

Environmental Guidance Note – Biosecurity

HSE DOCUMENT

Every time you enter a property you have the potential to spread pests, diseases and weeds. Minimising these risks is a shared responsibility between you and the land manager. As a visitor, you should be aware of the potential biosecurity risks you pose. You need to be proactive and take steps to reduce these risks.

Properties may have an on-farm biosecurity plan and before entering a property you should check with the land manager if they have a biosecurity plan in place and what you need to do to comply with the plan (or any other requirements).

Clean-down procedures will vary depending on the situation. You may be able to adequately brush-down your vehicle and equipment without the need for a wash down.

As a general rule, all Transgrid staff and Delivery Partners should “COME CLEAN - GO CLEAN”. Properties under quarantine or with known pathogens/biosecurity issues, such as Johne’s disease, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), phytophthora, foot and mouth, footrot or noxious weeds may have specific protocols/requirements.

There may be other activities you have undertaken prior to the visit that would increase the biosecurity risk you may pose. Before entering consider:

- What other farms/properties have you visited in the recent past and could there be any risks involved?
- Have you been in contact with any stock/stock areas that you suspect may be under quarantine or at risk in the past 48 hours?
- Have your boots and clothes been washed since you last entered a farm or came in contact with stock?

Mandatory Hygiene and Biosecurity Protocols

Ensure that the correct notification protocols are followed prior to entering a property. Check with the land manager if they have a biosecurity plan in place and/or refer to the owner/property report for the biosecurity risk rating for the property. A documented hygiene check must be undertaken for any high and medium risk property.

Always ensure vehicles and equipment are inspected prior to access/egress to ensure they are free of soil, mud and vegetative matter.

Minimise the number of vehicles and equipment brought onto the property.

Stay clear of any high risk areas on the property, such as driving through thick vegetation, animal manure or muddy areas.

Stay on designated roads and access routes.

Check if there are any further steps or requirements that the property owner would like you to take to ensure nothing is carried onto or off the property. This could be particularly relevant on properties undertaking agriculture operations such as beef/sheep production, piggeries and poultry farms.



Vehicles, plant and equipment must be checked before moving between properties to ensure they are free of soil, mud and vegetative matter. If a 'brush down' is not sufficient to remove undesirable material, a wash down may be required.

Clean down vehicles in accordance with "Come Clean - Go Clean".

"Come Clean – Go Clean"

To ensure you and your vehicles are not carrying any unwanted pests, diseases and weeds. Ensure you "come clean, go clean" by:

- Inspecting vehicles, equipment and clothing to make sure they are free of soil, mud and vegetative matter,
- Where required, thoroughly wash and/or decontaminate before entering or leaving a property.

Wash down or brush down locations must be away from production and other sensitive areas and not drain into waterways or cropping areas. Larger towns often have car-wash facilities that should be used where possible.

If the property has a designated wash down /clean down area see the property owner/manager and arrange for use.

If a constructed or designated wash down area is not located on the property, undertake hygiene procedures at the work site or a suitable location agreed to by the property owner, brush down and disinfect and proceed to a commercial car-wash if required.

Where no specific biosecurity issues are flagged

Inspect all vehicles, equipment and clothing and if required clean off (brush down) as much soil, mud and vegetative matter as possible at the work site or a suitable location on the property using hand tools/brushes.

High pressure washing may not be required; however, vehicles and equipment should be free of soil, mud and vegetative matter before entry to any other property.

Where biosecurity issues have been flagged

Decontamination and wash down on-site or prior to entry is required. The level of wash-down and decontamination will depend on the pathogen/s potentially present or the level of biosecurity/hygiene requirements on a property. A documented hygiene check is required (scan QR code).



Link: sitemate.id/s7ccst

Come clean - go clean - clean-down procedures where biosecurity issues have been flagged

Where specific Biosecurity issues are flagged (e.g. properties with stringent hygiene requirements or properties under quarantine) ensure you follow the Mandatory Hygiene and Biosecurity Protocols and implement the wash down procedures set out below. Do not allow contaminated or dirty vehicles and equipment to enter or leave properties. Come clean, go clean!

Follow this simple step by step guide and help protect properties against unwanted pests, weeds and diseases.

Step 1: Wash down

Park vehicle/equipment on a clean wash down pad making sure the surface is covered cement or gravel (if no designed wash-down is available a temporary geofabric containment can be constructed).

Apply high pressure water to all surfaces to remove debris/mud/soil.



Step 2: Decontamination

Apply suitable decontaminant (Refer to Table 1) liberally to all vehicle surfaces. Especially make sure you apply to all areas that were covered with debris/mud/soil, for example wheel arches, tyre tread and underbody.

Apply decontaminant to mats, tools and footwear. Use a foot bath to decontaminate your boots.

Make sure you clean vehicle foot pedals and other surfaces that have come into contact with dirty footwear.

As a general rule, leave the decontaminant to work for 10 minutes unless directed otherwise by the label.



Step 3: Final rinse

Rinse decontaminant from all surfaces; make sure you get into crevices where some residual mud or debris might be trapped. Rinse from top to bottom. Make sure you wash under wheel arches, in tyre treads, side steps, ute trays and other areas where debris/mud/soil can remain trapped.

Don't leave the wash down pad in a mess! Clean all mud off the pad with high pressure water so it is clean for the next person.

Cleaning of boots

Where there are known risks associated with certain pathogens (e.g *Phytophthora cinnamomi* or viruses), the cleaning of boots and clothing may be a required as part of your hygiene check and wash-down.

Using a boot wash box with a suitable decontaminant (Refer to Table 1) must be undertaken prior to entry.



Clean down for routine operations (no biosecurity issues flagged)

All vehicles in the field should have a kit to remove as much soil/mud/debris as possible and decontaminate the vehicle if necessary. As a minimum you should have:

- Hand tools e.g. shovel
- Dust brush/stiff bristled brush
- Boot wash box
- 2-5L spray bottle + sufficient water
- Suitable decontaminant (or equivalent)

If you are unable to remove sufficient soil/mud/debris on site before leaving and entering another property you should proceed to the nearest wash-down facility and follow Steps 1-3.

Table 1: Recommended decontamination mixtures relevant to Transgrid

*preferred for general biosecurity and inclusion in biosecurity kits.

Decontaminate ingredient	Strength (%) and Mixing ratio	Suitable for	Additional notes**
Methylated spirits*	70% (700mL/L)	Bacteria and Mould (e.g Phytophthora cinnamomi)	Suitable for use in 2-5L spray bottle
Citric Acid	0.2% (2g/L)	Suitable for Class B viruses (e.g FMD)	Comes in powder form that requires required mixing. Suitable for use in 2-5L spray bottle
Acetic Acid (~4%) Household Vinegar	4%	Suitable for Class B viruses (e.g FMD)	Suitable for use in 2-5L spray bottle
Sodium hypochlorite Household Bleach (~42g/L)	1% (1 part bleach to 4 parts water) Refer to label	Suitable for Class A viruses (e.g Equine Influenza)	Suitable for use in 2-5L spray bottle

** Refer to Chemalert for relevant SDS.