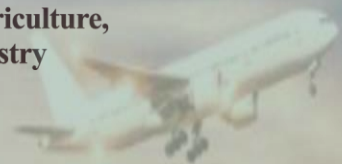




Biosecurity Import Clearance Reforms



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



STEPS - Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System



OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

STEPS - Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System

STEPS PROGRAM ON A PAGE

Outdated DAFF Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems and inefficient process negatively impact staff and industry. Urgent modernisation is needed to keep up with the WoG agenda, improve staff and industry user experience and promote Australia's effective biosecurity

STEPS is an investment in the department's ICT systems to **enhance Australia's biosecurity risk management by creating a faster, simpler, more integrated cargo clearance system**

STEPS is a \$145 million government initiative from 2023 to 2026 (Tranche 1), envisioned as an overall 9-year program of work pending the iterative success from Tranche 1

STEPS will work with DAFF staff and industry over the coming months and years to co-design simplified and modern systems

5 STEPS Program goals:

1

Faster and Easier Assessments

2

Streamlined Inspection and Management Activities

3

Improved Industry Arrangements & Support

4

Modernised data capture, use and visibility

5

Contemporary digital products and services

Each overseen by a dedicated delivery stream, supported by:

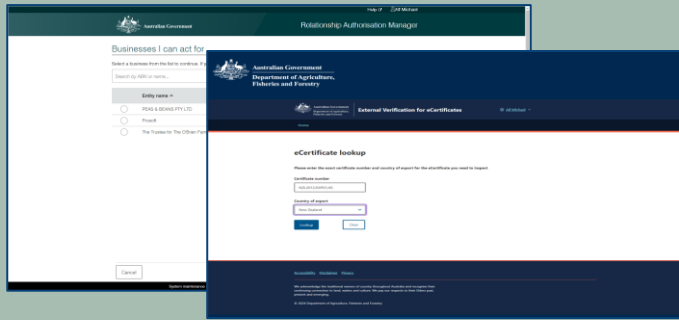
Enabling services

We expect tangible benefits:

1. Reduced cost of regulation
2. Reduced cost of running import business
3. Reduced holding cost
4. Improved user experience
5. Trade facilitation
6. DAFF workforce shift to high value biosecurity activities
7. Reduced biosecurity incursion risk

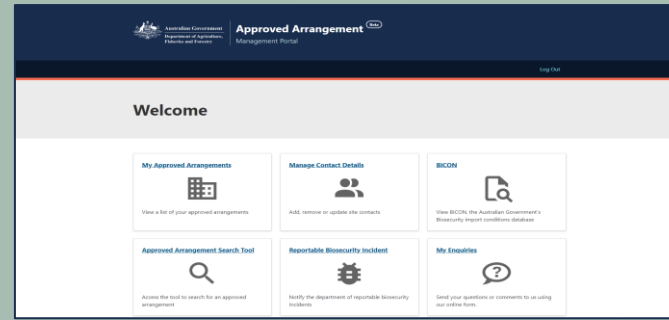
STEPS scope: cargo valued at *over \$1000* requiring a full import declaration (FID) to the Australian Government.

What's coming out of STEPS now?



eCert

- **For release by end of June** a first step in self-service access to digital certificates
- Allows accredited brokers to view a secure eCert (phytosanitary certificate) to assess commodities under an approved arrangement
- Paves the way to receive digital certificates from countries as they come online



Approved Arrangement Management Product (AAMP)

- **Available online by end of June** for all Biosecurity Industry Participants (BIPs) to update their AA details
- Limited production for 8 users since October 2023 but will expand to all BIPs for 85 AA classes
- **BIP AAMP AA Record** includes:
 - AA Details (Entity Details)
 - Contact Details
 - Classes
 - Notices
 - Arrangement Documents



Biosecurity Cargo Tracker

- **Available by the end of June** to accredited customs brokers and department staff for up-to-date visibility of cargo being managed by DAFF
- **Brokers** will have access to views of:
 - their importer client's consignment
 - what their brokerage has with DAFF
 - tools that help answer an importer's enquiries
 - reports that help prioritise activity
 - data to improve their brokerage's business

