



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Sea Container hygiene System

Assessment and management policy

Biosecurity Operations Division – August 2023



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Cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: DAFF 2023, *Sea Container Hygiene System Assessment and Management Policy*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

This publication is available at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/before/prepare/sea-container-hygiene-system.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the governance arrangements, administration, roles and responsibilities and actions applicable to the management of containers under the Sea Container Hygiene System (SCHS).

2 Overview

The SCHS supports voluntary arrangements between the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) and industry entities undertaking offshore management of specified biosecurity risks associated with sea containers. The SCHS provides a higher level of confidence that containers shipped from recognised facilities and load ports, arrive in Australia free from biosecurity risk concerns. This provides opportunity for reduced intervention by the department on arrival, and effective risk screening that assists in determining the allocation of inspection resources while managing biosecurity risk.

The SCHS Assessment and Management Policy (the SCHS policy) may be applied to containers at or departing from a load port under a recognised SCHS and arriving at all Australian discharge ports.

The SCHS policy specifies the methods for determining the appropriate on-arrival inspection rate, roles and responsibilities of participating parties and the use of biosecurity risk analysis in applying appropriate actions relating to the SCHS. The SCHS policy cannot and is not intended to limit the exercise of powers or the performance of duties or functions under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#).

Arrangements under the SCHS may be reviewed at the department's discretion and will be subject to risk reviews as determined by the department. As such SCHS arrangements may require additional measures to be implemented to incorporate management strategies that address emerging pests.

3 System Objectives

Australia's biosecurity system aims to protect Australia against pests and diseases likely to harm our country's natural environment, agricultural systems, and economy. A strong biosecurity system is critical to safeguard our international reputation for high-quality produce which helps to maintain and expand overseas markets, and our response to emerging threats.

Biosecurity is a critical part of the government's efforts to prevent, respond to and recover from pests and diseases that threaten the economy and environment. The department works to ensure continued market access for our products and to maintain our high standards for emergency response.

Biosecurity has played a critical role in reducing risk and shaping our nation to become one of the few countries in the world to remain free from the world's most severe pests and diseases. Australia works across the whole biosecurity continuum with offshore, at the border and onshore measures which focus on assessing and managing potential biosecurity threats.

From a biosecurity perspective, the SCHS provides an increased level of confidence in the integrity of biosecurity controls at the border and encourages industry to identify and manage biosecurity risks associated with the movement of sea containers. The SCHS provides opportunities for entities to reduce biosecurity risks and associated risk management costs by implementing quality assurance procedures that can significantly reduce the risk of biosecurity contamination on containers.

4 System Intervention Methodology

The SCHS is premised on the view that effective offshore biosecurity risk management of containers and appropriate maintenance of hygiene standards during transportation will reduce biosecurity risk and negate the need for additional onshore biosecurity risk management on arrival in Australia.

Under the SCHS, containers will be risk managed (cleaned, treated and inspected) externally (and internally if empty) at a designated offshore SCHS load port or facility as detailed in a department recognised Quality Manual (QM) or Code of Practice (COP), minimising the need for additional cleaning or further treatment on arrival in Australia.

SCHS facilities may also be required to implement additional container treatments to address risks of seasonal and emerging pests associated with both the container and goods.

The SCHS is a performance-based scheme, meaning that the extent of onshore inspections will be determined by the department based on the ongoing assessment of biosecurity risk of containers arriving into Australia. Performance is monitored by inspection results and assessment of biosecurity risk against QM and COP practices in the form of independent audits provided by the SCHS entity or as otherwise determined by the department.

4.1 Contamination Thresholds

The department has established tolerance thresholds for instances of contamination based around specific pests and general contamination associated with sea containers managed through the SCHS. The applicable thresholds, relating to biosecurity risk, are as follows:

- 5 % or greater of 'general' contaminants detected on SCHS containers by SCHS port of loading or facilities
- 0.50 % or greater of actionable ants detected on SCHS containers by SCHS port of loading or facilities
- 0.02 % or greater of Giant African Snail (GAS) detected on SCHS containers by SCHS port of loading or facilities

SCHS entities should manage hygiene practices and instances of contamination to be within these tolerances.

