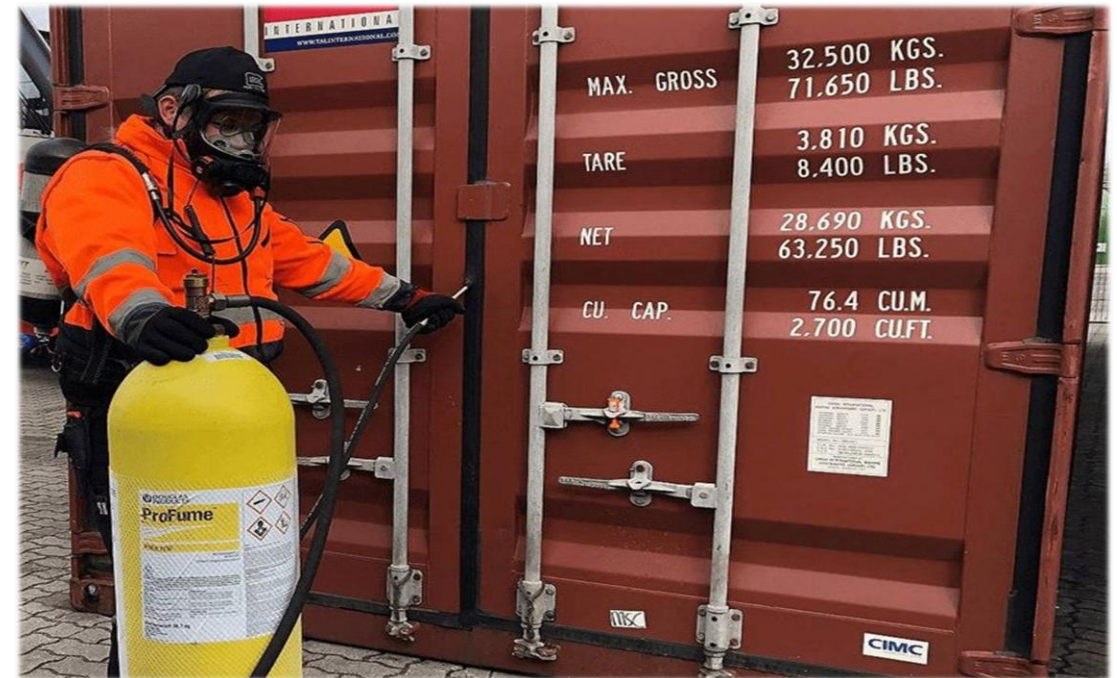
- [*Methyl Bromide Fumigation*](#) is an approved option for BMSB treatment and includes a minimum standard
- Onshore approved providers can be found on the [*list of approved arrangement providers*](#)
- Offshore approved [*AusTreat*](#) providers can be found on the [*list of pre-border biosecurity treatment providers*](#)

Fumigation using Methyl Bromide by an 'approved' provider can be used.

- A dose of 24 g/m³ or above, at 10°C or above, for a minimum of 12 hours (but less than 24 hours), and a minimum end point reading of 12 g/m³ or
- A dose of 24 g/m³ or above, at 10°C or above, for 24 hours or longer, and a minimum end point reading of 8 g/m³

Note:

- All start time concentration readings must be above 24 g/m³.
- Dose increases to compensate for temperatures less than 10°C is NOT permitted.
- Topping up with additional fumigant at the end of treatment is NOT permitted.
- If the concentration of fumigant falls below the minimum end point reading at any point during the treatment, the treatment has failed.



Sulfuryl Fluoride Fumigation

Sulfuryl Fluoride Fumigation is one of the four approved options for BMSB treatment



- [*Sulfuryl Fluoride Fumigation*](#) is an approved option for BMSB treatment and includes a minimum standard
- Onshore approved providers can be found on the [*list of approved arrangement providers*](#)
- Offshore approved [*AusTreat*](#) providers can be found on the [*list of pre-border biosecurity treatment providers*](#)

Fumigation using Sulfuryl Fluoride by an 'approved' provider can be used.

