

<b>Applies To:</b> Manitoba Hydro Staff and Contractors	<b>Process Owner:</b> T&D Environment and Engagement
<b>Division:</b> Project Management	<b>Effective Date:</b> 2023-03-14
<b>Document Type:</b> Procedure	<b>Revision No.:</b> 0

# Agricultural Biosecurity Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

**Note: Available in accessible formats upon request**

## Overview

This procedure provides guidance and direction in managing agricultural biosecurity risks of diseases, pests, and invasive species that pose a risk to agricultural operations.

This procedure applies to Manitoba Hydro employees, subsidiaries and contractors who are required to perform work in livestock and agricultural settings. The procedure is geographically specific to:

- Land zoned for agricultural use by the provincial government, a municipality, planning commission or planning district, with apparent crop or livestock systems.
- Manitoba Hydro's service area (gas & electric).

## What is agricultural biosecurity?

Agricultural biosecurity is the protection of crops and livestock systems against the threats to production from invasive organisms (diseases, pests, and invasive species). Human activity is one of the factors in the spread of invasive organisms. For more information, see Agricultural Biosecurity Policy P853 (externally available upon request).

## Exceptions

The procedure is not applicable if one or more of the following conditions exists:

- Land is zoned commercial, industrial, or residential.
- Work is carried out on gravel or pavement.
- Work is carried out on a public right of way.
- Work is carried out on property owned by Manitoba Hydro.
- In emergency situations, *The Manitoba Hydro Act* and *The Gas Allocation Act* will prevail to return services to normal operating condition. The definition for an 'emergency' is found in the [Definitions](#) section of this procedure.

**Note:** All efforts will be made to assess the risks to livestock, agricultural land, and personal safety to determine the most appropriate actions to be taken.

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## Performed By

- All Manitoba Hydro employees and contractors who carry out work in livestock and agricultural settings are required to follow this procedure and must be able to communicate the requirements to customers if asked.
  - Employees must be trained in this procedure every three years.

**Note:** Managers or their delegates must monitor compliance with the procedure. Prime contractors are required to have their own biosecurity procedures that meet or exceed the requirements of this SOP.

## Before You Begin

- Seek alternatives that will reduce or eliminate the need to enter or work on agricultural land.
- Where practical, communicate with landowners or producers prior to beginning work on or adjacent to private property. This is the landowner or producer's opportunity to voice any concerns, including those related to biosecurity.
  - Record all actions and procedures followed when entering a [livestock setting](#) or [crop setting](#) to maintain personal safety and manage biosecurity risks.

## Procedure

This procedure is divided into two sections:

- [Working in livestock settings](#)
- [Working in crop settings](#)

### Work in livestock settings

This section outlines various scenarios when a landowner or producer does not have an established protocol.

#### Scenario 1: Livestock producer is within a controlled access zone

1. Visually inspect, manually clean, and disinfect tools and footwear before entering and leaving the producer's field or [controlled access zone \(CAZ\)](#), unless the producer or site manager's tools were used, and boot covers were worn. Disinfectants are recommended to be a 1% VIRKON solution, Lysol, or other approved disinfectant (see [Appendix A](#)).
2. Visually inspect and mechanically clean vehicles by removing visible dust, soil, and plant materials using brushes, brooms, and/or shovels, unless vehicles are not used on the producer's field or within the **CAZ**. Pressure washing vehicles may be necessary if heavily soiled.

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- Record all actions and procedures followed to maintain personal safety and manage biosecurity risks using a work order, job plan (tailboard), environmental checklist, or MHUS handhelds (Itron).
- Upon request, disclose to producers the last date the **CAZ** of another facility was accessed.

A biosecurity kit is available through Central Stores (SAP material code 05-83-90). The kit contains all of the items noted above with the exception of brooms, shovels and Lysol.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all disinfectants are available through the [3E Protect online system](#). The system can be accessed through the '[EHSM](#)' portal page and selecting the '3E Protect- Safety Data Sheets' quick link.

**Scenario 2: Livestock producer is not within a CAZ (or it is unknown), or the producer does not have their own biosecurity protocol but request staff or contractors practice biosecurity.**

If the established point of entry is not clear, consult with the producer or site manager to determine the best point of entry onto the property, and the best mode of transportation. Many livestock producers have established **CAZ** with clearly identified access points.

When travelling by foot, stay on established pathways (paved, hard-packed ground, or gravel).

Follow the procedure below:

- Put on new boot covers before leaving the vehicle and do not remove them until getting back to the vehicle.
  - Boot covers are required in **livestock settings** if you have to leave an established pathway.
  - It is recommended that boot covers be used at all times when working in **livestock operations**.
  - NOTE: Boot covers are known to be a slip hazard under some ground conditions (slippery on snow and ice). Should boot covers pose a safety concern an MH employee can choose to:
    - Wear crampons (removable cleats) over the boot covers and disinfect them after use.
    - Work with producer to ensure the ground or pathway is made safe (grit, sand etc.).
    - A producer may also supply borrowed footwear while working on site.
- Keep used boot covers in a garbage bag in the vehicle and dispose of them at the end of the day.

**Note:** Access to the [Restricted Access Zone \(RAZ\)](#) is controlled by the producer. Follow their directions so long as they do not pose a safety or environment risk.

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## Working in crop settings

This section outlines various scenarios when a landowner or producer does not have an established protocol.

### Scenario 1: Crop setting is within an elevated risk area

An elevated risk area is where:

- There is a confirmed presence of invasive species as determined by the landowner (e.g. clubroot).
- There are wet conditions with disturbed soil (significant accumulation of soil on vehicles and equipment).
- Work takes place in fields where it is apparent hog manure has been recently spread (within the last year).
- There is heightened sensitivity around a particular project and/or from a particular customer or group of customers.

Follow the procedure below:

1. Mechanically clean vehicles, equipment, tools and footwear to remove at least 90% of visible dust, soil and plant materials. Vehicles, equipment, tools and footwear should enter and exit fields in a clean condition.
  - a. Mechanically clean using brushes, brooms, and shovels from: interior and exterior of vehicles and equipment; shovels, augers and vehicle tires; and clothes, personal protective equipment, and boots.
  - b. If mechanical cleaning is not sufficient, disinfection of vehicles, equipment, footwear and tools for footwear is required; using 1% Virkon solution, Lysol or other approved disinfectant (see [Appendix A](#)).
2. If mechanical cleaning is not sufficient to remove 90% of the soil, washing (pressure or mobile) is the next step in reducing biosecurity risk. Where possible and practical, washing is preferable at the field approach, but can be completed off site. Use of compressed air is also acceptable where equipment is outfitted with this capability (e.g., digger derricks).
3. Record all actions and procedures followed to maintain personal safety and manage biosecurity risks using a work order, job plan (tailboard), or environmental checklist.

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## Scenario 2: Crop setting is not within an elevated risk area or an unknown elevated risk area.

Ensure vehicles, equipment, tools and footwear are free of at least 90% of visible dust, soil and plant material before entering an agricultural setting.

### Health and safety concerns

If existing biosecurity protocols contradict provincial safety regulations, Manitoba Hydro Safe Work Procedures (SWPs), and/or Manitoba Hydro's approved Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), advise the producer that the work cannot be carried out until the safety concern(s) are resolved.

- If showering before entering and leaving a livestock facility is part of a producer's established biosecurity protocol, the shower and associated facilities must be visibly clean and meet Manitoba Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) Regulation 217/2006 Part 4 General Workplace Requirements (4.7 – 4.11).
- If the facilities are not visibly clean or do not meet the WH&S requirements, advise the producer that the work cannot be performed until the safety concern(s) are resolved.
- Only Manitoba Hydro-approved PPE may be used or worn by Manitoba Hydro employees.
- Staff are reminded that any disinfectant chemicals used must be approved for use within Manitoba Hydro and a current SDS must be available. If the chemical is not approved, it cannot be used.

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## Definitions

- **Agricultural Biosecurity Policy P853:** Manitoba Hydro’s Agricultural Biosecurity policy (available upon request).
- **Controlled access zone (CAZ):** A zone defined by a livestock producer to control entry onto their property. Typically, there will only be one point of access. Everything past the access point but outside of any RAZ (see below) is in the controlled access zone.
- **Restricted access zone (RAZ):** A zone defined by a livestock producer to control entry into barns.
- **Livestock setting:** A property or portion of a property where livestock are kept.
- **Crop setting:** A property or portion of a property where crops such as corn, wheat or canola are grown.
- **Hog operation:** A livestock setting operating as a commercial farm where hogs are raised. Potential biosecurity risks are much higher on these properties.
- **Emergency:** a present or imminent situation or condition that requires prompt action to prevent or limit the following: the loss of life; harm or damage to safety, health or welfare of people; damage to property or the environment.
- **EHSM:** Environmental Health Safety Management system- EHSM is Manitoba Hydro's Environment, Health, Safety Management System using the SAP Platform, and is used to record and track incidents that occur throughout the enterprise, and the corrective actions assigned to prevent the incident from re-occurring.
- **3E Protect online system:** An externally maintained digital library of Safety Data Sheets.

## Revision History

Revision Number	Revision Date	Revision Author	Revision Description
0	2023-03-14	Kris Watts	Rev. 0 approved and published

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## Appendix A – Disinfectants Approved by Manitoba Hydro

Product Name	SAP Material Code	Product Use	Usage Notes
Vikron	05-21-98	<b>Crop settings</b>	SAP material code is for tablet form and product requires mixing. Liquid loses effectiveness over time. Do not store in vehicles when temperatures are below freezing.
Lysol spray	Various	<b>Livestock settings</b>	Can corrode metal including tire rims.
Accel (also known as 'Prevail')	06-24-70	Recommended for <b>livestock settings</b> only	Recommended for use only when temperatures are above freezing. Seek direction from environmental staff if using in winter conditions.
Synergize	Not available – see usage notes*	Recommended for <b>livestock settings</b> only	*This product is approved for use, but not stocked by Manitoba Hydro. Many hog producers use this product. Follow all directions on SDS.