Where SCHS facilities undertake treatments for management of seasonal or emerging pests, contamination detections that are associated with either the goods or internal of full containers will NOT count against the SCHS facility.

4.2 Quarterly Intervention Assessment

The SCHS is a performance-based scheme and the extent of onshore inspections will be determined by the department based on the biosecurity hygiene of containers arriving into Australia.

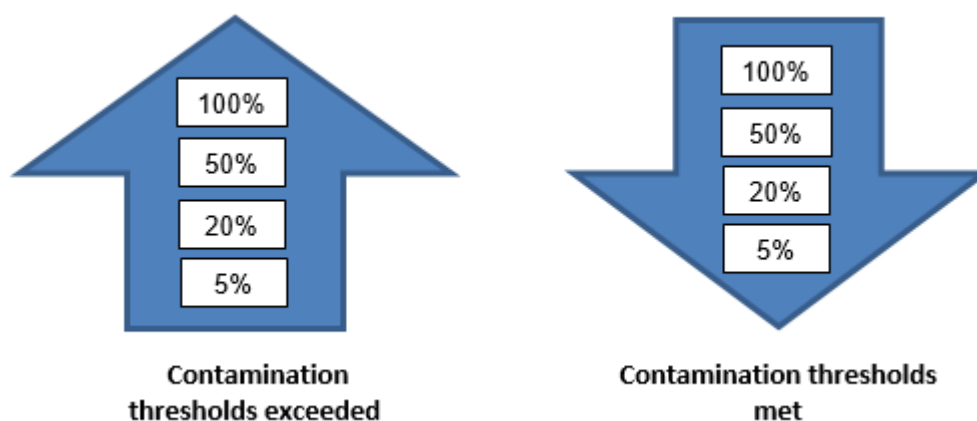
The intervention or inspection rate of containers on arrival is dependent on the historical contamination levels and performance against the contamination thresholds set by the department.

Quarterly on arrival inspection rates are determined by the department based on continuous review of cumulative inspection data, assessment of biosecurity risk, and applying corresponding intervention rates in the event of a threshold breach.

If contamination thresholds over a quarterly period are exceeded for any of the biosecurity categories, the on-arrival inspection rate for the SCHS load port will increase to the next highest increment for the following quarter. Where a significant biosecurity risk with the thresholds is apparent or where biosecurity risk factors are determined to have changed; the department may apply an assurance period (see Section 5.3) or a greater ongoing inspection rate at its discretion.

If the contamination thresholds are not exceeded for a designated quarterly period, the on-arrival inspection rate for the SCHS load port will decrease to the next lowest increment for the following quarter.

These intervention rates are adjusted on a quarterly basis to reflect the ongoing level of assessed biosecurity risk against the contamination thresholds.



Where an entity operates on behalf of multiple shipping lines, the department may randomly select containers for inspection from each shipping line.

Where an entity undertakes additional departmental approved treatments to address specific pests (e.g. Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Khapra beetle), non-compliance for these treatments will be managed separately under that specific scheme and not be counted under the SCHS compliance model.

New SCHS facilities should initially demonstrate management of biosecurity risk against the contamination thresholds for a full quarter to be considered for reduced intervention rates which will be applied incrementally as per above. Refer to [Appendix 3: Quarterly Review Process](#).

Inactivity of SCHS Facility

If an SCHS facility has reached the 5% intervention rate, and there have been nil SCHS containers (full or empty) received into Australia for a consecutive six-month period, the inspection rate will be increased to 20% the following quarter. This will provide the department with confidence that the facility is continuing to manage contamination risks as outlined in the SCHS requirements.

4.3 Reactive intervention in event of specific pest interceptions

In addition to quarterly biosecurity risk assessment, inspection or intervention rates may be varied in the event of specific pest interceptions. Detections of GAS, actionable snails, actionable ants or other pests as advised by a department entomologist, will result in standard inspection rates being applied to containers.

