



CONTRACTOR PROCEDURE E2

Management of the spread of weeds and disease in Native Forest Operations



1. PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES

1. Prevent infestation and spread of environmental diseases in areas currently free of disease.
2. Prevent the introduction and spread of weeds.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1 Hygiene Management Plan (HMP)

The Authorised Officer must:

1. For each operation, document the location and management requirements for *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (P.c.), as well as other diseases and weeds in a hygiene management map.
2. Specify disease and weed management requirements for the worksite in a hygiene management plan (HMP).
3. Provide a copy of the HMP to the Contractor at the pre-operation briefing.
4. Monitor the operation to ensure it is completed in accordance with the HMP.
5. Assess the Contractors' compliance with the HMP and record the level of compliance on the 'Operation Certification Form' or 'Contractor Assessment Form'.

The Contractor must:

6. Comply with the HMP or work instructions issued during the course of the operation.
7. If moving from an infested to an uninfested area, ensure all machinery is free of soil and organic matter prior to arrival at the uninfested site (*Forest Management Regulations 1993 – FMR 1993, r119*).
8. At the Contractor's expense they must
 - Clean down all machinery and equipment prior to arrival at each new operation and where required during an operation to comply with the HMP, and .
 - When closing the coupe abide by the HMP and standards as defined in Contractor procedure H10 – In-coupe rehabilitation (Section 2.5).

2.2 Disease Risk Area (DRA) authority

The Authorised Officer must:

1. As far as practicable, provide the Contractor with sufficient advanced notice of pending operations to allow the Contractor to obtain necessary DRA permits from the responsible Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) district. DRA permits are required to enter nominated DPaW land that has been determined to be at risk of disease infestation.

The Contractor must:

2. Not enter a DRA without the DPaW approval.
3. Obtain necessary written authority (DRA Permit) from the DPaW.



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4. Carry the DRA permit at all times and produce upon request by a DPaW Forest Officer or Authorised Officer (FMR 1993, r. 111). Permits can be issued to specific vehicle/machines or to the principal Contractor. Where a permit is issued to the principal Contractor, a copy of the permit needs to be in each vehicle/machine associated with that worksite.
5. Ensure every vehicle/machine driver or operator entering DRA is familiar with the conditions of the permit.

2.3 Roads

The Authorised Officer may:

1. Permanently or temporarily close roads for hygiene control purposes.

The Contractor must:

2. Not open or close any roads without approval of the Authorised Officer.
3. Only close roads in the manner specified by the Authorised Officer.

2.4 Demarcation of hygiene categories

The Authorised Officer must:

1. Ensure the boundary of infested forest is demarcated prior to work commencing.
2. Ensure P.c. demarcation is carried out in accordance with Procedure 1 – Standard bush signs and markings, that is:
 - Boundary of infested forest is taped with fluorescent orange tape.
 - Trees blazed on three (3) sides and painted yellow may be used to demarcate the boundary of P.c. infestation. The blazes on each side of the tree show the general direction the boundary follows, with the third blaze facing the direction of the infested area. Generally this is only necessary when post-harvest machine disturbance or prescribed burning activities are planned and the boundary needs to be permanently marked.
 - The fluorescent orange tape will also be used to delineate between protectable and un-protectable forest.
 - Pink and black striped tape will be used to demarcate between uninterpretable areas and other categories.

The Contractor must:

3. Not cross hygiene categories with machinery in a manner that contravenes the HMP. If the Contractor is in doubt about the HMP, map or demarcation they must contact the Authorised Officer who will determine the correct management procedure.

2.5 Washdown / Cleandown points

The Authorised Officer may:



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1. Nominate a place in the Hygiene Management Plan which is suitable for a vehicle to be washed down, prior to entering the coupe. This location may or may not be linked to a COE point (Entry into protectable areas - Clean on Entry COE (2.6))

The Contractor must:

2. Only wash down equipment at the point(s) nominated in the HMP or as directed to by the Authorised Officer. No other sites are authorised for washing down vehicles.

