# Class 14.4: Rural tailgate inspection informative text

Approved Arrangements Program

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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.

**Version control**

Updated versions of this document will be published on the department’s website.

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## Guide to using this document

This document provides information intended to assist biosecurity industry participants covered by a class 14.4 rural tailgate inspection approved arrangement to comply with the conditions of their arrangement.

This document provides supporting information only. The approved arrangement conditions for [14.4 rural tailgate inspection](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/requirements#class-14) must be met by the biosecurity industry participant when performing biosecurity activities under class 14.4 approved arrangement.

The images used in this document are intended to contextualise the container types that are within scope of class 14.4 and the biosecurity risks associated with containers destined for unpack in a rural location. These (stock) images may not replicate all container types directed for inspection in accordance with class 14.4 and the scenarios in which biosecurity risk is detected during rural tailgate inspection.

Further information on approved arrangements, department contact details and copies of relevant approved arrangement documentation is available at [Approved Arrangements](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements).

### Other documents

The [class 14.4 Rural tailgate inspections conditions](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/requirements#class-14) and the [Approved Arrangements General Policies](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/general-policies) should be read in conjunction with this supplementary information document.

## Biosecurity directions and container types

### Identifying biosecurity directions relating to class 14.4

Rural tailgate inspections of containers to be conducted under the approved arrangement class 14.4 – rural tailgate inspection are identified by one of two biosecurity directions issued by the department, titled either:

* Approved Arrangements – AA Rural Tailgate Inspection
* Approved Arrangements – AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspect

Information on identifying these directions is provided at table 1 and table 2.

All other direction types are out of scope for industry performed rural tailgate inspection under approved arrangement class 14.4. Examples of direction types that are out of scope of class 14.4 is provided at table 3.

Table Identifying direction type Approved Arrangements – AA Rural Tailgate Inspection

| Two direction types specific to class 14.4 | Key features of the direction |
| --- | --- |
| An image showing the top of a biosecurity direction issued by the department. On the left of the image is the Australian Government crest and the departments name. In the centre of the image is the title of the biosecurity direction. This direction is titled: Approved Arrangements AA Rural Tailgate Inspection. On the right of the image is the biosecurity direction number.This image is an example of the Additional Comments section from a biosecurity direction. In this example the comments read: "Rural tailgate inspection to be performed on the containers listed by the biosecurity industry participant in accordance with the AA conditions for class 14.4 - rural tailgate inspection. Internal and external inspection is required. Internal inspection must not be performed if the container/s are carrying dangerous goods, diplomatic goods, or refrigerated containers (reefers) that are hard frozen. | The direction:   * title states ‘Approved Arrangement – AA Rural Tailgate Inspection’ * comments explicitly authorise rural tailgate inspection to be performed by the biosecurity industry participant in accordance with the approved arrangement conditions for AA class 14.4.   Containers subject to this direction must undergo:   * external inspection * internal inspection, unless the container is a hard frozen reefer or is carrying [dangerous goods](#_Dangerous_goods) or diplomatic goods. |

Table Identifying direction type Approved Arrangements – AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspect

| Two direction types specific to class 14.4 | Key features of the direction |
| --- | --- |
| An image showing the top of a biosecurity direction issued by the department. On the left of the image is the Australian Government crest and the departments name. In the centre of the image is the title of the biosecurity direction. This direction is titled: Approved Arrangements AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspection. On the right of the image is the biosecurity direction number.This image is an example of the Additional Comments section from a biosecurity direction. In this example the comments read: "Rural tailgate inspection to be performed on the containers listed by the biosecurity industry participant in accordance with the AA conditions for class 14.4 - rural tailgate inspection. Only external inspection required for isotankers, reefer under temperature control, containers carrying dangerous goods, containers carrying diplomatic goods | The direction:   * title states ‘Approved Arrangement – AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspect’ * comments explicitly authorise rural tailgate inspection to be performed by the biosecurity industry participant in accordance with the approved arrangement conditions for AA class 14.4.   Containers subject to this direction must undergo an external inspection only. |