GAS, actionable snails, actionable ants or other pests: On interception of GAS, actionable snails, actionable ants or other specific pests, all remaining voyage containers yet to leave the discharge port from the identified SCHS facility will be subject to 100 per cent inspection at all remaining Australian discharge ports. In the event of an actionable ant interception, all in contact cargo will also be directed for inspection. On completion of the voyage, the interception level will revert back to the level prior to the pest interception, for actionable snails and other pests only.

Seasonal or emerging pests that are managed under an identified treatment scheme will not result in further intervention unless the pest detection can be directly linked to SCHS container hygiene non-compliance.

GAS and actionable ants: Interceptions of GAS or actionable ants on a voyage will further result in an immediate increase in the intervention rate for the identified affected SCHS load port of the contaminated container, to the heightened level of 100 per cent for the minimum period of 30 days (an assurance period).

If no further interceptions of GAS or actionable ants are detected during the assurance period, (with an adequate sample size inspected as determined by the department) the port or facility intervention will be adjusted to the next highest increment to that it was operating at prior to the pest interception (Refer to example below). Should further interceptions occur during the assurance period, the load port will remain at 100 per cent for the remainder of the quarter.

Example: Intervention level adjustments for a load port with an interception of GAS or Actionable ants:

- Pre heightened intervention level: 5%
- Heightened intervention (**assurance**) period (30 days): 100%
- Post heightened intervention level: 20%

Note: On successful completion of the assurance period, if the previous operating rate was 50 per cent, it would **NOT** increase to 100 per cent but would **remain unchanged** at 50 per cent. However, any instances of contamination will then be considered in the quarterly assessment against the contamination thresholds.

The department will apply increased inspection rates at its discretion to assess and manage biosecurity risk. Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

- new or emerging seasonal or other biosecurity threats identified as posing an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk, compromising the integrity of the system.
- non-reported changes to the recognised offshore operational processes and procedures (as documented in the entity's Code of Practice and Quality Assurance Manual).

Refer to [Appendix 2: GAS, Actionable Snail and Actionable Ant detection](#)

5 Reporting Requirements

SCHS Entities should provide SCHS voyage notification for containers that have been processed under a SCHS a minimum of 24 hours prior to vessel arrival at first point of entry in Australia. This allows the department time to apply the correct intervention rate for each vessel voyage and distribute inspection lists to the relevant ports. Failure to submit a SCHS notification form for a voyage will result in all containers for that voyage being inspected at standard intervention rates.

The SCHS Voyage Notification template will be provided when the facility is recognised. The template outlines the minimum information to be submitted to the department Container National Coordination Centre. If required, a new template can be requested by emailing container.ncc@aff.gov.au.

To meet the prescribed reporting timeframes of [Biosecurity Regulations](#), the principal shipping agent for the vessel must also report discharge details for all containers and breakbulk cargo in the Department of Home Affairs Australian Border Force (ABF) [Integrated Cargo System \(ICS\)](#).

This information must be lodged no later than 48 hours before the vessel is estimated to arrive at its first port in Australian territory; or if the voyage is shorter than 48 hours, 12 hours before the vessel is estimated to arrive at its first port in Australian territory. Inaccurate, late or incorrect SCHS notification may result in the department taking action considering, but not limited to, [Appendix 1: Actions for managing non-conformity with SCHS notification requirements](#).

Importers and brokers are responsible for reporting the SCHS AQIS Entity Identifier (AEI) associated with any seasonal or emerging pest treatment certifications.

6 Reporting of inspection results

Inspection results data, compiled by the department, is used to generate reports which aim to assist, monitor, manage and inform system biosecurity risk management.

Reports are provided to the entity's SCHS contacts. In the event the entity requires additional information, a formal request should be made to the department for endorsement by the appropriate departmental representative. The report format may be subject to change based on the business and operational requirements of the department. All amendments will be advised to SCHS entities by the department prior to implementation.

Inspection results data will be compiled and analysed by the department to generate the reports listed below for distribution to the entity identified SCHS contacts.