STEPS - Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System



STEPS: enhancing Australia's biosecurity risk management by creating a faster, simpler, integrated cargo clearance system

For more information or enquiries about STEPS email: STEPS@aff.gov.au





Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Biosecurity Update





Hitchhiker Awareness Campaign

Overview

Campaign aim

To increase awareness of:

- Hitchhiker pests amongst industry members involved with imported shipping containers and goods.
- How to report suspected detections to the See. Secure. Report Hotline.

Activities

- Social media and webpage advertisements.
- Distribution of hitchhiker branded products, including caps, pens, coffee cups, posters and air-fresheners.
- Sponsorship of Ports Australia Conference.
- Free webinars, digi-kits and news articles.



Hitchhiker pests
'hitch a ride' to
Australia in or on
shipping containers,
imported goods &
vessels.

Social Media – 2 Sept to 11 Oct 2024

We encourage you to follow & share on:



facebook.com/daffgov/ and facebook.com/australianbiosec/



@daffgov



linkedin.com/company/australian-department-of-agriculture-fisheries-and-forestry/



Hitchhiker branded products

Banners



Air fresheners



Caps



Cups



Pens

FREE digital toolkits and webinars

From AUGUST 2024

TOOLKITS available at:

agriculture.gov.au/hitchhiker-pests

From SEPTEMBER 2024

WEBINARS available on:

- The risk of hitchhiker pests
- identifying issues with imported shipping containers and goods
- reporting suspected detections

FOR WEBINAR INVITATIONS

email plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au



Risk and Compliance-based Recalibration

The Risk and Compliance-based Recalibration (RCR) uses a system wide approach to *identify, plan, execute, monitor and evaluate* changes to risk controls and the outcomes achieved by making those changes.

Identify
 This is the discovery phase. We analyse commercial cargo data to identify high volume, low pest and disease approach rate and high compliance commodity pathways. We target these pathways for further analysis and assessment by risk owners.



RCR working group

Involves representatives from 5 divisions across the Biosecurity & Compliance Group.



Through collaboration, this group identifies ways to improve our risk-based approach to how we regulate imported goods and our biosecurity risk architecture. This allows us to administer effective and efficient biosecurity regulation.

Plan
 In this phase, we determine if alternative intervention or recalibration options are suitable. We also consider implementation requirements and test our approach with operational areas and policy owners.



Evaluate
 In this phase, we assess our outcomes. We make sure we achieved the intended risk management outcomes. We adjust if risk and compliance are outside of our tolerance levels.



Execute and monitor
 This is when we implement our recalibrations. We also perform assurance and monitoring activities. This allows us to gather evidence on the intended and unintended impact on regulatory burden, entity compliance and biosecurity risk.



How you can help us

We highly value your feedback and guidance, and we are here to listen, learn and understand from you.

