



PROCEDURE

# *Mycoplasma Bovis* Biosecurity



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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to set out the biosecurity measures required to reduce the chance of spreading *Mycoplasma Bovis* (*M.bovis*) when undertaking work on First Gas Limited (FGL) assets and applies to all people working with or for FGL. This procedure has been developed in accordance with Biodiversity Procedure 3209302.

## 2. What is *Mycoplasma Bovis*?

*M.bovis* is a bacterium that primarily infects cattle causing illness including mastitis, pneumonia, arthritis and late-term abortions. The disease has animal welfare implications and can cause significant losses to dairy and cattle producers.

On farms *M.bovis* is spread from animal to animal through close contact and bodily fluids, including milk and nasal secretions. Infected animals may not show any obvious signs of illness but can pass on the disease to other animals. The disease can be spread between farms through the movement of cattle.

According to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), vehicles pose very little biosecurity risk and no record of spreading the disease through vehicle movement has been identified to date.

## 3. Biosecurity Procedures

Refer to **Appendix A** for *M.bovis* biosecurity checklist. All field technicians must ensure they have a complete biosecurity decontamination kit to hand for all site visits. The contents of the kits are listed below;

- 10 litre bucket and lid
- 20 litres of water for cleaning / washing
- Tyre Scrub
- Boot Scrub
- Hoof pick for boots and tyres
- Pressure sprayer containing prediluted SteriGene (Trigene, MPI approved disinfectant)
- Nitrile gloves
- Protective eyewear
- Bags for disposal of used gloves
- Hand sterilising liquid

**Appendix A *Mycoplasma Bovis* Biosecurity Checklist**

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This checklist has been developed to help identify biosecurity measures required to minimise the spread of *Mycoplasma bovis*. The actions to be taken will be determined on a site-by-site basis in consultation with the landowner. All reasonable and practical steps must be taken to carry out the required steps.

<p><b>Plan your visit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not arrive on site unannounced. Contact the landowner by phone and/or notice of pipeline easement patrol card.</li> <li>• Check known biosecurity requirements with the Land and Planning Team.</li> <li>• Ask if wash/disinfectant facilities are available for use.</li> <li>• Where the landowner has their own biosecurity measures in place, be prepared to comply with all procedures and instructions issued.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Site Access</b></p> <p>If possible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow landowner/farm manager vehicle access requirements.</li> <li>• Avoid vehicular access across farmland to the FGL site.</li> <li>• Park off farmland.</li> <li>• Keep to established hard tracks.</li> <li>• Plan to visit high risk sites last.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal Biosecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean footwear using boot scrub brush to remove soil and organic material, and spray with disinfectant until it runs off.</li> <li>• Use a hand steriliser upon entry and exit of site.</li> <li>• When line walking, it may be necessary to clean and disinfect footwear and hands when crossing site boundaries.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vehicles and Machinery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high standard of vehicle hygiene should be maintained.</li> <li>• Clean vehicles regularly. Do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels or under arches.</li> <li>• Use commercial car wash facilities if practicable.</li> </ul> <p>If vehicular access to site is necessary, wash and disinfect all vehicles and machinery upon site entry and exit as follows;</p> <p><b>Preparation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a location to prevent any material run off to watercourses and drains.</li> <li>• Use PPE (safety boots, disposable gloves, protective eyewear).</li> <li>• Remove gross materials (e.g. soil, plant material) from vehicle and machinery (tyres, mudguards, undercarriage, legs). Use a tyre scrub brush if required and clean water if available. <b><i>The disinfectant will not work through dirt.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Decontamination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply disinfectant to tyres and decontamination equipment using pressure sprayer. Move vehicle or machinery to ensure all areas are disinfected. Leave for 10 minutes.</li> <li>• Rinse tyres and decontamination equipment with clean water if available.</li> <li>• Bag up gloves for disposal.</li> <li>• Ensure the inside of the vehicle is clear of soil and plant material.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict equipment on site – take only what you need.</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect all tools and equipment with disinfectant upon entry and exit to site.</li> </ul>