Table Examples of direction types for container inspections that are out of scope for class 14.4

| Direction title: | Key features of the direction |
| --- | --- |
| An image showing the top of a biosecurity direction issued by the department. On the left of the image is the Australian Government crest and the department's name. In the centre of the image is the title of the biosecurity direction. This direction is titled: Inspection Tailgate - Rural Destination. On the right of the image is the biosecurity direction number.This image is an example of the Additional Comments section from a biosecurity direction. In this example the comments read: "Person in charge of the goods must provide packing declarations and treatment certificates related to this consignment on request of inspecting biosecurity officer. Verify container cleanliness. Verify packing: inspect the packaging/dunnage to ensure freedom from unacceptable packing materials, bark, infestation and other biosecurity risk material. If unable to verify, unpack may be required. For containers of declared dangerous goods, hard frozen containers and isotanks - external inspection only | The direction:   * title states ‘Inspection – Tailgate –Rural Destination’, which is not a direction type recognised under class 14.4 (refer table 1 and table 2) * comments do not include reference to the inspection being performed by the biosecurity participant under class 14.4 approved arrangement.   A biosecurity officer must complete the rural tailgate inspection for this direction. It is a breach of the biosecurity direction and approved arrangement conditions if a biosecurity industry participant performed the inspection and noncompliance action may result. |
| An image showing the top of a biosecurity direction issued by the department. On the left of the image is the Australian Government crest and the department's name. In the centre of the image is the title of the biosecurity direction. This direction is titled: Inspection  - Tailgate. On the right of the image is the biosecurity direction number.This image is an example of the Additional Comments section from a biosecurity direction. In this example the comments read: "Inspect packaged consignments to ensure freedom from contamination and/or infestation by extraneous materials and that packaging is intact and packed in new and unused bags". | The direction:   * title states ‘Inspection – Tailgate’, which is not a direction type recognised under class 14.4 (refer table 1 and table 2) * comments do not include reference to the inspection being performed by the biosecurity participant under class 14.4 approved arrangement.   A biosecurity officer must complete the inspection for this direction. It is a breach of the biosecurity direction and approved arrangement conditions if a biosecurity industry participant performed the inspection and noncompliance action may result. |

### Containers within scope of class 14.4

Only dry box, reefer, ISO tanker and open top containers are eligible for rural tailgate inspection under class 14.4. Refer to the department’s [biosecurity import conditions system (BICON](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/online-services/bicon)) for further information on suitability of the container and the good being imported for class 14.4 rural tailgate inspection.

Table Container types within scope of class 14.4

| Container type | Description | Example image of container type |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dry box | Container including non-operational reefers with 6 hard sides used to transport unstable goods, general goods and cargo. | The image shows an example of a "Dry box" shipping container. This example is a 20 foot container. The container is red and the container number and doors are visible. |
| Reefer | Temperature controlled refrigerated container with 6 hard sides used for goods required to be hard frozen or refrigerated. | The image shows a "Reefer" container. The container is a 20 foot container. It is sitting on the ground and the compressor engine is visible. The container in this image is plugged in to power via a power lead. |
| ISO tanker | Steel cylindrical containers mounted in a rigid steel framework used to carry bulk liquids or chemicals. Also known as tank containers, tanktainers, bulk liquid containers (BL) or ISOtainer. | **The image shows "ISO tanker" containers. The containers are stacked on top of each other on the ground. All cylinders are white with different commercial signage and rigid steel frames are blue and red.** |
| Open top | Container with solid sides and no solid roof. | This image is an example of an open top container. The container has no top and there are 6 oversized tyres visible. In this image the container is being transported on a truck trailer. |

Table Directed inspection activities for container types within scope of class 14.4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Biosecurity direction title | Container types | Required inspection activities under class 14.4 conditions |
| Approved Arrangement – AA Rural Tailgate Inspection | Dry box  Open top  Reefers that are not hard frozen | External inspection of:   * external side walls * along external edges and lips * in and around twist locks and forklift tyne holes * door handles * door seals, without opening container doors * the underside of the container, which involves repositioning the container if the underside cannot be inspected (e.g. where the container is on the ground or a flatbed truck/trailer) * the topside of the container, but only where biosecurity risk material is detected on the underside or side walls.   Internal inspection (without entering the container) of:   * internal surfaces of the container including doors, door seals, floor, walls and ceiling * free airspace * external surfaces of the goods within the container * surfaces of packaging material within the container, including monitoring for unacceptable packaging   Internal inspection is not required for containers carrying [dangerous goods](#_Dangerous_goods_1). |
| Approved Arrangement – AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspection | Reefers that are hard frozen  Containers with diplomatic goods  Containers with dangerous goods | External inspection of   * external side walls * along external edges and lips * in and around twist locks and forklift tyne holes * door handles * door seals, without opening container doors * engine/compressor area and around the power leads * the underside of the container, which involves repositioning the container if the underside cannot be inspected (e.g. where the container is on the ground or a flatbed truck/trailer) * the topside of the container, but only where biosecurity risk material is detected on the underside or side walls.   Internal inspection is not required. |
| ISO tankers | External inspection of:   * external surfaces of the cylinder * steel frame * in and around twist locks and forklift tyne holes * the underside of the container, which involves repositioning the container if the underside cannot be inspected (e.g. where the container is on the ground or a flatbed truck/trailer) * the topside of the cylinder and frame, but only where biosecurity risk material is detected on other external surfaces.   Internal inspection is not required. |