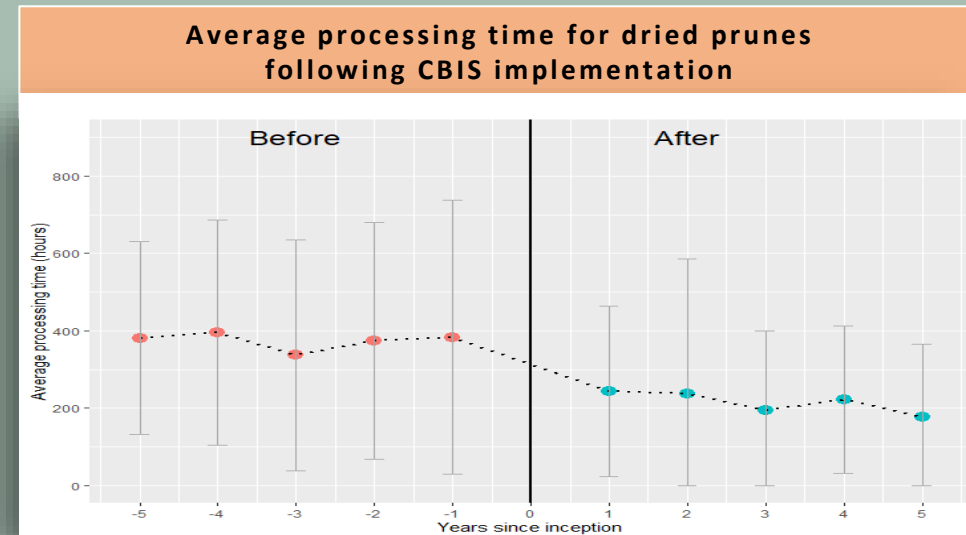
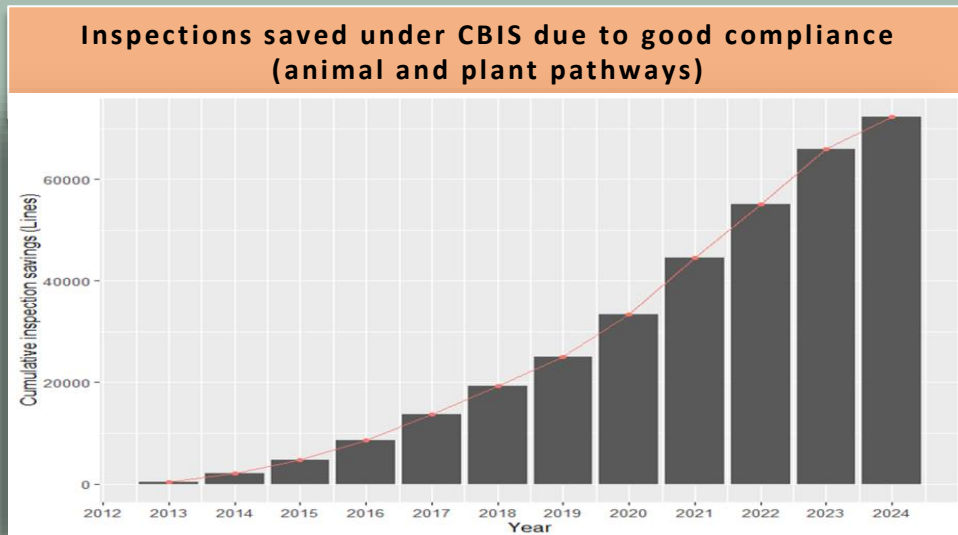
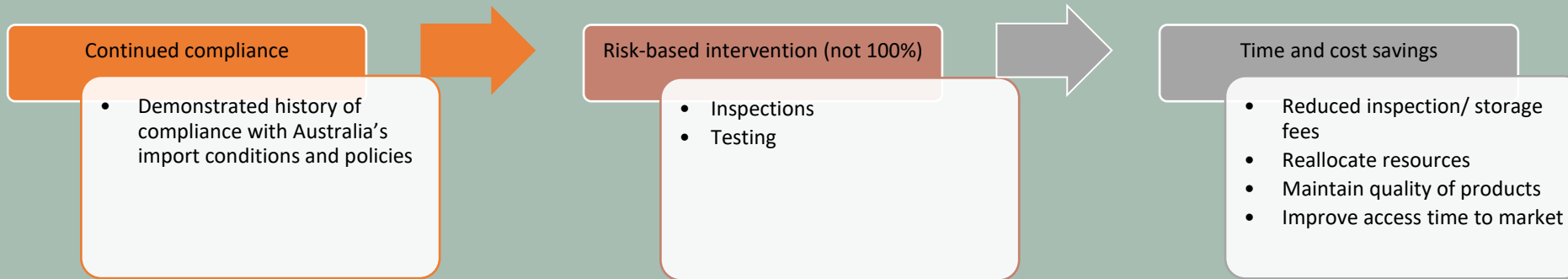
We rely on input from SMEs to help us appropriately evaluate the suitability and implementation requirements of potential recalibration candidates.

