



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

BMSB Treatments

Compliance Partnerships
Compliance and Enforcement



Certificate Portal

Enhancements and upgrades

- The department has introduced changes to the treatment certificate lodgement portal that provides increased assurance for offshore treatment activities conducted by registered treatment providers.
- The enhancements that have been implemented include:
 1. collecting treatment information as structured data
 2. having OTPs upload a record of a treatment with their certificate
 3. flag non-compliant treatments
- The department can better identify inadvertent or deliberate non-compliance of treatment providers through such upgrades, minimising the need for operational input onshore.
- Due to information sharing limitations, we cannot share the information that is used to make compliance decisions outside of the treatment provider who conducted the treatment.

Certificate Portal

Benefits

- Thanks to the upgrades and enhancements to the certificate portal, the department has enhanced its capacity to ensure compliance with pre-border treatments conducted by registered treatment providers under the BMSB scheme.
- The portal changes enable the department to notify offshore treatment providers of alternative arrangements for treated consignments before the arrival of goods.
- The department can intervene and assess the record of treatment for compliance with the department's methodology and other requirements.

Impacts

- Although the department has improved its ability to identify both inadvertent and deliberate non-compliance, we recognise that this can often have significant knock-on effects to the broader industry.

AusTreat

What is AusTreat?

- AusTreat is a new government-to-industry, pre-border biosecurity treatment provider assurance scheme to build a stronger biosecurity system to protect Australia across a range of target pests, treatment types, commodities, and countries.
- AusTreat will build on existing pre-border treatment provider schemes to provide the department with enhanced assurance of the effectiveness of biosecurity treatments applied to manage the risk of hitchhiker pests offshore.
- AusTreat will replace the existing BMSB scheme.
- The department plans to launch AusTreat in June 2024 and treatment providers will be invited to register for the scheme at this time.
- This will ensure that treatment providers are registered before the commencement of the 2024-25 BMSB risk season (1 September 2024).

AusTreat

Why do we want AusTreat?

- The department is looking to make improvements so that we're operating under arrangements that are harmonised across all pathways and pests, and where registered treatment providers are mandated by import conditions.
- Currently, we have several schemes in place to manage pre-border treatment providers.
- The intent of this project is to simplify requirements for industry and pre-border treatment providers. This includes improvements so there is:
 1. one set of requirements
 2. one place to get information
 3. a three-year renewal period

AusTreat

Who does AusTreat affect?

- The commencement of AusTreat will affect stakeholders involved with importing goods that require treatment to address the risk of BMSB during the BMSB risk season. This includes:
 1. treatment providers registered under the BMSB scheme
 2. clients in the import and shipping industries—including freight forwarders, importers and customs brokers
 3. offshore industry bodies
 4. overseas regulatory agencies in BMSB countries
 5. departmental staff

AusTreat

What are the changes?

- AusTreat has been designed to ensure that the department can obtain assurance over a wide range of target pests, treatment types and treatment providers. In this way, the scheme will have the flexibility to respond to changes in risk over time.
- If a new pest emerges as a biosecurity threat to Australia, treatment providers conducting treatments for that pest will be able to register under AusTreat. This eliminates the need to develop new pest-specific schemes following the emergence of new biosecurity pests.
- AusTreat will increase the consistency and coverage of Australia's regulation of pre-border biosecurity treatment providers. These changes will increase the assurance of offshore treatments and in turn, reduce the need to manage biosecurity risk at Australia's border.