6.1 Immediate alert reports

Immediate alerts are generated by the department to the entity to inform of the interception of pests. The report includes details regarding the contaminated container, SCHS load port, type of pest detected, quantity and application of sanction type to vessel or SCHS load port. Immediate alerts will be generated within 24 hours of notification of the incident, thereby allowing the SCHS facility at the load port to take prompt corrective action as necessary.

The alert reports may also be generated to inform the entity of other operational or systemic issues allowing for the commencement of immediate review and corrective action.

6.2 Voyage reports

Voyage reports are created on completion of the container inspections at all Australian discharge ports, and submission of inspection results for the individual voyage. The report provides a breakdown of any contamination found and a progressive total for the current quarterly period. Voyage reports are generated within 10 working days of completing at the last Australian discharge port.

6.3 Quarterly reports

Quarterly reports are created on completion of the quarterly period. This provides official notification of system performance for the quarter and informs adjustments to the applied intervention level for the new quarter. In addition, the quarterly report provides both the department and entity with a record summary of all threshold breaches for the quarter and events of heightened intervention due to actionable pest interceptions during the allocated reporting period. In the event a heightened period of intervention overlaps the change in system quarters, inspection results may be carried over to the next report. Quarterly reports are generated within 10 working days of the end of the respective quarter.

7 Approved SCHS Label

Approved SCHS labels are stickers that are applied to the container and are identifiable to biosecurity officers at the port of discharge. The labels provide verification that SCHS offshore standard operating procedures have been followed. Labels should indicate:

- port or facility cleaning provider
- treatment process and application
- date completed, and
- staff responsible.

The information on the stickers may be used for verification purposes by the department, and for tracking of incidents of biosecurity risk detections by the SCHS entity.

When there is a biosecurity risk identified with a stickered container, the department may request the SCHS entity to investigate the incident and provide a report on the resolution of the issue.

8 System Auditing

The offshore SCHS facilities are subject to regular internal and external audits, to ensure all industry led processes are functioning as per the recognised Quality Manual and Code of Practice. The audits allow for continuous system improvement by ports and facilities and provide the department assurance that the system is maintaining an acceptable level of biosecurity risk mitigation.

Internal audits should be undertaken annually as a minimum. These audits may be conducted by the facility's independent biosecurity consultant, or a third party auditor accredited and registered with an International Auditing body.

A department led external audit should be undertaken bi-annually within the first year of initial implementation of the SCHS. All subsequent years of SCHS operation will be subject to an annual external audit unless ongoing non-conformity or poor performance against biosecurity hygiene requirements indicates a breakdown of the system. The frequency of department audits is subject to change based on the level of assessed biosecurity risk and effective system performance.

Information regarding minimum requirements for SCHS establishment and auditing are available on the department website.

Note: The department may require the attendance of two biosecurity officers to complete an external site audit based on information found on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website "[Smart traveller](#)" regarding safety and security issues of the specified country. Virtual/remote audits may be considered where travel restrictions exist.

8.1 External Audit Outcomes

Non-conformity (minor, major or critical as detailed in the Quality Manual) identified during external audits are assessed against the matrix below to determine the outcomes of the audit i.e., Pass or Fail. In the event a non-conformity is noted during the audit resulting in the entity taking immediate corrective actions during the audit period, the auditing officer may use their discretion when applying necessary follow up actions.

Follow up audits should be conducted within 3 months of a SCHS critical non-conformity, in addition to the completion of all associated corrective actions by the Entity. Follow up audits may be conducted by the facility's independent biosecurity consultant, or a third party auditor accredited and registered with an International Auditing body. When systemic breakdown of the system indicates an increase in biosecurity risk associated with the facility, an external audit may also be performed.

		MAJOR NON-CONFORMITY				CRITICAL NON-CONFORMITY
		0	1	2	3	1 or more
MINOR NON-CONFORMITY	0	PASS	PASS	PASS	FAIL	FAIL
	1	PASS	PASS	PASS	FAIL	FAIL
	2	PASS	PASS	PASS	FAIL	FAIL
	3	PASS	PASS	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
	4	PASS	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
	5	PASS	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
	6	PASS	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
	7	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL

Table 1: Audit and reporting risk matrix

8.2 SCHS Non-conformity

8.2.1 Non-conformity– Systemic Breakdown:

A system may be subject to an indefinite standard intervention period in the event of reduced offshore biosecurity risk mitigation. All system requirements allow the department to effectively identify and manage biosecurity risk posed by imported goods. Should the department lose confidence in the integrity of the system, a standard intervention period may be enforced – either against a specific SCHS facility, or for the system as a whole. This may include but is not limited to an identified breakdown of port or container cleaning and treatment processes resulting in critical non-conformity, or the reduced ability to demonstrate system reporting requirements.