### Inspecting the underside of the container

The accredited person performing the inspection must be able to inspect all surfaces of the underside of the container when conducting the rural tailgate inspection. Visibility of the underside is often obscured where the container is presented for external inspection on a flatbed trailer or on the ground. The approved arrangement conditions of class 14.4 require that the container be repositioned to allow sufficient access and visibility to the underside of the container.

Table Container position to inspect the underside

| Container position | Description |
| --- | --- |
| A picture of a dry box container positioned on a flat bed truck trailer. There is only a small gap between the bottom of the container and the bed of the trailer. Access to the underside of the container is restricted | Containers presented on a flatbed trailer, as pictured, limit visibility to the underside of the container to perform an effective inspection. The underside of the container is too close to the trailer top, only twist locks and forklift tyne holes are visible. |
| A picture of a dry box container placed onto a container inspection stand. The stand allows a person to safely walk beneath the container and allows access to the underside for inspection. | If access to the underside of the container is restricted it will be necessary to reposition the container.  Container inspection stands, as pictured allow for greater access and visibility to the underside of the container.  Approved arrangement sites where rural tailgate inspections are performed are required to have a [certified sea freight container inspection stand](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/before/prepare/sea-container-cleaning-standards/standards). These stands are required for biosecurity officers to safely inspect containers that are out of scope of class 14.4 and containers referred to the department under class 14.4.  These stands may be used by the biosecurity industry participant to facilitate access to the underside of the container for rural tailgate inspections performed under class 14.4. |

### Dangerous goods

If there is any indication that the container is carrying dangerous goods, an internal inspection must not be conducted.

Table Dangerous goods signage

| Dangerous goods | Description |
| --- | --- |
| This picture depicts a generic dangerous goods sign. It is rectangular. The word "DANGER" is shown in white letters on a red background at the top of the sign and the words "DANGEROUS GOODS" are shown in black letters on a white background on the bottom of the sign.This picture depicts a generic dangerous goods sign. It is rectangular. The word "DANGER" is shown in white letters on a red background at the top of the sign and the words "DANGEROUS CHEMICALS" are shown in black letters on a white background on the bottom of the sign.This image shows 9 different examples of dangerous goods signs. Each sign is a diamond shape. Each sign depicts various different types of dangerous goods signage. They are colour coded according to the type of dangerous goods they are advising. | Dangerous goods are substances or articles which are potentially dangerous to people, property or the environment.  Dangerous goods signage comes in various forms and is commonly displayed as a diamond shaped sign with wording which identifies the type of dangerous goods being transported.  The colour of the sign will vary depending on the class of dangerous goods being transported. Other variations of dangerous goods signage will display obvious warnings.  Shipping containers used to transport dangerous goods should display labelling or signage to advise the presence of dangerous goods. Dangerous goods signage should be prominently displayed on the outside of the container and at the doors.  Internal tailgate inspections are not to be conducted on containers carrying dangerous goods. |

## Identifying and managing biosecurity risk

Shipping containers can inadvertently carry a range of [biosecurity risks](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/pests) which could introduce exotic pests and diseases into the Australian environment, including our fragile and vulnerable rural areas.

For example:

* Soil may contain animal disease pathogens, such as foot and mouth disease which could impact Australia's livestock industries. Soil can also contain plant diseases and exotic seeds and invertebrates.
* Seeds can introduce weeds or exotic plant diseases and harbour exotic invertebrates.
* Exotic invertebrates such as termites and borers may become established in Australia, impacting forest industries and causing damage to property and the Australian environment.
* Snails pose a significant risk to a range of Australian plant species and horticultural industries.
* Exotic moth species pose a significant risk to Australian tree species and horticultural industries.
* Used produce packaging and other unacceptable packaging material such as straw may contain plant diseases and harbour exotic invertebrates.

