**New vehicle inspection process**

**Video description and transcript**

**Updated October 2024**

**Introduction**

This is the accessible text transcript from the ‘Industry educational piece – New vehicles’ animation.

**Transcript**

[Video begins]

Screen 1 [00:00:00 - 00:10:00]: [Video description: Bustling wharf with Ro Ro (Roll on Roll off) vessel and cars]

[Audio]: In today’s interconnected world, the global movement of goods is more prevalent than ever before. But with this comes the risk of introducing harmful pests and diseases into new environments.

Screen 2 [00:10:00 - 00:21:00]: [Video description: Australian farming landscape]

[Audio]: That’s why agencies like the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry are vigilant in their efforts to safeguard our agriculture and biosecurity.

Screen 3 [00:21:00-00:32:00]: [Video description: Biosecurity counter at an Australian airport]

[Audio]: One of our key objectives is to strengthen our national biosecurity system to provide an appropriate level of protection to Australia’s people, our environment and economy from the biosecurity threats of today and tomorrow.

Screen 4 [00:32:00-00:59:00]: [Video description: Bustling wharf with Ro Ro vessels and cars]

[Audio}: That's where I come in. Hi, my name’s Michelle and I'm a Biosecurity Officer for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry in Melbourne, Australia. Today I want to show you a day in the life of a Biosecurity Officer performing inspections for imported new vehicles.

Let's start with the basics. It’s a sunny Monday morning and I am currently at a “roll on, roll off”, that we refer to as a RORO, port conducting surveillance activities on imported new vehicles.

Screen 5 [00:59:00-01:55:00]: [Video description: Three Ro Ro vessels sitting at the wharf]

[Audio]: I’ve noticed three vessels have arrived at this port over the weekend. After some preparation this morning, I’ve found that this vessel does not have any alerts and will only require surveillance at a standard intervention rate.

This second vessel has some makes and models of vehicles that were held in the previous port for seed contamination. The previous port notified us of this, and the vehicles will be held under biosecurity control on arrival to our port. Once they have arrived and unloaded off the vessel, an inspection will take place.

And finally, this third vessel has an alert for potential presence of a pest related risk, as notified by the vessel agent. Our entomologists have advised the team to increase the intervention rate for surveillance activities. Pest risks are always managed on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes we may need to take immediate action and hold certain units for insecticide flushing after discharging from the vessel.

Screen 6 [01:55:00-02:10:00]: [Video description: Michelle walking past yellow cars from the third vessel]

[Audio]: I’ve commenced my surveillance activities on the vessel with the highest risk, being the third vessel. Thankfully I have not found any pest risk, dead or alive. This will be reported to our entomologists and any subsequent Australian ports.

Screen 7 [02:10:00-02:29:00]: [Video description: Michelle walking past white cars from the second vessel]

[Audio]: The second vessel has the next highest risk. I've inspected the makes and models that were held in the previous port and found that seed contamination is also present on the vehicles discharged in Melbourne. Due to this, these vehicles will be held for further intervention.

Screen 8 [02:29:00-03:02:00]: [Video description: Michelle walking past utility cars from the first vessel]

[Audio]: And lastly, the remaining vessel had a few vehicles with utility trays that I noticed had a small amount of dry plant material, like leaves, that could be managed during surveillance activities. This material was collected and disposed of in a Biosecurity waste bin and reported in our system.

With the surveillance activities completed for the day, I have contacted the wharf representative to find out whether any inspections are available for consignments held on previous days. There are a few consignments ready for inspection so let me show you an example of one.

Screen 9 [03:02:00-04:45:00]: [Video description: Michelle standing in front of a white vehicle pointing out areas of contamination]

[Audio]: Here we have a consignment which failed surveillance due to seed contamination. The consignment was referred for further intervention via a Break Bulk Inspection, allowing internal access and better access to the underside of vehicles. During these inspections we want to inspect the whole of the vehicle, we will look at the following areas which have a higher risk of catching contamination, the engine bay, trunk, door and window seals and locks, inside the vehicle, compartments, radiator and grille, wheel arches, mudguards, drive shafts, and the underside of vehicles.

Noting, contamination has been found on the external of vehicles before, we do not limit our search to the areas listed above. Also to note is plastic coatings. They are known to be a nuisance for carrying seed contamination, hence why it is recommended that these are removed from all vehicles once consignments are directed for cleaning.

I have found a number of seeds on each vehicle, all in different sticking points. When conducting a walkaround to confirm Vehicle Identification Numbers there were also a number of seeds found when passing by.

Screen 10 [04:45:00-05:06:00]: [Video description: Michelle standing in front of multiple white vehicles with seeds stuck to them]

[Audio]: This indicates a high volume of contamination across the consignment. Can you see them too?

Due to the consistent contamination being found on each vehicle, I have determined that this consignment has widespread contamination. As I am unable to remove contamination myself in a timely and reasonable manner from all vehicles, I am referring this consignment to undergo a Cleaning & Re-inspection process.

You will find that the Cleaning & Re-inspection process is the same type of physical inspection, however, prior to these inspections we will assess and take into consideration what type of contamination was present and identify if there are any key areas of focus. Noting, vehicles will still be inspected in their entirety, for example the underside, hood, trunk etc.

Let’s talk about some other risks we can find on imported new vehicles.

Screen 11 [05:45:00-05:54:00]: [Video description: Michelle standing in front of four vehicles with contamination stuck to them]

[Audio]: Behind me here I see four different types of contamination. Can you spot them too?

Screen 12 [05:54:00-06:00:00]: [Video description: A black car with contamination on the mudguard]

[Audio]: That's right! There is some heavy soil stuck to the wheel arch over there on the black vehicle.

Screen 13 [06:00:00-06:07:00]: [Video description: A red car with bird faeces on the roof]

[Audio]: Bird faeces on the red vehicle.

Screen 14 [06:07:00 -06:13:00]: [Video description: A blue car with a snail attached to the underside]

[Audio]: An exotic foreign snail crawling on the blue vehicle and,

Screen 15 [06:13:00 -06:20:00]: [Video description: A white car with leaves in the utility tray]

[Audio]: some dry plant material in the utility tray of the white vehicle.

Screen 15 [06:20:00-06:25:00]: [Video description: Michelle standing in front of four vehicles with contamination stuck to them]

[Audio]: Each type of contamination may have a different cleaning or treatment process, for example,

Screen 16 [06:25:00-06:27:00]: [Video description: A yellow car with a high-pressure washer in a cleaning bay]

[Audio]: high pressure washing,

Screen 17 [06:27:00-06:34:00]: [Video description: Images of cleaning tools]

[Audio]: disposal, manual cleaning or treatment.

Screen 18 [06:34:00-06:50:00]: [Video description: Michelle standing in front of an office building]

[Audio]: We understand the importance of new vehicle importation to our country, however Biosecurity risk prevention plays a large role too. You can help us by implementing offshore processes to reduce the risk of contamination entering our country through this pathway.

Screen 19 [06:50:00-07:01:00]: [Video description: Contact Us details]

[Audio]: You can also reach out to our teams for support, feedback, queries and so forth via our Contact Us page on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry webpage.

Screen 20 [07:01:00-07:09:00]: [Video description: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry crest]

[End of video]

[End of transcript]