You can help us by being engaged and open on the risk management approaches used in your business unit.

This includes the potential intended and unintended impacts of proposed intervention changes

CBIS - Compliance-Based Intervention Scheme

For many pathways, CBIS has improved the biosecurity clearance process at the border



CBIS - Compliance Based Intervention Scheme



CBIS improving biosecurity clearance process at the border

CBIS applies on:

- 72 plant pathways for 69 tariffs
- 11 animal product pathways for 27 tariffs.



A list of CBIS eligible products can be found at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/plant-products>.

For CBIS enquiries email: imports@aff.gov.au 'Tier 2 – CBIS' or cbis@aff.gov.au

Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection

What is it?

Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection (RTG) authorises an approved Biosecurity Industry Participant (BIP) operating a Class 1.1 or Class 1.3 (with approved Class 4.3 wash bay facilities) to perform certain rural tailgate inspections

Expanded scope and eligibility

- Class 14.4 now covers up to 90 % of all RTG directions issued
- Out of scope - consignments requiring a physical inspection

Benefits for the department

- provides confidence that biosecurity risks to rural areas are appropriately managed
- Increases workforce capacity by redirecting frontline officers away from low-risk inspections
- reduces manual intervention for assessment staff

Benefits for Industry

- provides greater flexibility in how sites operate their business
- reduces administrative interactions with the department and associated fees and charges
- reduces clearance times resulting in lower storage and associated costs



Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection

How it works

- **85% of non-commodity related document assessments** are undertaken by accredited persons under AEPNCCC
- **Brokers enter one of the appropriate concern types** developed in ICS for accredited persons to apply under AEPNCCC

1

1. RUAA - AEP Rural Tailgate Inspection – Approved Arrangement

2

2. REAA - AEP Rural Tailgate External only Inspection – Approved Arrangement

- **When applied together, AEPNCCC and Class 14.4** enables effective, end to end industry managed clearance of eligible containers
- **Industry inspect, and if applicable, manage low level external contamination**
- **Where a container is determined to be free of biosecurity risk material, the BIP releases the container from biosecurity control**

No departmental release of documents under Class 14.4

- **The BIPs record of release replaces the traditional department clearance and release documents**

Approved arrangement

14.4 – Rural tailgate inspection
Conditions

Version 1.0



Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate inspections



More information:

- **Class 14.4 Approved arrangement - conditions:**
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/requirements
- **General information on RTG inspections:**
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival
- **Awareness video**
[Awareness video - Class 14.4: Rural Tailgate Inspection](#)
- **Email enquiries:**
seacargopolicy@aff.gov.au

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



TIPS for:

- Accessing the Biosecurity Portal (Portal) via your myGovID (Digital Identity) for improved functionality
- Selecting 'Next Available' as the 'Preferred Inspection Period'
- Selecting the correct 'Inspection Type'
- Imported foods (IFIP) 'Inspection Duration'
- IFIP & CCV 'Inspection Location'
- Utilising the 'Inspection Request – Additional Information' field
- 'Multi-day Booking' and utilising the multi-day 'Additional Information' field



Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Accessing the portal via your myGovID (Digital Identity) for improved functionality

- Request, modify and cancel an import inspection.
- View and print AIMS Directions.



For help signing up or using the biosecurity portal, please contact: biosecurityportal@aff.gov.au

Feature	myGovID - Approved Arrangements - Customs brokers - Importers	Other users
Online request for inspection (RFI) submission	✓	✓
Auto pre-population of RFI details	✓	
Viewing and printing of AIMS Direction information	✓	
View / manage inspection requests that I have lodged	✓	✓
View / manage inspection requests lodged by any authorised user representing my organisation	✓	
View / manage my upcoming inspection bookings	✓	✓ (cancel only)
View / manage upcoming bookings lodged by any authorised user representing my organisation	✓	
View my historical inspection bookings made via the Portal	✓	✓
View historical inspection bookings lodged by any authorised user representing my organisation	✓	
Receive automatic email notifications. e.g. confirmation of inspection request and confirmed inspection booking details	✓	✓
Manage individual profile	✓	✓
Manage organisational profile	✓	
Manage user access (who can represent my organisation)	✓	

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Select the correct inspection type

- Automation – Relies on accurate inspection types being selected.
- An 'Inspection Type' guide can be found on our website at: www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/QID108444_IR%20How%20do%20I%20select%20the%20correct%20Inspection%20type%20for%20my%20inspection%20V1.0_0.pdf
- We are improving the useability of the guide.



Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Imported Foods (IFIP) Inspection Duration

Issue: Incorrect 'inspection duration' entered when requesting imported foods inspection

- Ensure the **inspection duration** advised on your Imported Foods directions are adhered to and **entered accurately into the 'Estimated inspection duration'**
- Ensure the **time is entered in minutes.**
- **Under/Over entering the duration can lead to delays.**



Imported food inspection

Estimated inspection duration (minutes). *

Inspection time estimations for consignments subject to the Imported Food Inspection Scheme are located on the Food Control Certificate.

Please enter the estimated inspection duration value provided on your Food Control Certificate.

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



IFIP & CCV Inspection Locations

- **When requesting an IFIP or CCV inspection, a business name can assist officers.** Delays may occur without this information as officers have difficulty locating the correct inspection location.
- **If lodging requests for inspection at non-AAs , please note the business name in the Inspection Request – additional comments field.**



Request an inspection for Entry ID -

Location contacts Consignment information Appointment details Summary

Confirm inspection location contact details

Please provide the name and phone number for at least one inspection location contact for each inspection request. This information will be used by biosecurity officers when attending the inspection.

Inspection request

Please enter any additional information about the inspection location in the box below.
(Maximum 100 characters)

Directions

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Utilise the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ Field

ANY information relevant to your inspection request can also be noted in the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ field.

This can include:

- **Machine ID’s / VINS** – if only certain machines are to be inspected.
- **Location of wharf inspections** – e.g. Specific Berths



Request an inspection for Entry ID -

Location contacts

Consignment information

Appointment details

Summary

Confirm inspection location contact details

Please provide the name and phone number for at least one inspection location contact for each inspection request. This information will be used by biosecurity officers when attending the inspection.

Inspection request

Please enter any additional information about the inspection location in the box below.
(Maximum 100 characters)

Directions

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Multi Day Requests

- If requesting a 'Multi-day booking', please insert any relevant information into the 'multi-day request – comments box'.

This can include:

- Specific dates preferred for inspection
- Number of containers on each day
- Hours required on each day