Rural areas pose a higher risk than metropolitan areas due to the likelihood of pests establishing quickly and the difficulty in detecting and controlling pests once established. Shipping containers destined for rural areas are subject to heightened biosecurity measures on arrival including mandatory inspection.

### External container biosecurity risks

The following tables provide examples of biosecurity risk material detected on external container surfaces.

Table Soil and plant contamination on external container surfaces

| Example images of soil and plant contamination detected during external container inspection | Description |
| --- | --- |
| A picture of the exterior of a shipping container. The image is of the bottom edge rail of the container and the forklift tyne hole. Soil contamination can be seen on the rail and in the forklift tyne hole. | Soil contamination pictured is detected along the bottom side rail and the forklift tyne hole of a dry box container. |
| A picture of the exterior of a shipping container. The image is of the bottom edge rail of the container and the twist lock. Soil contamination can be seen on the rail and in the twist lock. | Soil contamination pictured is detected in and around the twist lock of a container. |
| The picture is of the railings on the underside of a shipping container. The railings are contaminated with soil. | Soil contamination pictured is detected on the underside rails of the container. |
| A picture of the exterior of a shipping container. The image is of the bottom edge rail of the container and the forklift tyne hole. Seed contamination can be seen on the rail and in the tyne hole. | Seed contamination pictured is detected along the bottom side rail and the forklift tyne holes of a dry box container. |
| The picture is a close up of the twist lock on one of the bottom corners of a shipping container. The container is sitting on the ground and seed contamination has fallen from the twist lock and is lying on the ground. | Seed and soil contamination pictured is detected to have fallen from the twist lock of the container when grounded. Contamination could also fall from the container when presented for inspection on a trailer or certified sea freight container inspection stand. |

Table Invertebrates on external container surfaces

| Example image of invertebrates detected during external container inspection | Description |
| --- | --- |
| The picture is of the underside of a shipping container and the underside of the timber floor of the container is visible. Termite damage is clearly visible and there are obvious holes in the timber and mud tubes on the surface of the timber. | Container pictured has timber flooring visible from the underside of the container. Timber flooring is infested with timber pests, visible by holes and damage to the timber as well as mud tubes (tracks created by termites and other boring invertebrates). |

### Internal container biosecurity risks

The following tables provide examples of biosecurity risk material detected within the container.

Table Soil and plant contamination within the container

| Example image of soil and plant contamination detected during internal container inspection | Description |
| --- | --- |
| A close up picture of the rubber top seal of a shipping container door. There are seeds visible in the seal. | Seed contamination pictured is detected in and around the top edge of the container door seal, indicating the container has not been cleaned prior to sealing offshore. |
| A picture of the inside of a shipping container. The picture shows sprouting plant material growing from a small gap between the container floor and the container wall. | Live plant material pictured is detected on the internal floor surfaces of the container.  In this case the seeds have fallen into the gap between the floor of the container and the side walls. The seeds have germinated and can been seen sprouting. |

Table Invertebrates and animals within the container

| Example image of invertebrate detected during internal container inspection | Description |
| --- | --- |
| A picture of a timber pallet used to transport machinery parts. Borer holes are visible in the timber. Frass is also visible | Wooden pallets pictured are used to transport new machinery parts and show evidence of borer activity and infestation.  Indications of borer or termite activity include:   * holes in timber * frass (the powdery sawdust-like substance produced from borers). |
| A picture of the inside of a shipping container. The picture shows 7 conical shaped snail shells adhered to the smooth steel surface of the container wall. | Snails pictured is detected on an internal wall and ceiling surface of the container. |
| This picture consist of 2 separate images. The left image shows a hand pointing to a single moth egg mass. The egg mass is light brown in colour and an irregular shape. The right image shows multiple egg masses. Each egg mass is a different brown colour. they are all irregularly shaped and there are several live mature moths visible. | Moth egg mass detected on an internal surface of a container during a tailgate inspection.  Egg masses may present individually or as large clusters. Live mature moths may be present. |

Table Unacceptable packaging material

| Example images of unnacceptable packaging detected during internal container inspection | Description |
| --- | --- |
| The picture shows 3 used fresh produce boxes detected during an internal tailgate inspection. | Loose produce packaging pictured is an example of unacceptable packaging detected inside the container. |
| This picture show the contents of a shipping container visible during an internal tailgate inspection. The contents are an old wooden crate and there is loose plant material such as straw visible around the crate on the floor of the container. | Straw packaging pictured is an example of unacceptable packaging detected inside the container. Additionally, the timber packaging (crate) shows water/moisture marks which may have mould. |

### Managing biosecurity risk

Class 14.4 authorises the biosecurity industry participant to remove all contamination from external surfaces of the container, without further biosecurity direction for cleaning being issued by the department. The biosecurity industry participant is not authorised to undertake other biosecurity intervention (e.g. fumigation or unpack) without a biosecurity direction being issued by the department.

