



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

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](#) 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](#).

Other documents

The [class 14.4 Rural tailgate inspections conditions](#) and the [Approved 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 1 Identifying direction type Approved Arrangements – AA Rural Tailgate Inspection


Two direction types specific to class 14.4	Key features of the direction
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <p style="font-size: small;">Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ABN 34 190 894 983</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: small;">Biosecurity Direction Approved Arrangements AA Rural Tailgate Inspection</div> <div style="text-align: right;">SW3451003 *SW3451003*</div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Additional Comments: 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Internal and external inspection of container/s required. * Internal inspection must not be performed if the container/s are carrying dangerous, diplomatic goods, or refrigerated containers (reefers) that are hard frozen. </div>	<p>The direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Containers subject to this direction must undergo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • external inspection • internal inspection, unless the container is a hard frozen reefer or is carrying dangerous goods or diplomatic goods.

Table 2 Identifying direction type Approved Arrangements – AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspect




Two direction types specific to class 14.4	Key features of the direction
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <p style="font-size: small;">Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ABN 34 190 894 983</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: small;">Biosecurity Direction Approved Arrangements AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspect</div> <div style="text-align: right;">SW8814002 *SW8814002*</div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Additional Comments: Rural tailgate external container 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.</p> <p>Only external inspection required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Isotankers * Reefer under temperature control *Containers carrying dangerous goods *Containers carrying diplomatic goods </div>	<p>The direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Containers subject to this direction must undergo an external inspection only.</p>

Table 3 Examples of direction types for container inspections that are out of scope for class 14.4

Direction title:	Key features of the direction
<div data-bbox="124 315 903 398" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p style="font-size: small;">Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ABN 34 190 894 983</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Biosecurity Direction Inspection Tailgate - Rural Destination</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AD3200001 *AD3200001*</p> </div> <p>Additional Comments: RURL: Rural unpack location</p> <p>Person in charge of the goods must provide packing declarations and treatment certificates related to this consignment on request of the 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.</p>	<p>The direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p>
<div data-bbox="129 831 903 936" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p style="font-size: small;">Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ABN 34 190 894 983</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Biosecurity Direction Inspection Tailgate</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CWS565026 *CWS565026*</p> </div> <p>Additional Comments: 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.</p>	<p>The direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p>

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 \(BICON\)](#) for further information on suitability of the container and the good being imported for class 14.4 rural tailgate inspection.

Table 4 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.	
Reefer	Temperature controlled refrigerated container with 6 hard sides used for goods required to be hard frozen or refrigerated.	
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.	
Open top	Container with solid sides and no solid roof.	



Table 5 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	<p>External inspection of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Internal inspection (without entering the container) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Internal inspection is not required for containers carrying dangerous goods.</p>
Approved Arrangement – AA Rural Tailgate Ext. Inspection	Reefers that are hard frozen Containers with diplomatic goods Containers with dangerous goods	<p>External inspection of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Internal inspection is not required.</p>
	ISO tankers	<p>External inspection of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Internal inspection is not required.</p>

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.

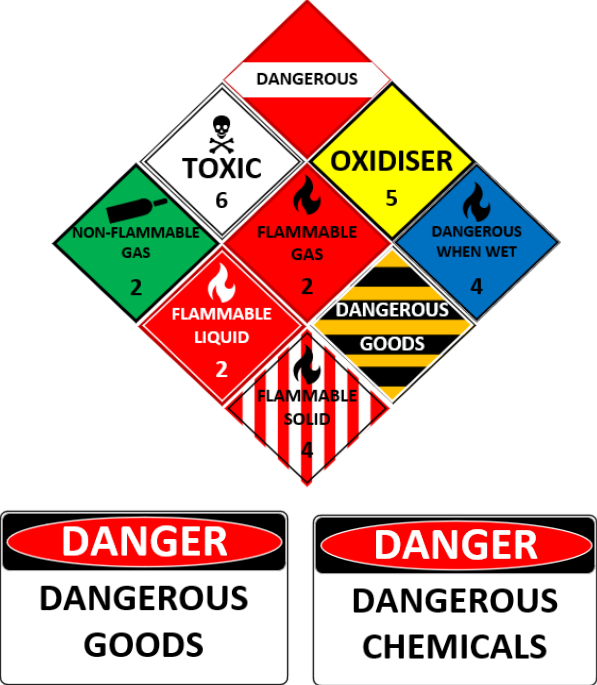
Table 6 Container position to inspect the underside

Container position	Description
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>If access to the underside of the container is restricted it will be necessary to reposition the container.</p> <p>Container inspection stands, as pictured allow for greater access and visibility to the underside of the container.</p> <p>Approved arrangement sites where rural tailgate inspections are performed are required to have a certified sea freight container inspection stand. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Dangerous goods

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

Table 7 Dangerous goods signage

Dangerous goods	Description
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Internal tailgate inspections are not to be conducted on containers carrying dangerous goods.</p>

Identifying and managing biosecurity risk

Shipping containers can inadvertently carry a range of [biosecurity risks](#) 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 8 Soil and plant contamination on external container surfaces

Example images of soil and plant contamination detected during external container inspection	Description
	<p>Soil contamination pictured is detected along the bottom side rail and the forklift tyne hole of a dry box container.</p>

Example images of soil and plant contamination detected during external container inspection	Description
	<p>Soil contamination pictured is detected in and around the twist lock of a container.</p>
	<p>Soil contamination pictured is detected on the underside rails of the container.</p>
	<p>Seed contamination pictured is detected along the bottom side rail and the forklift tyne holes of a dry box container.</p>



Example images of soil and plant contamination detected during external container inspection	Description
	<p>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.</p>

Table 9 Invertebrates on external container surfaces

Example image of invertebrates detected during external container inspection	Description
	<p>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).</p>

Internal container biosecurity risks

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

Table 10 Soil and plant contamination within the container



Example image of soil and plant contamination detected during internal container inspection	Description
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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 be seen sprouting.</p>

Table 11 Invertebrates and animals within the container





Example image of invertebrate detected during internal container inspection	Description
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • holes in timber • frass (the powdery sawdust-like substance produced from borers).
	<p>Snails pictured is detected on an internal wall and ceiling surface of the container.</p>
	<p>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.</p>

Table 12 Unacceptable packaging material

Example images of unacceptable packaging detected during internal container inspection	Description
	<p>Loose produce packaging pictured is an example of unacceptable packaging detected inside the container.</p>
	<p>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.</p>

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 13 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	<p>If the contamination can be removed without washing or steam cleaning, immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove the contamination from the container • dispose of the contamination in a biosecurity waste container. <p>Where washing or steam cleaning is required to remove the contamination, this must occur in the onsite class 4.3 approved wash bay.</p> <p>Note: complete any required internal inspection prior to moving the container to the onsite class 4.3 wash bay for cleaning.</p>
Soil and plant contamination is detected to have fallen from or has left the container	<p>Immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Any of the following is detected within the container:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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](#), 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](#) 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](#) 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.