



e-Newsletter

Information from the Samoa Quarantine Service

February 2007

BEE ALERT

On the 16th January 2007, a 747 United Air flight from Australia to USA had an emergency landing at Faleolo International Airport at about 12 mid night. One container of honeybees was offloaded without the knowledge and authorization by Quarantine staff. Quarantine was alerted by Cargo Officials when the consignment started attracting a swarm of local bees.

Bees in the container seemed secure, but there was still a risk of any pest that could be escaping via bee interaction at the container border screen. The Chief Executive Officer and other personnel were informed immediately, and all reacted responsively as per the emergency response plan for such a situation. The consignment was fumigated within a period of about 2 hours, since the needed facilities had to be transported from Matautu Wharf.

The container was reshipped after 24 hours of fumigation.



A TOAD WAS SEEN

Toads have been heard and seen again in the Faleata area. People have reported hearing the toads cry at night in the Lotopa area, and have seen it on the road in Tuaefu. In both instances, people have attempted catching it but failed. Last year, a person caught a toad at Toonaimato and brought it to the Quarantine main office. It resulted in the entire Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries running an emergency response and combing the suspected areas. The Samoa Quarantine service has gone to lengths to inform the public about the dangers to Samoa's environment if toads were to establish here.



Want more information about Quarantine, or about Plant and Animal Export issues?

Come and see us at our office at the [Quarantine Operations Centre, Matautu-tai](#), telephone [20924/22171](#).
Visit our website www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws