



PROCEDURE

Biosecurity Procedure



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1. Purpose

First Gas Ltd (FGL) is committed to maintaining New Zealand's unique ecosystem and managing the risks posed by biosecurity issues to the economy, environment and communities.

The purpose of this procedure is to set out the biosecurity measures required to minimise the chance of spreading pests, diseases and weeds when undertaking work on FGL assets. This procedure applies to all people working with or for FGL.

2. What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity means protecting the economy, environment and communities from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. The spread of these can result in significant environmental, social or economic harm, with control and eradication being expensive and timely. In some cases, eradication can be practically impossible.

FGL activities pose a potential risk of spreading harmful organisms from infested areas to pest-free locations and to areas with minimal infestation.

3. Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Guidance

Biosecurity measures are important when working in areas known to have, or are suspected of having, biosecurity issues present. MPI provides leading information on the distribution of pests, diseases and weeds and guidance on the controls required to prevent further spread.

FGL bases its mitigation action on guidance from MPI and will update these as advised by MPI.

4. Working with Landowners

The FGL Land and Planning team routinely liaises with landowners and occupiers to arrange access to First Gas Assets. All information on biosecurity issues and landowner preferences will be recorded in the FGL land database system (Mipela X-Info) and site access requirements communicated to field technicians. The Land and Planning team maintains landowner contact details and in circumstances where the team is not involved in landowner liaison, the field technician assists in confirming site access requirements with the landowner.

Any person made aware of new information relating to the distribution of biosecurity issues or landowner preferences should communicate this to the Land and Planning team as soon as practicable.

5. What Biosecurity measures are required?

5.1 Low Risk

Where activities are unlikely to involve contact with high risk pests, diseases and weeds, low risk biosecurity measures are to be implemented (refer to **Appendix A**). These are the minimum biosecurity requirements to be followed for all works undertaken on FGL Assets.

5.2 High Risk

Biosecurity measures that need to be considered when working in high risk areas known or suspected of having biosecurity issues present are detailed in **Appendix A**. The measures and treatments required will depend upon the pest, disease or weed being targeted. Specific procedures will be developed with guidance from MPI, other relevant government bodies, local authorities, landowners

and stakeholders. Landowners or land managers may have their own biosecurity procedures and instructions and FGL will respect and follow these.

All field technicians will be provided with the necessary training, equipment and materials to carry out biosecurity procedures effectively. An example of a biosecurity decontamination kit is shown in **Appendix B**.

It is possible that those working with or for FGL may only become aware that they are entering a risk area at the time of work and should be prepared with a biosecurity decontamination kit and to use high risk biosecurity measures as appropriate.

5.3 Properties under MPI control

Properties under the legal control of MPI may have strict biosecurity protocols in place. Landowners may also take proactive efforts to protect their properties and assets as much as possible. Those working with or for First Gas must follow all biosecurity procedures and instructions issued by the landowner or occupier.

Appendix A Biosecurity Measures for Consideration

Biosecurity Measures	Low Risk Areas Area where activities are unlikely to involve contact with high risk pests, diseases and weeds.	High Risk Areas Area known or suspected of having high risk pests, diseases and weeds present.
FGL Information Management & Landowner Requirements	FGL Land and Planning team manage property information capture and maintenance for all areas. This includes any specific biosecurity and access requirements from the landowner or land manager and all contact with them. Notice of pipeline easement patrol cards are routinely sent to landowners alerting them of a pending visit. All known biosecurity requirements will be communicated to field technicians before they visit sites or may be directly communicated from the landowner to the field technician when they visit the site.	
Personal Footwear and outerwear (e.g. wet weather or protective clothing)	Clean footwear and outerwear regularly to ensure they are visually free from soil and organic debris. Ensure clothing and footwear is free of soil and plant material before stepping into vehicles.	Plan to visit highest risk sites last. Clean footwear and outerwear between sites by removing soil and organic material with a boot scrub brush. Spray cleaned footwear and outerwear with an approved disinfectant until it runs off. Use a hand steriliser upon entry / exit of site.
Vehicle Cars, utes, trailers, trucks, machinery	Clean vehicles regularly, do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels or under arches.	Regular cleaning of vehicles at commercial car wash facilities if practicable. Avoid vehicular access to site. Park off site if possible. Keep to established hard tracks. Decontaminate all vehicles with an approved disinfectant upon site entry / exit. (Refer to Appendix C for example of a Vehicle and Machinery Wash Down Procedure).
Equipment e.g. spades, locators, probes	Ensure all tools and equipment are clean and free of soil and organic debris.	Restrict equipment on site – take only what you need. Clean and disinfect all tools and equipment with an approved disinfectant upon entry / exit to site.

Appendix B Biosecurity Decontamination Kit**Contents**

Bucket and lid

Water for cleaning / washing

Tyre Scrub

Boot Scrub

Hoof pick for boots and tyres

Pressure sprayer and/or spray bottle to apply disinfectant

Disinfectant (appropriate for target species)

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) information

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) e.g. gloves, protective eyewear

Bags for disposal of contaminated PPE

Hand sterilising liquid

Appendix C Vehicle and Machinery Clean Down Checklist

Site:

Vehicle / Machinery:

Date:

Preparation	
Select a location to prevent any material run off to watercourses and drains.	
Use PPE (e.g. boots, gloves, protective eyewear).	
If not prediluted, prepare disinfectant solution as per product instructions.	
Remove gross materials (e.g. soil, plant material) from vehicle / machinery (tyres, mudguards, undercarriage, legs). Use a tyre scrub brush if required. <i>The disinfectant will not work through dirt.</i>	
Decontamination	
Apply disinfectant to tyres and decontamination equipment using pressure sprayer. Leave for 10 minutes.	
Move vehicle / machinery to ensure all areas are disinfected	
Rinse tyres and decontamination equipment with clean water if available.	
Bag up single use PPE for disposal.	
Ensure the inside of the vehicle is clear of soil and plant material.	