8.2.2 Non-conformity at conclusion of external audit:

If a system facility fails the external audit, the intervention rate will immediately revert to the standard rate. The port or facility will be monitored at this intervention rate for a period of agreed time between the department and the SCHS Entity, or as directed by the department, pending the resolution of all corrective actions, deeming the port or facility ready for assessment.

The severity of system failures may require an additional follow up department audit. This will be actioned on advice from the SCHS Entity of completion of all corrective actions rendering the port or facility ready for assessment. A follow up audit should be undertaken within 60 days from notification of the completion of corrective actions, either by the department or an external auditor.

Re-instatement of reduced intervention for a system will be considered by the department on demonstration of sufficient remedial action and on successful completion of an internal or external audit of the port or facility. The department will assess data gathered during the standard intervention period in addition to the level of assurance offered by the remedial actions provided to inform an appropriate intervention level on re-instatement of the system.

9 Roles and Responsibilities

9.1 SCHS Industry Entity

- Advise the department of SCHS containers destined for Australian ports via the approved SCHS voyage notification at least 24 hours prior to voyage arrival at the first point of entry.
- Advise the department of any notifiable changes to containers or issues that may affect the integrity of the system.
- Ensure all Principal Agents (vessel operators, agents, shipping lines) are provided with a list of SCHS containers for each voyage.
- Maintain system operations with the agreed procedures detailed in the Code of Practice and Quality Manual.
- Provide the department with internal audit reports outlining any potential non-conformities, corrective actions identified, or proposed changes to the SCHS facility.
- Notify the department of any material change to operations, the QM or COP that may impact operational performance and the capacity to maintain performance against the contamination thresholds.
- Advise the department immediately of any major or critical self-detected non-conformity that has the potential to compromise the system.
- Advise the department within seven working days of any minor self-detected non-conformity.
- Advise the department in writing if operations at the facilities will not be undertaken to system requirements for any period of time.

9.2 Principal Agent

- Advise the department of any notifiable changes to containers including, discharge location, non-system containers, nested flat racks or issues that may affect the integrity of the system.
- Meet [Biosecurity Regulations](#) prescribed reporting timeframes.
- Arrange appropriate SCHS container segregation during stowage and salting for held containers as per the requirements of CAL containers.

9.3 The Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department)

- Receive correspondence from SCHS Entity or Principal Agent, such as SCHS notification, washed and unwashed cargo list and any other documents relating to SCHS.
- Apply CAL cancellations and provide to both Principal Agent and stevedores.
- Communicate all SCHS cancellations to Stevedores.
- Collate SCHS inspection data and determine intervention thresholds.
- Provide reports to identified stakeholders.
- Address any ongoing issues with the SCHS Entity.

10 General rules

- SCHS cancellations will be undertaken by the department at no initial cost to shipping agent. Any further processing will be charged as an in-office service fee in accordance with the [Charging Guidelines](#).
- Reoccurring inaccurate notification of SCHS containers may result in an increase to standard intervention rates for the duration of a specified time period of no less than one month, or as deemed appropriate by the department.
- It is a requirement of the [Biosecurity Regulations](#) that all imported containers are reported to the department within the specified time frames. For further information regarding applicable penalties that are administered under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#), please refer to section 120 of the Act.
- The [Biosecurity risk treatment guide](#) provides advice to users about department approved treatments that address biosecurity risks detected as contaminants on imported commodities.
- The SCHS policy does not limit the exercise of powers or the performance of duties or functions under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#).
- Entities meeting the SCHS Assessment and Management Policy will be provided with a SCHS AQIS Entity Identifier (AEI), and a Letter of Recognition to acknowledge their commitment to managing biosecurity risks. The Letter of Recognition does not guarantee ongoing reduced intervention rates for the specified entity.
- The SCHS Assessment and Management Policy and Letters of Recognition are part of an administrative system and are not binding.
- decision makers are not bound by the policy in determining what measures are necessary to manage biosecurity risks associated with sea containers.

