

Collection, recording, storage and image quality guide for hitchhiker seasonal pests on vessels

Collection

Vessels must be thoroughly inspected by crew for insects, including all cargo decks and stairwells, vehicles and high and heavy cargo. Look for insects seeking shelter in crevices, or moving towards well-lit areas during periods of darkness. Pay attention to areas close to the cargo holds/decks, as insects emerge from infested vehicles and break bulk items after periods of inactivity.

Recording and storage

- Collect, retain and record the detection of any live or dead insects (specimens) found at any time during the voyage on the crew vessel inspection report or Seasonal Pest questionnaire and note the deck and hold they were found and what type of cargo was involved or nearby.
- Store live and dead specimens in separate bags/containers by deck and hold location. Ensure each bag is clearly labelled.
- Store all bagged specimens in the fridge (NOT the freezer) until arrival in Australia.
- Provide all specimens to an Australian Biosecurity Officer at the first port of arrival in Australia.

Image quality

- To enable prompt assessment and identification of reported insects, we must be able to distinguish colour, shape and patterns on the specimens (e.g. spots, stripes).
- Image tips
- specimens must NOT be piled on top of each other, they must be separated with space between each
- ensure good lighting without shadows and use a light coloured background
- ensure the specimens are in focus and not unnecessarily small in the image
- DO NOT photograph specimens inside a plastic bag.

Ideal image – good lighting, specimens separated to show colour, shape and patterns, sorted by colour



Good image – reasonable lighting, high resolution to allow image to be enlarged



Poor image – specimens too small and piled together, and low resolution