2.6 Entry into protectable areas - Clean on Entry (COE)

The FPC Authorised Officer must:

1. Ensure COE points are displayed on worksite maps and identified in the field with signage prior to work commencing.
2. Place turnarounds, as documented on the hygiene management map, to enable vehicles to leave the area if a driver determines the vehicle:
 - will not be COE; and
 - clean down to the appropriate standard will not be possible.
3. Provide the Contractor copies of the FPC697 – Clean on entry / Hygiene record.
4. Follow the HMP procedures on completion of the operation.

The Contractor must:

5. Report at any time during the operation if signage is not present at a COE point.
6. Ensure all vehicles/machines stop at COE points and are inspected (including those on floats) for the presence of one or more of the following:
 - Clods of soil or plant material; and
 - A slurry of soil, plant tissue and water.

Note: This does not include dust and grime adhering to the sides of vehicles.

7. Ensure all vehicles/machines stop at a COE point with a turnaround to make the assessment to determine if the vehicle is clean enough to enter the site. This should be to the standards in Point 6.
8. If required, clean the vehicle/machine of all soil, mud, dust and organic matter, particularly from wheels or tracks and underneath the chassis if located at a Washdown / Cleandown point (Section 2.5). Cleaning down must be effective and may be carried out using a variety of techniques involving water, compressed air or brushes, depending on field conditions at the site. Compressed air is the preferred clean down technique in dry conditions.
9. If not located at a Washdown / cleandown point the vehicle should turnaround and leave the forest to wash down at an appropriate place. .
10. Control and minimise the movement of vehicles / machines from infested to un-infested forest, and ensure that entry points are suitable to ensure that the equipment can be inspected and cleaned if necessary.



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11. Keep a written record when a vehicle/machine passes a COE point or moves from infested to uninfested forest on the FPC697 – Clean on entry / Hygiene record or other approved method. That record must be given to the Authorised Officer when:
- requested;
 - the form is completed; or
 - the operation is certified complete.

2.7 Split phase work methods

The Contractor must:

1. Use split phase work methods if required by the HMP.
 - The split phase work method separates the snigging and loading phases of an operation in time or space to minimise the risk of disease introduction and spread.
 - Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate the two split phase methods used during harvesting.
 - A 'front barrier' (Figure 1) is a physical barrier placed at the front of a log landing directly behind the soil disturbance caused by roading. The intent is to minimise the risk of infested soil being moved from the road onto the landing. A minimum 400 mm diameter barrier log is required and must be placed at the fluorescent orange tape or yellow blazed demarcation line.
 - A 'rear barrier' (Figure 2) is a physical barrier placed at the rear of the log landing to separate the activity on the landing from the activity in the rest of the faller's block. All logs from the block are delivered to the landing by being lifted or pushed over this barrier. A minimum 400 mm diameter barrier log is required and must be placed at the fluorescent orange tape or yellow blazed demarcation line.

Figure 1: Front barrier to prevent contamination between the landing and road network.