11 Glossary

Abbreviation or Word	Definition or Description
Actionable Ant	An ant that has been assessed as posing an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk.
Actionable Snails	A snail that has been assessed as posing an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk.
Approved SCHS label	The sticker applied to the container after the SCHS decontamination risk management process is complete.
AQIS Entity Identifier (AEI)	The Entity Identifier (AEI) field (formerly known as the AQIS Entity Identifier*) in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) is used to track and manage the offshore treatment certification that accompanies consignments entering Australia. *AQIS Entity Identifier continues to be used in the ICS environment as it has been hard coded in the system and is unable to be changed.
Biosecurity categories	A Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry identified SCHS pest category, with a specified threshold level recommended to maintain system confidence.
Biosecurity risk	<p>The likelihood of a disease or pest or disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering Australian territory or a part of Australian territory; or • Establishing itself or spreading in Australian territory; or a part of Australian territory, and <p>The potential for any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disease or pest to cause harm to human, animal or plant health. • The disease or pest to cause harm to the environment. • Economic consequences associated with the entry, establishment or spread of the disease or pest.
Biosecurity risk material (BRM)	<p>Material that has been assessed as posing an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk.</p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to live insects, seeds, soil, dirt, clay, animal material, and plant material such as straw, twigs, leaves, roots, bark, food refuse and other debris.</p>
Consignment	A consignment comprises any number of loaded and unloaded containers (all types) that arrive on the same date and unloaded off one conveyance with a single identifying voyage number.
Code of Practice (COP)	Detailed operational and Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) procedures followed by facility staff to complete the SCHS cleaning and treatment process. May also be referred to as Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), or Operating Procedures.
Country Action List (CAL)	Countries identified by the department as having high levels of biosecurity risk, including but not limited to GAS, black spiny toads, exotic bees and ants, soil and plant material.

Designated Storage Area	A container storage area that has been assessed and recognised by the department, which may be utilised by various SCHS facilities when located at a port.
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival.
GAS	Giant African Snail.
General Contamination	Includes: soil, plant products, animal products, wood, packaging, non-GAS snails, non-actionable ants and any other pests.
High Level Contamination (HLC)	HLC includes live pests or levels of soil, soil-related, plant or animal contamination that cannot be removed immediately on site in <5mins. This also includes contamination that cannot be accessed for cleaning or where mechanical means are required for removal.
Immediate Alert Reports	Reports generated by the department to inform the entity of other operational or systemic issues allowing for the commencement of immediate review and corrective action.
Incident	The detection of any biosecurity risk material, an act or omission, or an event that requires further action or intervention by the department to manage a potential biosecurity risk.
Low Level Contamination (LLC)	LLC includes levels of soil and soil-related material, and plant or animal-based contamination that can removed immediately on site in <5 minutes.
Pest	a species, strain or biotype of a plant or animal, or a disease agent, that has the potential to cause, either directly or indirectly, harm to human, animal or plant health, or the environment.
Principal Agent	An entity which acts as an agent of an importer for the purpose of reporting containers in accordance with s120 of the <i>Biosecurity Act</i> . This may include shipping lines, shipping agents or other brokers.
Quality Manual (QM)	Documented procedures and practices recognised by the department under SCHS that address system operational functions, including contingencies, assurance and objectives.
Quarterly Report	Report generated by the department on a quarterly basis which provides a summary of on-arrival inspection results, highlights assessment of biosecurity risks identified, and reports on cumulative contamination results.
Sea Container Hygiene System (SCHS)	SCHS is an offshore risk management policy that supports effective risk screening that assists in determining the allocation of inspection resources while managing biosecurity risk.
SCHS Entity	A person, partnership, organisation or business responsible for operating or managing the SCHS offshore process.
SCHS Facility	An offshore container processing facility or port recognised as meeting requirements for the SCHS.
Species level identification	The identification of a pest down to species level to determine the level of biosecurity risk associated with the pest. Species level identification may not be required to determine level of biosecurity risk. If an entity requires identification to species level, excess costs may be incurred by industry to