- A dose of 24 g/m³ or above, at 10°C or above, for a minimum of 12 hours (but less than 24 hours), and a minimum end point reading of 12 g/m³ or
- A dose of 24 g/m³ or above, at 10°C or above, for 24 hours or longer, and a minimum end point reading of 8 g/m³

Note:

- All start time concentration readings must be above 24 g/m³.
- Dose increases to compensate for temperatures less than 10°C is NOT permitted.
- Topping up with additional fumigant at the end of treatment is NOT permitted.
- If the concentration of fumigant falls below the minimum end point reading at any point during the treatment, the treatment has failed.

* Sulfuryl Fluoride using third-party system is available in limited instances.

Ethyl Formate Fumigation

Ethyl Formate Fumigation is one of the four approved options for BMSB treatment



- [*Ethyl Formate Fumigation*](#) is an approved option for BMSB treatment – **for offshore treatments only** – and includes a minimum standard
- Offshore approved [*AusTreat*](#) providers can be found on the [*list of pre-border biosecurity treatment providers*](#)

Fumigation using Ethyl Formate by an 'approved' Austreat provider can be used.

- Must be performed at 10°C and above and have a minimum end point reading for ethyl formate of 15 g/m³
- For a formulation of 16.7% ethyl formate with 83.3% carbon dioxide

Minimum initial dose rate for ethyl formate	Minimum initial dose rate for carbon dioxide	Exposure period	Minimum end point reading for carbon dioxide
20 g/m ³	100 g/m ³	4 hours	70 g/m ³
17 g/m ³	85 g/m ³	4 hours 5 minutes	70 g/m ³
16 g/m ³	80 g/m ³	4 hours 15 minutes	70 g/m ³
15 g/m ³	75 g/m ³	4 hours 30 minutes	70 g/m ³

Note:

- Dose increases to compensate for temperatures less than 10°C is NOT permitted.
- Topping up with additional fumigant at the end of treatment is NOT permitted.
- If the concentration of fumigant falls below the minimum end point reading at any point during the treatment, the treatment has failed.

Packing Requirements

There are specific packing requirements that allow treatments to work effectively



- Containers must be packed to allow sufficient free air space for fumigation gasses or heat treatment
- Plastic wrappings must meet the specified perforation requirements to be considered acceptable
- Detailed packing requirements can be found on the [fumigation methodology document](#)

There must be sufficient free air space throughout the container and the goods to allow the fumigant or heat treatment to freely circulate around the target of the fumigation and to permit the positioning of fans and sampling tubes or temperature sensors.

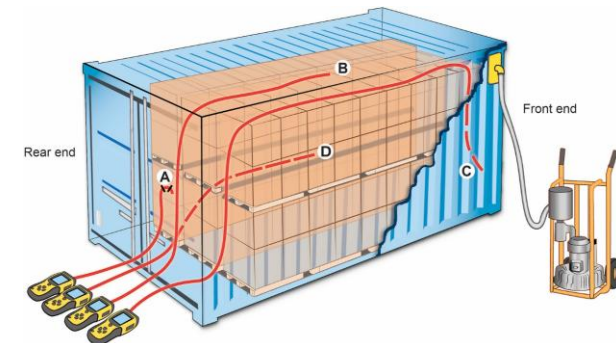
The free air space requirements for effective treatment of a consignment will vary depending on the commodity and the method of packing. As a guide, there should be at least 100mm free air space above the commodity, 100 mm below and 100 mm at the sides and between the commodities, with a maximum load factor of 80%.

Goods must be loaded inside the container with adequate space above, below, at the sides, in between and around the goods, either placed on pallets or raised off the floor, to ensure effective fumigation.

Goods must not be covered by impermeable packaging, wrapping or surface coatings to allow fumigant to penetrate and allow for effective treatment.

Plastic wrapping, if necessary, must be in a single layer and perforated with at least 4 holes of 6 mm diameter or 5 holes of 5 mm diameter for every 100 mm x 100 mm of surface area, or 6 pinholes per 10 mm x 10 mm surface area to be considered pervious and acceptable.

If the target of fumigation is timber, it must have one physical dimension 200mm thick in one direction. It must be stacked and separated by a minimum of 5 mm of airspace every 200 mm. The separation can be horizontal or vertical.