The department must be notified in the following events:

* Live or dead animals or live invertebrates are detected on external surfaces of the container.
* Contamination is detected on external surfaces which cannot be removed and managed at time of the external inspection or by washing or steam cleaning at the approved arrangement site.
* Any biosecurity risk is detected within the container.

Table Quick reference guide for managing biosecurity risk

| Biosecurity risk detected | Actions required to manage the biosecurity risk |
| --- | --- |
| Soil and plant contamination is detected on external surface of the container | If the contamination can be removed without washing or steam cleaning, immediately:   * remove the contamination from the container * dispose of the contamination in a biosecurity waste container.   Where washing or steam cleaning is required to remove the contamination, this must occur in the onsite class 4.3 approved wash bay.  Note**:** complete any required internal inspection prior to moving the container to the onsite class 4.3 wash bay for cleaning. |
| Soil and plant contamination is detected to have fallen from or has left the container | Immediately:   * clean up the contamination * dispose of the contamination in a biosecurity waste container. |
| Live or dead animals and live invertebrates are detected on or have left the container | Immediately:   * cease the inspection * apply knockdown spray to live invertebrates * collect the invertebrates following knockdown spray and secure in a sealed specimen jar, bag, vial * if safe to, capture and contain the animal in a cage, receptacle or building, or if unsafe or not possible to capture and contain, maintain constant observation of the animal * close the container doors if open * secure the container in a biosecurity area at the approved arrangement site * notify the department. |
| Any of the following is detected within the container:   * contamination * live or dead animals including evidence of animal activity (e.g., animal droppings) * invertebrates including evidence of invertebrate activity (e.g., frass) * unacceptable packaging. | Immediately:   * cease the inspection * close the container doors * secure the container in a biosecurity area at the approved arrangement site * notify the department. |

## Releasing the container from biosecurity control and reporting inspection outcomes

### Releasing the container from biosecurity control

Biosecurity industry participants approved for class 14.4 are authorised to release containers from biosecurity control, provided that the:

* biosecurity direction for the container is within scope of class 14.4 (refer table 1 and table 2)
* container type is within scope of class 14.4 (refer table 4)
* container is inspected and where required cleaned in accordance with the conditions for the arrangement
* container is determined to be free of biosecurity risk material
* biosecurity industry participant has created a record of the release from biosecurity control.

The biosecurity industry participant’s record of the release from biosecurity control forms the:

* legislated legal document for release from biosecurity control under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
* permission for the biosecurity industry participant to allow the container to leave the biosecurity area and the approved arrangement site (even under a ‘conditional clear’ status in the Integrated Cargo System).

The department will not issue a notice of release (final directive notice) for containers that have been released from biosecurity control by a biosecurity industry participant approved for class 14.4.

While biosecurity industry participants are not required to provide the record of release to the importer or agent (broker) for the container, it is encouraged, and the importer or agent may seek the record of release for their own record keeping and assurance purposes.

### Reporting container inspection outcomes

The conditions for class 14.4 require the biosecurity industry participant to complete and submit rural tailgate container inspection outcomes to the department within 2 business days of either:

* releasing the container from biosecurity control, or
* referring the container to the department.

There are 2 reporting options for submitting rural tailgate container inspection outcomes to the department:

* Option 1: Using the  [Biosecurity Portal](https://biosecurity.awe.gov.au/) , which provides a streamlined reporting process with container and biosecurity direction information already pre-loaded into the system.
* Option 2: Complete and submit the [Rural tailgate container inspection record](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/node/7591#class-14) PDF.

The department’s systems are configured to automatically assess and record container inspection outcomes in the department’s Automated Import Management System (AIMS). The biosecurity industry participant will be notified of any reporting discrepancies which can occur using the [Rural tailgate container inspection record](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/node/7591#class-14) PDF.

Where the inspection outcome for all containers on the import declaration is ‘released from biosecurity control’, the department’s system will communicate this outcome to the Integrated Cargo System to reflect a ‘clear’ status.

Biosecurity industry participants must not use both options to submit rural tailgate inspection outcomes for the same container as this will lead to system automation errors. Use only one reporting option for each container.