

# Biosecurity Guidance Applicable to this Notice

The following guidance provides recommended biosecurity measures to be undertaken whilst the SPHN is in force. More guidance and background information can be found on the Forestry Commission's biosecurity web pages ([www.forestry.gov.uk/england-keepitclean](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-keepitclean)).

It is strongly advised that persons who undertake work in relation to the SPHN have sight of this document and understand its recommendations.

## 1.0 Spread of pests and diseases

Tree pests and diseases can be spread by the movement of infected material. Infected material includes;

- **Water**
- **Organic Material** (plant material, timber, woodchip and firewood),
- **Soil**
- **Live Plants.**

This material can be moved via two main dispersal pathways:

- Natural pathways;
  - Wildlife movement
  - Rain
  - Wind and wind borne mists
  - Water courses.
- Human activity pathways;
  - Movement of infected plants
  - Movement of infected material on tools, machinery, vehicles, boots and clothing.

Natural dispersal pathways are hard to manage but there are measures which can reduce the risk of human activity becoming a pathway by minimising the movement of infected material. This is of significant importance as **human activity has the capability to spread pests and diseases faster and further than natural means of spread can.**

## 2.0 Biosecurity measures

The following are recommended measures to be undertaken on any known control site (or suspected site).

## Key things to note:

- All measures undertaken **must comply with industry best practice** as detailed in the FISA/HSE guides and **meet all current environmental legislation** relevant to the premises.
- **Make a clean start at each site/day:** Ensure vehicles and kit are free of soil and organic material before entering and leaving a site.
- **Washing must not occur within 10 m of any surface waters** to avoid run-off contaminating water sources.
- **Do not** use any detergents when washing.
- Where vehicles and machines are being washed, an oil-specific spill kit must be available. This must be deployed if there is evidence of oil, grease or fuel in the run-off.
- Use only approved disinfectants<sup>1</sup> or disinfectants recommended by manufacturers if cleaning climbing and rigging equipment.
- **Disinfects are NOT effective on soiled surfaces** so it is essential that surfaces are free from soil and organic material.

## 2.1 Footwear

Footwear should be free of soil and organic material **before entering** and **leaving** a site:

- Footwear should be washed, preferably on a hard standing near the entrance to the site, using a stiff brush and water. The entire shoe/boot should be cleaned and free of organic material, not just the soles. The brush should be kept on site in a bucket of disinfectant.
- After cleaning, footwear should be sprayed with an approved disinfectant and left until it has evaporated.

## 2.2 Clothing

Clothing should be free of soil and organic material **before entering** and **leaving** a site:

- If wearing waterproofs, these should be free of soil. Wash down and spray with approved disinfectant.
- Check inside footwear, hoods, outer pockets, collars, and any protective equipment such as helmets, ear defenders and felling gloves.
- Wet clothing should be changed before moving between sites. Wet clothing should be bagged and laundered before re-use.

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<sup>1</sup> Cleankill Sanitising Spray™ or 70% Industrial Methylated Spirits.

## 2.3 Tools

All tools should be free of soil and organic material **before entering** a site.

**Please note:** If any work is to be carried out on an uninfected tree or shrub on a control site, tools should be free of soil and organic material and disinfected before being used.

### **Before leaving:**

- Chainsaw bars, chains and side covers should be removed and cleaned to remove debris. Where appropriate and safe to do so, an approved disinfectant should be applied and left to evaporate.
- If used, climbing and rigging equipment (e.g. rope, strops, slings, cambium savers) should be washed and dried thoroughly according to manufacturer's guidance. Disinfectant **approved by the equipment manufacturer** should also be applied.
- Other tools and equipment should be free of soil and organic material and surfaces brushed with an approved disinfectant before being moved to another site.

## 2.4 Vehicles

**Before entering** and **leaving** a site, vehicles should be free from soil and organic matter as is practicable, both internally and externally.

### **Before entering:**

- The number of vehicles entering the site should be minimised. Share vehicles and, where possible, park off site and walk in.
- If vehicles do go onto site, they should remain on roads and be parked in areas that are as free of soil and organic material as is possible.

### **Before leaving:**

- Vehicles that have gone off-road or have been driven on roads that are wet, muddy or littered with organic material should be cleaned using a pressure washer (ideally one that uses hot water or steam). Cleaning should take place on a hard standing near the entrance.
- Cleaning should focus on areas where soil and organic material is likely to have accumulated, such as; tyres, wheels, mudflaps, sills, wheel arches and guarded areas.
- After cleaning, tyres should be disinfected with an approved disinfectant.

## 2.5 Machinery and Equipment

**Before entering** a site, machinery and equipment should be free from soil and organic matter.

### **Before leaving:**

- Machines and equipment should be cleaned using a pressure washer (ideally one that uses hot water or steam). Cleaning should take place on a hard standing near the entrance.
- Before washing, areas that are heavily contaminated with oil or grease should be wiped using absorbent cloths or mats. Place these in a sealed bag for appropriate waste disposal.
- Cleaning should focus on areas where soil and organic material are likely to have accumulated.

## 2.6 Stacking Considerations

- Minimise the accidental pick up of brush, leaves or other debris when moving timber in the wood and at roadside. Remove material as necessary to allow a clean pick up.
- Avoid placing timber back on the ground especially in muddy conditions. Stack logs on bearers where it is safe and possible to do so.
- Stacked logs from a control site should not be placed in contact with live plants and foliage of other susceptible trees and plants. Clear a stacking site first as necessary.
- Remove any debris from transfer and loading points as often as possible. Place this debris in a segregated area where road vehicles will not come into contact with it.
- Arrange loading site to avoid forwarders travelling on the same route as road lorries as much as possible (e.g. forwarders only travel behind the stacks and not on the road itself).

## 3.0 Land with public access

If there is public access within the area of land to which the SPHN applies, then the following factors need to be considered;

- During felling and remedial work, all appropriate health and safety precautions must be taken to ensure public safety. This includes the closure of paths if within close proximity to the work. Appropriate signage must be displayed to inform the public that access is closed and forestry work is being undertaken.
- Following the removal of infected material, the biosecurity risk posed by having public access is reduced as the main high risk pathway has been removed. There are therefore no measures that the public need to undertake to reduce the risk of further spreading the pest or disease.
- To maintain a reduced risk, paths should be well maintained to encourage the public to remain on the paths rather than the wood or forest floor where the risk of picking up and spreading infected material is greater.