Post Treatment Window

A 120 hour post treatment window applies to goods treated prior to 01 December of the current BMSB season



- The [*post treatment window*](#) requires goods to be sealed or loaded onto a vessel within 120 hours of treatment
- Goods treated in a target risk country prior to 01 December is subject to a 120 hour post treatment window
- Goods that have not met the post treatment window may need to be retreated onshore or directed for export

Compliance Requirement (After Treatment)

Required Measures for Non-Compliance

Containerised goods

- Goods must be loaded into a six hard sided container and sealed within 120 hours.
- A sealing declaration can be provided if required.

- Onshore treatment permitted for target high risk goods in sealed-six hard sided containers.
- If the goods cannot be treated at a container level , or if the importer refused treatment of the goods, the cargo will be directed for export.

Break bulk (including flat racks and open top containers) and modified containers

- Must be loaded onto a vessel for export from the target risk country within 120 hours.
- The shipped on board date, as indicated on the Ocean Bill of Lading, is the date used to determine when goods were loaded on the vessel.

- Will be denied discharge and / or immediately directed for export.
- Exceptions apply under the [BMSB Rolled Goods Policy](#).

Note: The post treatment window does NOT apply to goods treated in a non-target risk country, or to goods treated from 01 December (inclusive) of the current BMSB season

Rolled Goods Policy

The rolled goods policy permits onshore retreatment for eligible goods that have not met the post treatment window



- Breakbulk cargo treated in a target risk country prior to 01 December is subject to a 120 hour post treatment window
- Breakbulk cargo unavoidably rolled/rescheduled by shipping line beyond the 120 hour post treatment window may be eligible for onshore retreatment under the [*Rolled Goods Policy*](#)

Eligibility Criteria for Break Bulk Cargo

- Goods are shipped as breakbulk, or in an open top, or flat rack containers
- Proper treatment was completed before export, prior to 01 December
- Original booking schedule is within the 120 hour post treatment window
- Goods were unavoidably rolled/ rescheduled by the shipping line
- Revised and actual shipped on board date is within 48 hours outside of the 120 hour post treatment window

Note: Onshore retreatment must be performed within 48 hours of vessel arrival

Application

A completed Rolled Goods Application must be submitted to the department prior to goods arriving in Australia. It must include evidence demonstrating the consignment's eligibility and compliance with the policy provisions.

In-transit Policy

The in-transit policy applies when an offshore treatment provider status changes during shipment



- Goods are classified as **in-transit** when they have left the origin country but have not been cleared at the Australian border
- BMSB treatment certificates from under-review or suspended offshore treatment providers are deemed unacceptable under the [*in-transit policy*](#)
- Goods may be eligible for discharge/unloading on arrival and onshore retreatment with an approved in-transit application

Break bulk goods (including open top or flat rack containers) **shipped on or before, or within 120 hours after**, the treatment provider was placed under review or suspended

- May be permitted for discharge/unload on arrival and onshore treatment within 48 hours of arrival, with an approved in-transit application.
- In-transit application must be submitted and accepted by the department prior to goods arrival in Australia.

Break bulk goods (including open top or flat rack containers) **shipped after** the treatment provider was placed under review or suspended

- Not permitted to be discharged/unloaded in Australia.
- If already unloaded, will be immediately contained and directed for export.

Break bulk goods (including open top or flat rack containers) that **arrived or were discharged before or on the date** the treatment provider was placed under review or suspended

- May be permitted for onshore treatment within 48 hours of arrival, with an approved risk management plan.
- Goods may be subject to further inspection.

Goods shipped as containerised cargo in sealed-six hard sided containers and treated by an offshore provider under review or suspended

- Permitted to discharge/unload on arrival under current procedures.
- Must undergo onshore treatment by a department approved provider.
- Deconsolidation or segregation of goods will not be permitted before treatment..
- Goods may be subject to further inspection.

Important Season Updates

2025-2026 BMSB Seasonal Updates



- Republic of Korea and Japan added to the emerging risk countries list
- Target high risk goods shipped via [Air Freight](#) from the US and China will be subject to random inspections
- Ethyl Formate added as a NEW offshore BMSB treatment option
- New policy update for the BMSB in-transit and rolled cargo

If you would like to organise a time to speak with us and discuss these measures in more detail so that we can prepare a BMSB Seasonal Plan and decide on the right strategy that works for you and your suppliers, please contact your dedicated client management team.

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