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Final approach series

Aircraft disinsection

Aircraft disinsection is the treatment of international aircraft arriving in Australian territory to prevent the entry of exotic mosquitoes. It is a mandatory requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act), aligned with World Health Organisation (WHO) international standards.

When disinsection is required

Disinsection must be completed for all international aircraft before arrival, or on arrival, into the Australian territory. Treatment must be in accordance with the requirements as set down in *The Schedule of Aircraft Disinsection Procedures for Flights into Australia and New Zealand v5.3* (the Schedule).

Importance of disinsection

- Protects Australia's public health by preventing the introduction of exotic mosquitoes and the spread of vector-borne diseases (e.g. dengue fever, Zika virus and chikungunya).
- Ensures Australia's compliance with international obligations and standards as a signatory to the WHO
- Maintains trade and travel confidence.

Table 1 Approved disinsection methods and their validity

Method	When it's done	Validity
Residual	No passengers onboard; entire aircraft treated	Up to 8 weeks
Pre-embarkation	Before passenger boarding; after catering loaded	Single flight sector
Pre-departure	After passenger boarding; before take-off	Single flight sector
On-arrival	After landing; before disembarkation or cargo unload	Supervised by biosecurity officers

For information on insecticide application methods and equipment, physical requirements of aerosol and residual sprays, and revised calculation tables for aerosol spray amounts required for each aircraft type, you should refer to the *WHO aircraft disinsection methods and procedures, 2nd edition*.

Exceptions to aircraft disinsection requirements

An incoming aircraft may be exempt from disinsection requirements in 2 situations:

- excepted under the *Biosecurity (Movements between Parts of Australian Territory) Declaration 2016* (items 7–11), or

- a Human Biosecurity Officer (HBO) from the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing assess the aircraft on arrival and the operator is officially notified of the exemption.

More information

Learn more about

- [Aircraft Disinsection](#)
- [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) aircraft disinsection methods and procedures, 2nd Edition](#)
- [Schedule of Aircraft Disinsection Procedures for Flights into Australia and New Zealand](#)

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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