Sea Container Hygiene System

	engage the service of a third-party entomologists for the purpose of identification.
Verification	On arrival assessments and inspections, audits and monitoring that establish and document that the recognised SCHS facility continues to address biosecurity risks.
Voyage Report	Report generated by the department which provides a summary of on-arrival inspection results, biosecurity risks identified and reports on cumulative contamination results.

12 Version History

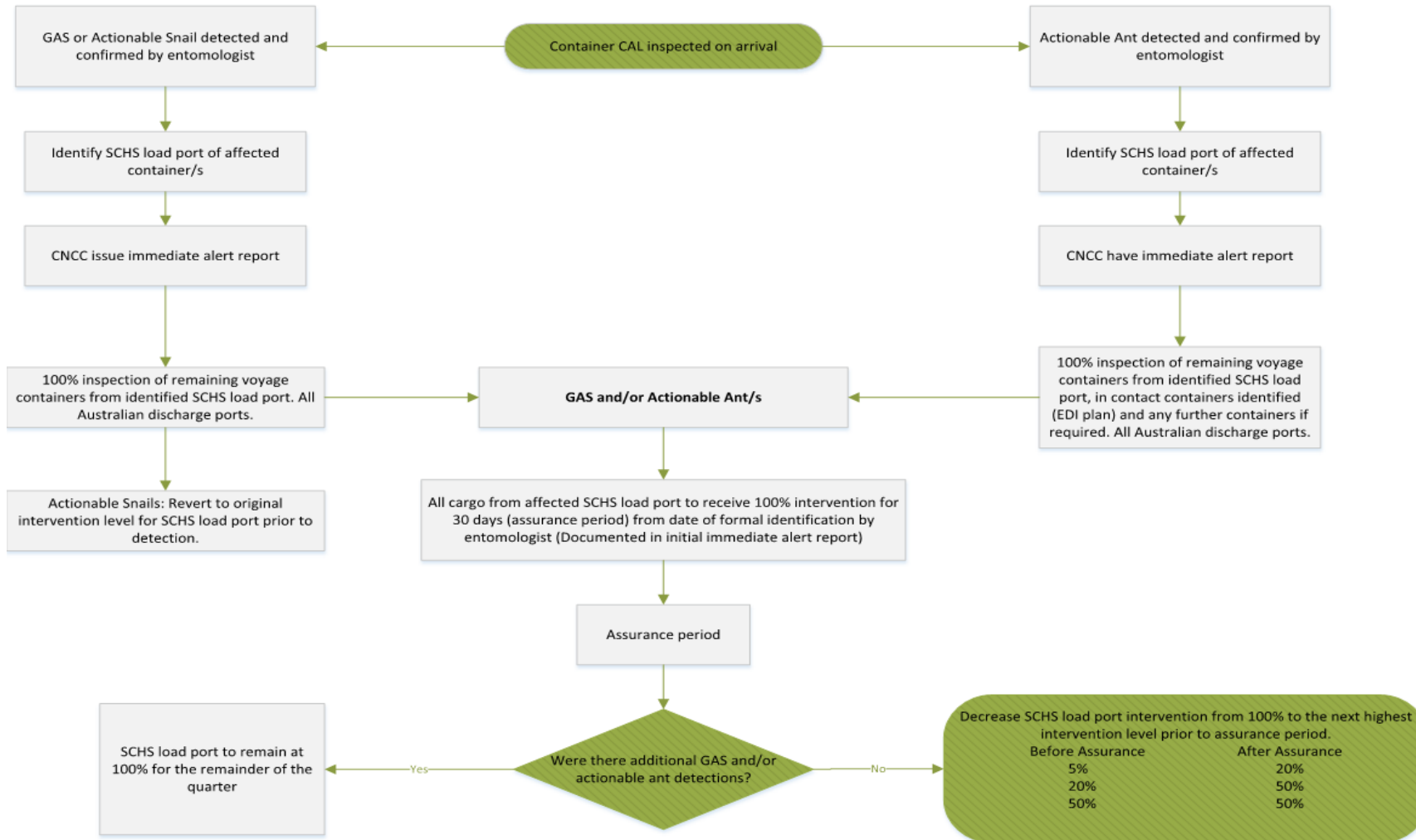
Version Number	Version Date	Amendment Details
1	Oct 2010	First business rules which detail the roles and responsibilities of all key stakeholders entering in the Department of Agriculture's SCHS.
2	Jun 2013	Rebranding (Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry) Changes to biosecurity categories (GAS to actionable snails)
3	Jun 2014	Rebranding (Department of Agriculture) Flowchart amendment Inclusion of the Vessel Notification Form
4	Jan 2017	Rebranding (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) Change to biosecurity categories and thresholds Amendments to intervention model and methodology Adjustments to reporting requirements information Inclusion of an appeals process Adjustments to reporting requirements information New inspection flow charts Inclusion of reporting risk matrix Inclusion of "Purpose" Adjustments to department issued reports Inclusion of SCHS suspension and re-instatement process
4.1	Nov 2017	Inclusion of reference to Biosecurity Act 2015 . Reporting requirements table updated Appeals section removed Inclusion minimum requirements third party auditors Removed New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries Adjustments to Roles and Responsibilities SCHS Notification timeframe amended
4.2	Mar 2018	Document title changed from SCHS Business Rules to SCHS Assessment and Management Policy Definitions updated Inclusion of Letter of Recognition Removal of reference to non-compliance for non-legislated requirements Reference to 100% increased intervention rates amended to standard inspection rates.
5	February 2022	Rebranding (Department Agriculture, Water and the Environment) SCHS Notification form updated Policy update on Internal auditing requirements Policy update on intervention rates for periods of inactivity by SCHS facilities. Policy update on management emerging and seasonal pests
5.1	July 2023	Rebranding to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Minor updates to formatting, table and Appendix references. Removal of Vessel Notification Form

