



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Beating the Khapra Beetle

Enhanced measures to protect Australia from khapra beetle incursion have taken effect, with sea containers loaded with high-risk plant products from targeted risk countries now being required to undergo mandatory offshore treatment.

One of the “urgent actions” under the Australian Government’s A\$14.5 million investment in surge capacity to respond to the changing threat from *Trogoderma granarium*, “Phase 6A” requires target risk sea containers to be treated 21 days before export by specified measures.



A target risk container is defined as a Full Container Load/Full Container Consolidated (FCL/FCX) where:

- high-risk plant products are packed into the sea container in a khapra beetle target risk country
- other goods are packed into the sea container in a khapra beetle target risk country and will be unpacked in rural grain growing area of Australia

ISO tanks, reefers, flat racks, LCL /FAK and containers that will be shipped as empty containers are excluded from the measures.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud says Australia needs to remain free of the global pest in order to maintain its access to valuable international markets.

“80% of our grain exports would be at risk if khapra established in Australia or if there was the perception that it had,” says the Minister.

“Dried food exports such as nuts and dried fruit would also be at risk.”

With the khapra beetle able to survive as a hitchhiker in sea containers “for a number of years with little to no food”, the Minister notes that managing the risk was a complex, global problem.

“The Government is working with overseas counterparts, industry and research organisations to identify possible global supply chain solutions.

“In the meantime, urgent actions are being put in place to minimise the risk this pest entering Australia via sea containers.

“Australia has a robust biosecurity system that reduces the risks posed by exotic pests and diseases, as well as established procedures to manage detections when they do occur.”

Late this year, “Phase 6B” of the campaign is due to be implemented, which will introduce measures to a broader range of containers – ie, all high-risk containers.

Further information about these measures, including details on consultation, will be made available on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's [Website](#). Importers are also being encouraged to register to receive [industry advice notices](#).

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