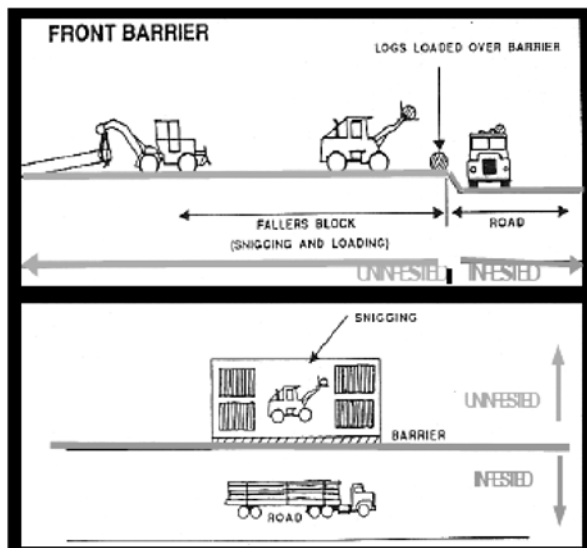
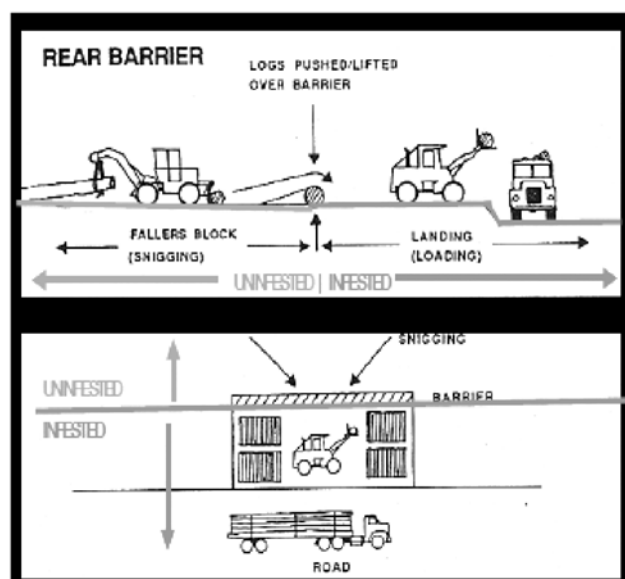


Figure 2: Back barrier to prevent contamination between the forest and the landing.



2.8 Soil movement

The Authorised Officer or DPaW representative may:

1. Include in the HMP the requirement for an area to have 'no soil movement'. Soil movement occurs when clods of soil or slurry (soil and water mixture) are picked up by vehicle or machine tyres. It does not include the adherence of dust and grime to the sides of vehicles. When soil or plant material sticks to a vehicle/machinery, operations may be stopped in part or all of the worksite.
2. Operations at 'no soil movement' sites must only commence when directed by the Authorised Officer.



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The Contractor must:

3. Cease work when it is suspected soil is being moved in a 'no soil movement' area. The Authorised Officer must be contacted and work must not recommence until approved by the Authorised Officer.

2.9 Moving basic raw material (BRM)

The Contractor must:

1. Only remove/use BRM where authorised by the Commission. BRM refers to sand, gravel and soil used for roading, pot holing, site works etc.
2. Follow Contractor procedure R8 - Basic raw material when required to move/win BRM.

2.10 P.c. training course

The Authorised Officer must:

1. Facilitate *P.c. Field hygiene* training (greencard training) by the DPaW or a recognised alternative training provider.

The Contractor must:

2. Ensure all staff and subcontractors attend the *P.c. Field hygiene* training course.
3. Pay all expenses incurred by attending the training course, with the exception of the cost of materials and the instructor.

2.11 Other weeds or diseases

The Authorised Officer must:

1. Consult the contractor upon identification of a new significant weed or disease which will require modification to current management processes / procedures.
2. Facilitate the awareness training and management requirements for diseases identified as significant.
3. Provide maps and management requirements for these diseases via the HMP.

The Contractor must:

4. Ensure all staff and subcontractors attend the training courses identified.
5. Pay all expenses incurred by attending the training course, with the exception of the cost of materials and the instructor.



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3. LEGISLATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Forest Management Plan 2014-2023
- *Forest Management Regulations 1993 (Part 16)*
- *Conservation and Land Act 1984*
- FPC697 – Clean on entry / Hygiene record
- Hygiene Management Plan (site specific document provided at a pre-operation briefing)
- Field Hygiene Course Phytophthora Dieback
- Procedure 1 – Standard bush signs and markings
- Contractor procedure R8 - Basic raw material
- Contractor procedure H10 - In-coupe rehabilitation
- DPaW (Policy No. 3) *Phytophthora Cinnamomi and Disease Caused by it* and supporting *Phytophthora Cinnamomi* field hygiene manual
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*
- 'Rustproof' - DPaW Myrtle Rust Preparedness and Response Plan
- DPaW (SOP No. 22.2) *Hygiene procedure to reduce transfer of Myrtle (Eucalyptus) rust disease*
- DPaW (SOP No. 22.3) *Responding to a detection of Myrtle (Eucalyptus) rust, delimiting survey, containment and treatment*