Decontamination of vehicles and equipment

1. Application / Scope

- All vehicles and equipment exiting a known or potentially contaminated site are to be decontaminated to prevent the spread of pests, weeds or diseases. Good biosecurity hygiene practises should be routine for any site visit.
- Decontamination of vehicles and equipment remaining on a site may also be required as part of a biosecurity event.
- The method, including type of detergent/disinfectant applied, and level of decontamination required should be based on risk assessment.
- Decontamination should be considered when determining type and number of vehicles or equipment to be deployed. Large or tracked machinery will take more time and resources to complete.
- Prior to tasking/contracting vehicles or equipment it is important the owner/manager is fully informed of the decontamination procedure including substances to be used, is agreeable (may need to be in contract) and process included in quotes.

2. Abbreviations / Definitions

- Equipment – powered or non-powered, including tools and machinery eg excavator, forklift
- SDS – Safety data sheet (must be less than 5 years old)
- Vehicle – includes any bike, car, van, truck, vessel or ATV

3. Resources / Equipment

- Standard PPE issue for personnel entering a site
- Additional PPE – wet weather top and bottom, sturdy gloves, respiratory and eye protection as per SDS. Goggles must be worn to protect eyes.
- Appropriate chemical(s)
- Safety Data Sheet for chemical
- Work area with good drainage and/or liquid waste capture and holding capacity
- Water supply and any equipment to maintain supply
- High pressure cleaner with long hose and lance
- Volume pump, hose and nozzle for spraying disinfectant
- Cleaning equipment for removing gross debris (eg broom, scraper, screwdriver) or dry cleaning (eg vacuum, compressor/blower)
- Tools to remove parts, covers or guards
- Operator or workshop manuals for guidance removing parts and cleaning
- Access to first aid as recommended by SDS
- Wheel chocks
- Working at heights – scaffolding or cherry picker with safety equipment
- Torch
- Lighting towers (if work after dark required)
4. Warnings

- Refer to the following risk assessments and safe working method statements
  - RA – Working around plant and equipment – WHS
  - RA – Maintaining biosecurity entering and exiting properties
  - SWMS – Manual handling – stores
- Refer to Trade and Investment Critical Risk Control and Procedure – Hazardous Chemicals
- Crush – all free moving parts must be secured; if any part of machinery or implement has to be raised during decontamination process, travel pins (where available) must be inserted or supports used – never rely on hydraulics.
- Fatigue – prolonged periods of operating equipment and in PPE can be tiring. Personnel should be given adequate breaks, sustenance and hydration.
- Drivers should minimise the biosecurity risk by remaining in vehicles and keeping vents closed until exiting the site.
- Organic farms – the use of chemicals on such properties is restricted. It is essential that only suitable and approved chemicals are used on these properties. Placement of decontamination areas should consider these restrictions.
- Materials including liquid waste collected/produced during decontamination must be disposed of to maintain biosecurity and minimise environmental impacts.

5. Procedure

5.1. Assessment, planning & set up

- Determine decontamination facilities and activities required by assessing the impact of the following factors: the situation (“normal business” or emergency type and scale), area (geography, topography and use), water supply and the environment.
- Refer to relevant decontamination operations manual for guidelines eg Ausvetplan
- A decontamination plan should include:
  - Decontamination site type – temporary, permanent facility (eg at waste depot), commercial facility (eg truck wash)
  - Level of decontamination required
  - Scale/usage – include consideration to engaging the Engineering Functional Area (design and/or establish)
  - Chemical type(s)
  - Resources including personnel, water supply
  - Topography and layout
  - Environmental impacts and mitigation eg waste disposal
- Once decontamination activities are determined, vehicles and/or equipment should be assessed prior to use, including:
  - open vs enclosed cabins
  - removal of any unnecessary items (internal and external)
  - pervious surfaces covered
  - removal of gross material (Come clean Go clean)
  - replacement of items with disposable versions
  - spare air filters

5.2. Preparation

- Position vehicle/equipment safely and ensure stability eg chock wheels, brake applied
- Remove excessive gross material – ideally done away from decontamination area and where material can be left or collected for disposal. Use dry cleaning methods before wet where possible.
- Detach removable items/parts and decontaminate individually

5.3. Decontamination – external surfaces

- Start at top and work down
- Vehicles or equipment with moving parts eg wheels, tracks, tipper tray, dingo bucket etc will need to have these moved during decontamination to access all areas
- Wet – Apply disinfectant/detergent and leave for appropriate contact time, usually 10
minutes. Rinse with clean water
- Other techniques eg heat, fumigation for tools, equipment and other things - ensure exposure requirements are met as required by disease/pest guidelines

5.4. Decontamination – internal
- Internal surfaces of vehicles will only require decontamination if they have been exposed to potential contamination whilst on site
- Protective covers on internal surfaces eg seat covers should be removed and disposed/cleaned
- Remove solid materials with a vacuum, cloth or brush
- Air filters should be removed and replaced or cleaned. A skilled technician may be required.
- Surfaces can be wiped or sprayed with 70% alcohol or another appropriate disinfectant.
- If heat is an effective decontaminate, seal internal compartments and monitor that they have reached the required temperature and duration.

5.5. Records
- Record chemical use and update inventory
- Vehicles and equipment exiting sites will be inspected and signed out in the gate log
- Appendix 1 can be used as a guide to ensure all contamination points are checked

6. References

Procedures
- Personal decontamination kit and use for property visits
- Trade & Investment Critical Risk Control and Procedure – Hazardous Chemicals (intranet)
- Aquatic fieldwork hygiene – standard procedure (intranet)
- Decontamination of large equipment (NASOP)

Risk assessments
- Working around plant and equipment - WHS
- Maintaining biosecurity entering and exiting properties

Safe Work method statements
- Manual handling - stores

Forms and templates
- Gate log

Information
- AUSVETPLAN – Decontamination operations manual
- AQUAVETPLAN – Operational procedures manual - Decontamination
- PlantPlan – Disinfection and decontamination guidelines
- Farm Biosecurity – People, vehicles & equipment - videos
- Primefact 1119 – Come clean Go clean – a step by step guide to vehicle wash down
- Primefact 1290 – Make ‘clean’ part of your routine

7. Revision History

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<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 Feb 15</td>
<td>Merged procedures ‘Decontamination of large equipment’ and ‘Decontamination of vehicles’; added checklist for decontamination</td>
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Contact Officer: Operations Manager
Appendix 1: Vehicle and machinery decontamination checklist

**Instructions:** Checklist can be used as a guide or completed as evidence of decontamination.

- **Site:**
- **Vehicle/Equipment:**
- **Date:**
- **Decon team:**

**SAFETY** – □ Flat ground □ Engine off & keys removed □ Wheels chocked □ Moving/raised parts secured

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<td>Battery recess &amp; tray</td>
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