

## Quarantine reinforces Seals on Containers

The Apia wharf is the busiest port of entry into the country. Cruise ships, tankers, yachts and container ships dock nearly everyday. The busiest of all is the container ships carrying goods ranging from personal effects, building materials, food including meat & meat products and fruits and vegetables. These commodities are pathway to many exotic pests & diseases that would be disastrous to the country if not dealt with accordingly. Samoa Quarantine Service retains strict entry at the border in screening cargo manifests to clarify risk items and transferring such items to transitional facilities for further inspection by the quarantine inspectors..

Container transferred to approved depots for de-vanning and inspection have in the past created some problems thus the service has made some improvements in creating new seals for these transferred containers. This avoids disagreement between Quarantine and businesses that import such risk goods.



**Quarantine seal & an inspectors sealing a container to be transferred for inspection**

We would like to remind our clients once again of the procedures that need to be undertaken both by the border officers and individual to ensure that Samoa remains free from exotic pests & diseases

1. Quarantine officers Screen ships manifest to identify risk goods.
2. Importer comes in and is issued a "Conditional transfer Certificate"
3. Quarantine officer at the port's gate seals the container for transfer to depot.
4. It is the importer's responsibility to pick up Quarantine inspectors for inspection.

It is also vital to remember that under Quarantine Biosecurity Act 2005 a person commits an offence if one does not comply with quarantine requirements.