

Biosecurity

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8th April 2011

What is Bio-security?


“**Bio-security**” can be described as:

1. the protection of the economy, environment, and people’s health from the risks posed by unwanted exotic pests and diseases entering the country; and
2. the control of endemic pests and diseases within the country.

EA and Farm Visits



⇒ Work Instructions:

- ⇒ Preventing the spread of animal diseases when visiting sites
- ⇒ Field & Monitoring Work
- ⇒ Visiting livestock premises
- ⇒ Visiting intensive pig & poultry farms
- ⇒ Fish farms and fisheries
- ⇒ Disinfection procedures

 Environment Agency
Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd

Biosecurity - preventing the spread of animal disease when visiting sites

Operational instruction 88_04 Issued 19/01/2011

What's this document about?	Outlines the biosecurity measures we must implement to reduce the risk of spreading animal diseases. It covers the requirements that are needed at all times and those that are specifically needed during the breakout of a notifiable, exotic animal disease.	 Document details																		
Who does this apply to?	Environment Agency staff and contractors who visit or access agricultural land, related agricultural premises and fisheries and fish farms. In addition, office managers need to be aware of requirements during disease outbreaks.	 Related documents																		
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Contact for queries
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What are we concerned about?

- ➔ Livestock Diseases
- ➔ Fish Diseases
- ➔ Crayfish plague
- ➔ Amphibian Diseases
- ➔ Invasive Non-Native Species

Livestock Diseases

- ⇒ Disease may not always be apparent, especially in its early stages
- ⇒ Be clean, particularly if handling animals or moving between different premises
- ⇒ A good biosecurity routine is always essential – not just when there is a exotic disease outbreak, it helps to protect against endemic diseases too.
- ⇒ It is the responsibility of everyone coming into contact with livestock, or the environment in which they live, to play their part in helping to avoid the devastating effects of animal disease

Fish:

⇒ Notifiable Diseases

- ⇒ Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

⇒ Rivers

- ⇒ Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)
- ⇒ Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)
- ⇒ Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)
- ⇒ Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA)
- ⇒ Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN)
- ⇒ Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS)
- ⇒ Gyrodactylus salaris (GS)

⇒ Stillwaters

- ⇒ SVC and KHV



Crayfish

- ⇒ Porcelain Disease /
Thelohianiasis
(*Thelohania contejeani*)
- ⇒ Crayfish plague
(*Aphanomyces astaci*)
- ⇒ Non-native Crayfish

Amphibians

- ➔ A fungus called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (often abbreviated to “Bd”), which is part of the chytrid group of fungi
- ➔ *Ranavirus* kills common frogs (*Rana temporaria*). Populations have dropped 81 percent in the last 12 years. The disease causes infected frogs to bleed to death through haemorrhaging organs and skin ulcerations. (*Animal Conservation*, Oct 2010)

ARG-UK Advice Note 4

Amphibian disease precautions: a guide for UK fieldworkers

Version 1: February 2008

Invasive Species



What we do:

- ⇒ Plan route / surveys
- ⇒ Talk to the landowner
- ⇒ Park away from farm
- ⇒ Have clean equipment & PPE

- ⇒ Use on-site washing area
- ⇒ Stay away from livestock
- ⇒ Clean equipment before leaving

- ⇒ Virkon S
- ⇒ Spray bottle/pumps
- ⇒ Bath/container
- ⇒ Check & Dry equipment
- ⇒ Keep records



Practical Rules for Farm Visits

1. Pre-arrange visit(s) and prepare a Risk Assessment (& let them know if you keep farm animals)
2. Follow any requests and respect any site notices
3. Have visibly clean vehicles and equipment
4. Park away from farm buildings & equipment
5. Use on-site cleaning facilities before working
6. Avoid **DIRECT CONTACT** with animals
7. If clothes become contaminated – launder before visiting another premises
8. Clean equipment (Check, Clean & Dry) before next survey using an approved disinfectant (e.g. Virkon)
9. Record your biosecurity measures

Rules for Farm Visits (During an Outbreak)

- ➔ Is there a legal biosecurity requirement, such as “An **Outbreak of an Exotic Notifiable Disease**” or “**Specific Restriction**”?
- ➔ As before and. . .
- ➔ Follow requirements of Animal Health Service
- ➔ Thoroughly clean everything
- ➔ Disinfect before entering and leaving premises
- ➔ Leave vehicle on public highway
- ➔ Put mobile phone in a sealed bag

More Information:

The screenshot shows the NNSS website interface. At the top, there are logos for defra, The Scottish Government, and the Welsh Assembly Government. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, What are we doing to help?, News & events, Non-native Species Information Portal, Toolbox: Risk & action: GB projects plans, Local action & country pages, Legislation & guidance, and Publications & useful links. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, there are several menu items, including 'Recording Invasive Species Counts' which is highlighted. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'In this section' and contains a 'Biosecurity' link, a sub-link for 'Dikrogammarus villosus', and a 'Quick links' section with icons for 'Non-native species information portal', 'Gallery', 'ID sheets', 'Action plans', and 'Risk analysis'. The right column is titled 'Biosecurity' and contains a definition: 'Biosecurity means taking steps to make sure that good hygiene practices are in place to reduce and minimise the risk of spreading invasive non-native species. A good biosecurity routine is always essential, even if invasive non-native species are not always apparent.' Below this is a paragraph stating 'Biosecurity should be considered at the earliest stage when planning any field work, from surveying an area to removing non-native species. Some biosecurity measures can be as simple and as quick as making sure footwear is clean.' This is followed by a sub-heading 'Basic Biosecurity Advice for biological surveyors in the field:' and a list of five numbered steps. To the right of the text is a photograph showing a person's hands using a brush to clean a black rubber boot tread in a tray of straw. The bottom of the screenshot shows the Windows taskbar with the system clock displaying 13:10 on 24/02/2011.

Non-native species information portal

Biosecurity

Biosecurity means taking steps to make sure that good hygiene practices are in place to reduce and minimise the risk of spreading invasive non-native species. A good biosecurity routine is always essential, even if invasive non-native species are not always apparent.

Biosecurity should be considered at the earliest stage when planning any field work, from surveying an area to removing non-native species. Some biosecurity measures can be as simple and as quick as making sure footwear is clean.

Basic Biosecurity Advice for biological surveyors in the field:

1. Arrive at the site with clean footwear and vehicle
2. Ensure footwear is clean (visually from soil and debris) before leaving the site
3. Ensure vehicle is kept clean - in particular remove any accumulated mud before leaving the site
4. Make use of facilities provided on the site to clean footwear/equipment
5. Keep access to a minimum. If practical do not take vehicles onto premises, keep to established tracks and park vehicles on hard standing. Possible avoid areas of livestock and areas with known plant

Check – Clean - Dry



CHECK

Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN

Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY

Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions.

Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk and search for **Check Clean Dry**

Summary

➔ If your biosecurity protocols aim to prevent the transfer of viruses and diseases, then you can be happy knowing that your not spreading anything else.

➔ Check – Clean – Dry

Thank you.

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