Appendix 1: Actions for managing non-conformity with SCHS notification requirements

The table below details the non-conformity categories, incidents and action for managing nonconformity with SCHS notification requirements.

Non-Conformity Category	Reporting Incident	Action
Minor	Notification of SCHS containers received outside the minimum 24 hour period.	No SCHS cancellations will apply. Containers will be inspected at standard intervention rate.
	Notification of changes to the SCHS load port for SCHS containers prior to vessel arrival at first port.	If containers are reported within the SCHS notification timeframe, correct SCHS load port intervention rate will apply. Containers reported outside of the SCHS notification timeframe, will be inspected at standard intervention rate.
Major	Notification of changes to the SCHS load port for SCHS containers after vessel arrival at first port.	Containers reported outside of the SCHS notification timeframe, will be inspected at standard intervention rate.
	Corrections to the status from system to non-system containers notified after the SCHS 24 hour notification timeframe.	Containers will be inspected at standard intervention rates. Department to review the frequency and severity of non-conformity. The system may be placed on standard intervention rate for the duration of a specified time period pending acceptable remedial actions.
	Inaccurate or incomplete notification of SCHS containers.	Department to review the frequency and severity of non-conformity. The system may be placed on standard intervention rate for the duration of a specified time period pending acceptable remedial actions.
Critical	On-going late notification of SCHS containers classified as a major non-conformance.	Department to review the frequency and severity of non-conformity. The system may be placed on standard intervention rate for the duration of a specified time period pending acceptable remedial actions.
	Notifying containers as SCHS when loaded from non- system ports or facilities.	Department to review the frequency and severity of non-conformity. The department may apply standard intervention rate to the system based on compromised biosecurity integrity, requiring an internal audit review process and implementation of acceptable remedial actions.

Appendix 2: GAS, Actionable Snail and Actionable Ant detection



Appendix 3: Quarterly Review Process

