

TO APPROVED ARRANGEMENT OR NOT TO APPROVED ARRANGEMENT

By ANDREW CHRISTIE, Director, Andrew Christie Consulting

Over the last 6 months, I have been fielding more and more calls from industry inquiring about becoming an Approved Arrangement (AA) for the upcoming Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) season.

Many of my clients believe that the establishment of an AA is the solution to avoiding container detention charges and storage costs, however before any premise enters into such arrangements, it is worth a thorough and balanced look at the benefits and challenges.

In order to do this, it is imperative to understand your primary goal. Are you looking to try and minimise the costs to your clients during the BMSB season? Or are you looking at year-round process to service current and potential clients? These questions are more easily answered for some clients than others, however what is common in all these conversations is the hope to avoid "The headaches I had last year!!"

There are a vast number of arrangements for

which facilities can apply, however for the purposes of managing BMSB consignments the most requested is a 4.6 methyl bromide fumigation arrangement. This allows the facility to take delivery of BMSB containers and treat these containers utilising an accredited fumigator (12.1 approval).

Whilst this may sound straight forward, a 4.6 Approved Arrangement is only one step on the journey to BMSB clearance. Certainly, this approval will allow you to treat BMSB containers, however, what happens when the container requires a follow up inspection to verify the treatment or the goods require biosecurity inspection? The 4.6 arrangement is insufficient in these circumstances, additional arrangements are required and which ones exactly, are dependent on the commodities being imported.

Entering into multiple arrangements requires an intrinsic look at your business. What commodities do you facilitate that require an inspection? Is your business growing? Are

you hoping to attract new clients that need biosecurity inspection? Ensuring that you are applying for the correct arrangements upfront, and with ample time (noting the AA process can take up to 90 days, post lodgement, to complete) will save you time and money in the long run.

As a biosecurity facilitation specialist, I can guide you through your approved arrangement options and processes. It is important to note that there are ramifications for constant additions to your arrangements. Each time you apply for a new category your facility is reaudited which means the audit rate of your facility starts again.

Advice from me to you:

1. Think about your business and match the Approved Arrangements to your business needs.
2. If you are going to fumigate, ensure you can engage an accredited 12.1 fumigator, because if you can't, your approval will be useless.
3. Check with your landlord as you might be restricted from applying for certain arrangements because of your lease agreement.
4. Check with your local council as you may also be restricted by which environmental functions are permitted or not permitted.

Do you need assistance with...

Biosecurity

- Biosecurity import commodity research and analysis
- Illegal logging
- Biosecurity approved third party arrangements
- Biosecurity Approved Premises
- Biosecurity import permits
- Biosecurity compliance
- Biosecurity training and assessment

Piece level Screening

- Designing screening processes using x-ray, metal detector and ETD.
- Investigate and propose the most appropriate equipment.
- Provide start to finish processes for export cargo
- Develop Standard operating procedures
- Provide insight into legislation in relation to piece level screening
- Provide assistance in attaining either off Airport RACA or Accredited Cargo Agent status

If your answer is YES,
we can help

ACC ANDREW CHRISTIE CONSULTING

Phone: 0409 447 987

andrew@andrewchristieconsulting.com.au

andrewchristieconsulting.com.au