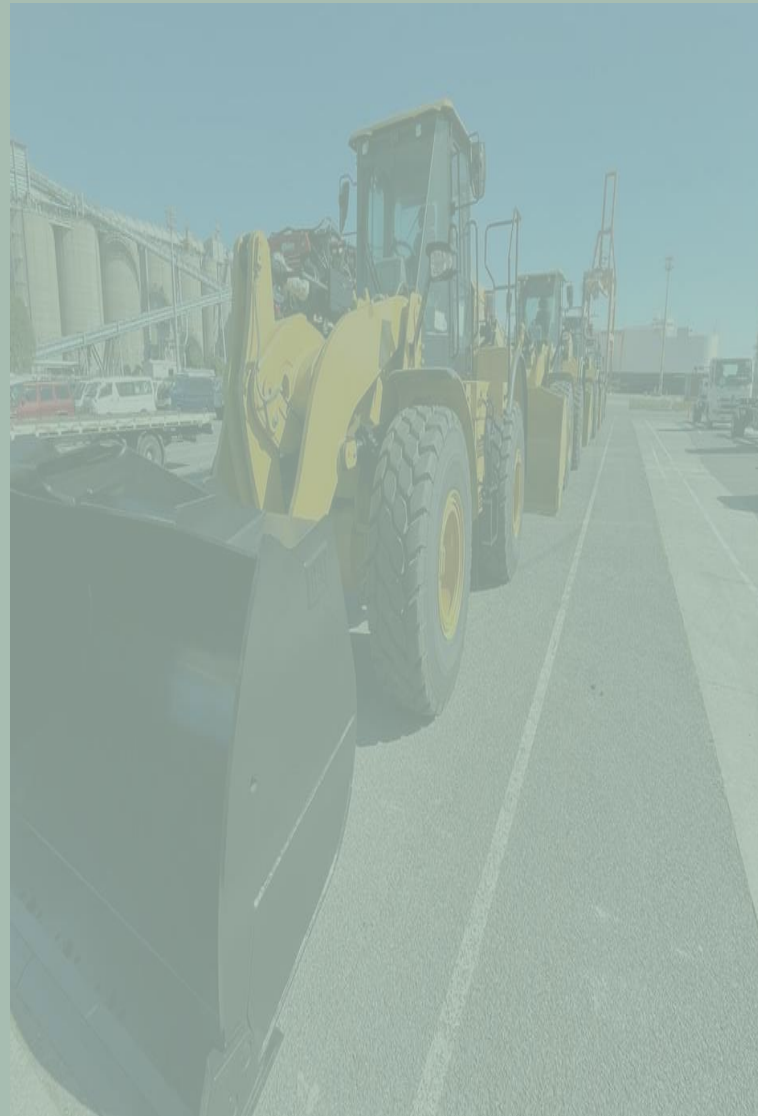
Multi-day booking

Is this request for a multi-day booking? *

- Yes
 No

Provide information about your multi-day booking requirement in the text below (days and hours being requested). *

Machinery, Equipment and Vehicle Imports



- Machinery (including machinery parts) and motor vehicles can introduce biosecurity risks into Australia.
- Risks include but are not limited to live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal material and plant material such as twigs, leaves, roots and bark.
- On arrival in Australia all machinery and motor vehicles are subject to Biosecurity control and may be inspected by a Biosecurity officer.
 - New machinery and vehicles imported as break bulk are subject to surveillance on arrival.
 - Used machinery, equipment and vehicles require mandatory inspection.
 - Importers are responsible for ensuring that machinery and vehicles are clean and free of biosecurity risks before they arrive in Australia.

Machinery

All machinery and parts imported into Australia must be free from contamination such as seeds, soil, plant and animals materials.

Australia's import requirements for new and used machinery are found on [BICON](#) under case: **Machinery, equipment and parts**



The importer is responsible for ensuring that machinery & parts are clean and free of biosecurity risk material before they arrive in Australia

The Department has the power to export contaminated machinery from Australia at the importers or owner's expense.



Used Machinery



- Used machinery includes machinery and parts that have contacted soil, animals, animal or plant materials when trialled, tested or used in environments posing a biosecurity risk
- Used machinery is legislated under the *Biosecurity (Conditionally Non-Prohibited Goods) Determination 2021* – which provides additional details on imports in conjunction with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- Section 49(3) of the Determination stipulates the following conditions:

Conditions

- (3) Goods included in a class of goods to which this section applies must not be brought or imported into Australian territory unless the goods:
 - (a) were cleaned before export to be clean and free from animal and plant material and soil; and
 - (b) are accompanied by documentation stating the method of cleaning.
- Machinery not meeting acceptable standards of cleanliness may not be permitted entry to Australia and directed for export.

Used Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk

- Used machinery contaminated with an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk will be assessed and **directed for export** for example:

Belly plate not removed and no attempt to clean



Engine Bay – no attempt at cleaning



Underside of machine – no attempt at cleaning



Important: Containerised used machines can still be directed for export. Having goods unpacked in an AA wash bay does not negate the requirement to meet import conditions.

Used Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk

- Examples of machines with unacceptable levels of BRM **directed for export**

No removal of drive motor panel or attempt to clean.



Beehive in open channel



Plant material in open channel



Used Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk

- Examples of unacceptable levels of BRM in machines **directed for export**.

