

Biosecurity Policy

SAMPLE

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Purpose

This Biosecurity Policy establishes the framework for managing biosecurity risks associated with [Company Name] operations. It sets out how [Company Name] will prevent, detect and respond to biosecurity threats such as pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants that may affect:

- Workers, contractors and visitors
- Livestock, crops, turf and vegetation
- Soil, water and surrounding environments
- Neighbouring properties and the broader community

This policy supports [Company Name]'s obligations under work health and safety (WHS) legislation and relevant biosecurity laws. It applies to all farming, agricultural and landscaping activities undertaken by [Company Name], including work on client sites, depots, yards, sheds, nurseries and all temporary work locations.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All workers, including employees, labour hire, apprentices, trainees and volunteers
- All contractors, subcontractors and their workers
- Visitors, clients and suppliers attending [Company Name] sites or project locations
- All plant, equipment, tools, vehicles and machinery used for farming, agriculture and landscaping activities
- All materials handled, including soil, mulch, turf, plants, seeds, fertilisers, chemicals, organic waste and animal products

The policy covers:

- Identification and management of biosecurity risks
- Movement of people, vehicles, machinery, tools, animals and materials
- Cleaning, disinfection and waste management
- Incident reporting and emergency response to biosecurity events
- Training, supervision and consultation on biosecurity matters

Definitions

Key terms

- **Biosecurity** – Measures taken to protect people, animals, plants and the environment from pests, diseases, weeds and other biological threats.

- **Biosecurity risk** – The likelihood and consequence of pests, diseases, weeds or contaminants being introduced, established or spread as a result of [Company Name] activities.
- **Pest** – Any organism (insect, animal, bird, rodent, etc.) that can cause harm to crops, livestock, turf, plants, stored products, infrastructure or human health.
- **Disease** – Any infectious or contagious condition affecting plants, animals or humans that may be spread through [Company Name] operations.
- **Weed** – Any plant that is invasive, undesirable or declared under relevant legislation.
- **Contaminant** – Any substance or material (e.g. soil, seeds, manure, plant material, organic waste, chemicals) that can carry or spread pests, diseases or weeds.
- **Designated biosecurity area** – A clearly identified area (e.g. wash-down bay, quarantine zone, plant holding area) where specific biosecurity controls apply.
- **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)** – Clothing and equipment worn by workers to reduce exposure to biosecurity hazards (e.g. gloves, coveralls, boots, respirators)

Legislative Framework

[Company Name] will manage biosecurity risks in line with, but not limited to, the following legislation, codes and standards (as applicable in the relevant State or Territory):

- Work Health and Safety Act and Regulations
- Biosecurity Act and associated regulations or local biosecurity laws
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals legislation
- Environmental protection and waste management legislation
- Relevant Australian Standards and Codes of Practice
- Industry guidelines for farming, agriculture and landscaping

Where there is any inconsistency, the higher standard of protection will apply.

Roles and Responsibilities

Officers (e.g. company directors, senior managers)

Officers must exercise due diligence to ensure [Company Name] complies with its WHS and biosecurity duties by:

- Ensuring appropriate resources and processes are in place to manage biosecurity risks
- Approving and reviewing this Biosecurity Policy and supporting procedures
- Ensuring biosecurity risks are included in WHS risk management processes

- Monitoring and verifying that biosecurity controls are implemented and effective

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors are responsible for implementing this policy at all worksites by:

- Identifying and assessing biosecurity risks associated with specific jobs and locations
- Ensuring biosecurity controls are included in Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and work instructions
- Providing workers and contractors with information, training and supervision on biosecurity procedures
- Enforcing compliance with biosecurity controls, including wash-down, quarantine and access restrictions
- Ensuring biosecurity incidents are reported, investigated and corrective actions are implemented

Workers

All workers must:

- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by biosecurity risks
- Follow all biosecurity procedures, instructions and signage
- Use designated wash-down facilities, PPE and cleaning equipment as instructed
- Report any suspected pests, diseases, unusual plant or animal symptoms, or biosecurity breaches immediately
- Participate in training and consultation on biosecurity matters

Contractors and Subcontractors

Contractors and subcontractors must:

- Comply with this Biosecurity Policy and any site-specific biosecurity requirements
- Provide evidence of biosecurity controls for their plant, equipment and materials (e.g. cleaning records)
- Ensure their workers are trained and supervised in relevant biosecurity procedures
- Cooperate with [Company Name] in managing biosecurity incidents and implementing corrective actions

Visitors and Clients

Visitors and clients must: