



Notice to Industry 2

Personnel biosecurity requirements - imported horses

Outcome

To inform all personnel of their biosecurity requirements and obligations when they are involved with air transport, airport operations, clearance, road transport, or post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) of imported horses from countries other than New Zealand and New Caledonia.

Who does this notice apply to?

Grooms, veterinarians, corral cleaners, horse transport vehicle drivers, air crew members, aircraft ground staff (scissor lift operators, ramp drivers, on board cargo handlers), aircraft cleaners, biosecurity officers, Australian Border Force officers, emergency services personnel and all other personnel involved in aircraft, corral and transport operations associated with importing horses.

Legislative Framework

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act), imported horses are subject to biosecurity control and require an isolation order. Isolation provisions include restricted access to the controlled area around the aircraft and horses. Under the isolation notice, strict decontamination requirements apply to those admitted to a controlled area or that come into contact with horses, horse air-stalls, the aircraft hold, or biosecurity risk material (BRM).

Note: BRM includes horse feed, horse bedding, manure and any plant material attached to horse equipment. Under Section 558 (2) of the Act, a biosecurity officer must inform you how, where and when your decontamination will take place.

General Requirements

Permission to enter the controlled area is subject to the following conditions:

- The airline must appoint a co-ordinator to assist the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), in managing the clearance of horses.
- All personnel must work cooperatively and comply with biosecurity officer directions.
- Appropriate personnel/contractors must be available for cleaning the aircraft and/or corral.
- The following table outlines what equipment is required for the airport clearance of imported horses and who must supply it:

Equipment	Responsibility for supply
Disposable clothing	DAFF
Showers, soap, towels	As arranged between DAFF and importers
Disinfectants e.g. Virkon, alcohol based hand gel/wipes	DAFF
Water glass solution	Waste contractor
Change of clothes	Employee/employee's company

Category A personnel

This includes:

- non department personnel that are:
 - in the controlled area (animal unloading area or the corral) **AND**
 - in contact with the horse/s, horse air-stalls or biosecurity risk material (BRM) (for example: grooms, private veterinarians, horse transport vehicle drivers, corral cleaners)
- department personnel that are
 - in the controlled area (animal unloading area or the corral) **AND**
 - in contact with the horses, horse air-stalls, BRM (for example: department personnel involved in closing and sealing of horse transport vehicles or applying biosecurity tape to air-stalls)
- all personnel in the aircraft hold that are
 - in contact with horses **AND/OR** the inside of horse air stalls (for example: grooms, veterinarians).
- all personnel inside a post-arrival quarantine facility

Category A personnel must:

- bring a clean set of clothing (including underwear and socks), to change into after showering out of the controlled area (corral) or PAQ facility.
- wear dedicated clothing (for example: material or disposable overalls) in the controlled area or PAQ facility.
- before leaving the controlled area or PAQ facility:
 1. surrender all clothing (including underwear and socks) for laundering, **AND**
 2. undertake a complete head to toe, minimum 3 minute shower (including washing hair and cleaning under fingernails)*, **AND**
 3. change into clean clothing and footwear.

For personnel at the corral:

- footwear must be checked for BRM and undergo mandatory disinfection under supervision of a biosecurity officer.

For personnel at a PAQ facility:

- footwear must remain inside the PAQ facility until horses are released from biosecurity control

For horse transport vehicle drivers:

- disposable overalls must be worn over department-issued overalls while in the corral or unloading area
- immediately prior to leaving the animal unloading area or corral:
 1. remove disposable overalls, **AND**
 2. decontaminate hands with alcohol gel, **AND**
 3. footwear must be checked for BRM and disinfected under supervision of a biosecurity officer.

Notes:

- Grooms who have travelled with imported horses must clearly label all personal luggage. Personal luggage must be presented for inspection (and treatment if necessary) on arrival at:
 - the corral (for horses and grooms going to MQF), **OR**
 - the PAQ facility (for grooms travelling with horses from the airport to AA sites).
- Grooms travelling to a PAQ facility must travel in the horse transport vehicle in the groom compartment (not the driver's cabin).

*Category A personnel travelling with the horses to a PAQ facility (including horse transport vehicle drivers) undertake biosecurity decontamination requirements at the PAQ facility.

Category B personnel

This includes:

- department personnel that are in the animal unloading area or in the corral **BUT NOT** in contact with the horses, horse air-stalls, or BRM (for example: for supervisory purposes).
- tug drivers in the animal unloading area or corral who are **NOT** fully supervised by biosecurity officers
- personnel in the aircraft hold who may be in contact with BRM **BUT NOT** in direct contact with horses or the inside of horse air-stalls (for example: cleaners, aircraft hold officer)
- authorised **BUT NOT** supervised personnel who have access to the aircraft hold or corral **OR** may have had accidental access to these areas (for example: personnel performing duties in the vicinity of horses and BRM who are not directly supervised by a biosecurity officer).

Category B personnel must:

- wear dedicated clothing (e.g. material or disposable overalls) while working in the controlled area (i.e. animal unloading area, corral, aircraft hold).
- remove and leave dedicated clothing, and sanitise hands with alcohol based disinfectant gel/wipes before leaving the controlled area.
- scrub footwear to remove dirt and disinfect the footwear (including the sole and toe) when leaving the controlled area.

Note: Personnel may be directed to decontaminate as per Category A if needed (e.g clothing is contaminated by BRM). Category B decontamination must still be followed before proceeding to the corral.

Category C personnel

This includes:

- department staff in the area surrounding the animal unloading area or corral.
- scissor lift operators, ramp drivers, on board cargo handlers who only touch the outside of the horse air-stalls.
- Australian Border Force officers, biosecurity officers granting pratique, flight crew, MDL operator and main panel operators.
- tug drivers in the controlled area but remaining on the tug, supervised by department staff and not contacting any part of the controlled area.
- lower deck loader operators, lower deck drivers and refuelling officers.
- all other personnel with duties outside the vicinity of horses and are not in contact with BRM and are supervised by a biosecurity officer.

Category C personnel must:

- keep away from horses and keep hands outside of the horse air-stalls
- advise a biosecurity officer if:
 - they have contact with the horses or inside horse air-stalls, OR
 - they contact BRM, OR
 - they expect to have contact with horses within the next 12 hours.

Note: Category C personnel that have been exposed (or are suspected of being exposed) to a horse, the inside of a horse air-stall, or BRM, may be reclassified to Category A or B (as appropriate) and will be required to undergo decontamination as per that category.

Cargo biosecurity requirements

Where a department officer directs cargo on board to be treated or decontaminated, the person(s) responsible for the aircraft must comply with that direction. For cargo transiting to another Australian first point of entry, treatment may be completed at that arrival port, or when unloaded at the final Australian destination, if required.

Aircraft biosecurity requirements

Where a department officer directs that treatment of the aircraft occur, the person(s) responsible for the aircraft must comply with the direction.

Non-compliance with these conditions

Failure to comply with the above conditions may constitute an offence under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.