Excavator turret – no attempt at cleaning



Plant material in engine bay – no attempt to remove



Painted over soil contamination – no attempt to clean



Used Containerised Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk

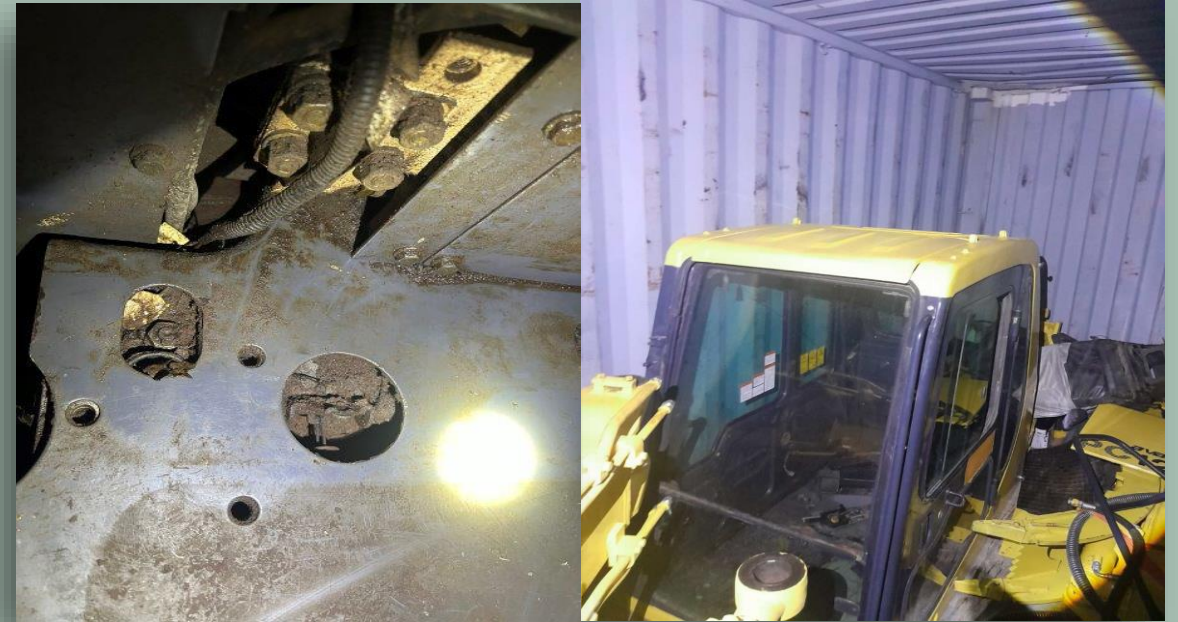
- Examples of unacceptable levels of BRM in containerised used machines directed for export.



Excavator drive arm – full of soil & prohibited packing
– no attempt at cleaning



Removed Cabin at rear of container with cabin floor – no attempt to clean



Photographs provided by AA operator after contamination found when attempting to unpack container for inspection

New and used machinery - cleaning guides & checklists

In addition to BICON, cleaning guides and checklists are available to assist importers ensure their new and used machinery meets Australia's import conditions at: www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/vehicles-machinery/regulations/guides-checklists.



Note:
Bolded
mandatory
cleaning



Generic – Cleaning Checklist Guidelines

As per the import conditions, partial or full dismantling may be required to facilitate the cleaning and inspection process. Mandatory requirements are noted against each action.

Cabin:

No.	Action	(Y) (N) (n/a)
1	Mandatory: Remove any rubber floor mats and clean floor surface.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
2	Remove and clean all door rubbers, internal door panelling and clean all windowsills.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
3	Remove and clean under the seat, including the rubber seat shroud.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
4	Mandatory: Remove any non-affixed floor panel if applicable and clean underneath.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
5	Remove rubber pedal covers and clean.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
6	Remove and clean behind all cabin wall lining/panelling.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
7	All air-conditioning vents must be internally cleaned. Access will be required for inspection.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
8	Mandatory: Clean inside all joystick controls. Access will be required for inspection.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
9	Check cleanliness of cabin roof, both inside and out.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
10	Clean ladder to cabin (may have hollow frame) and under each footstep.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
11	Internally clean all light covers. Access will be required for inspection.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
12	Mandatory: Check for false floor under cabin and remove for cleaning, if applicable.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
13	Check if the vertical cabin housing can be flushed via drainage holes.	(Y) (N) (n/a)
14	Clean around roll over protection support structure.	(Y) (N) (n/a)

Cleaning guidelines

Dozer

Description	Images
<p>Landscape shot of a typical Caterpillar Dozer. Structurally, the D8, D9, D10 and D11 series are basically the same except for small variations and obviously size differences.</p> <p>Note that the cabin has been removed for shipping purposes as well as the bearing covers (red arrows). There are 16 bearing covers in total. These bearing covers must be removed for cleaning and inspections purposes.</p>	

Tracks/track pads/bearing covers and rollers

Description	Images
<p>The tracks on any dozer need to be rolled to allow the cleaning and inspection of the countersunk bolt heads (red arrows) on each of the rollers.</p>	
<p>The track guides have been removed for ease of cleaning and inspection. On some models the two bolt ends (red arrows) are countersunk at the rear of the track guide. Ensure that the rear of this guide is checked for any biosecurity risk material (BRM) in these areas (blue arrow).</p>	

Used Equipment – Unacceptable biosecurity risk

- Examples of unacceptable levels of BRM in used equipment **directed for export**

Flour residue and extensive mould on rollers – no cleaning attempted



Rodent faeces and flour residue



Excessive mould and flour contamination – no cleaning attempted



Used Equipment – Unacceptable biosecurity risk

- Examples of unacceptable levels of BRM in used equipment **directed for export**

Unacceptable plant material, leftover ingredients including seeds/crushed rice, large amounts of mould, various dead insects and rodent droppings

Evidence of minimal to no cleaning of the machine before importing into Australia.

Equipment did not meet import conditions



Machinery, Equipment and Vehicles: BMSB seasonal measures

1 September to 30 April:

- Machinery, equipment and vehicle imports may be subject to the seasonal measures for BMSB.
- High risk goods manufactured in or shipped from target risk countries require treatment for BMSB from 1 September to 30 April (inclusive).
- Goods shipped as break bulk, or in an open top or on a flat rack container, require mandatory offshore treatment.
- BMSB seasonal measures for the 2024-25 BMSB season will be published shortly.

Enquiries about BMSB seasonal measures can be directed to spp@aff.gov.au

Approved arrangement Class 19 - Impacts

Current impact:

- internally we have good information
- engaging with industry to better understand industry impact

Based on consultation: costs associated with lodging documentation in COLS for assessment can include:

- person hours required to lodge documentation
- additional depot fees when a consignment is held longer than expected
- relocation costs to move goods
- costs associated with delayed return of containers

Costs can often be avoided if using the approved arrangement class 19

Approved arrangement class 19 – opportunities for improvement

- Usage and uptake of the approved arrangement is increasing
- Commodity groups with low utilisation rates include:
 - highly refined organic chemicals and substances
 - milling products
- When used to its fullest potential, the approved arrangement can provide savings to industry

Approved arrangement class 19 - expansion

June 2024 expansion:

- new and used clothes, bags, rags
- LCL consignments of NZ dairy
- additional tariffs associated with goods listed on the BICON table of wooden products

November 2023 expansion:

- beef products from NZ
- LCL tyres
- tariffs associated with goods listed on the BICON table of bamboo and wooden products

Other initiatives

Highly compliant importer (HCI) scheme:

- a reduced inspection intervention scheme
- currently includes green coffee beans
- Machinery, aircraft and LCL tyres to be added in August 2024

Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy:

- a review of the policy is currently progressing
- industry focus group sessions have been held
- outcomes of the focus group will include updated tools and resources



QUESTIONS

Questions can be directed to SeaCargoPolicy@aff.gov.au