

Agricultural Biosecurity Standard Operating Procedures - Manitoba Hydro Property Department

1. PURPOSE OF THE PROCEDURE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides guidance and direction for Property Department employees and contractors who may be required to enter agricultural land.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

The SOP applies to the following:

- Land used for agricultural purposes (e.g. pasture, cropland).
- All employees of the Property Department, other employees of Manitoba Hydro carrying out work for the Department and external contractors who conduct work on behalf of the Department.
- Additional measures may be implemented where there is **documented** evidence of invasive organisms (diseases, pests, and invasive species).

This SOP **does not** apply to the following:

- Government road allowances (unless used for agricultural purposes)
- Land that is not used for agricultural purposes (i.e. woodlots, driveways, roads)

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

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, and responsibility for agricultural biosecurity rests with all stakeholders.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

All Property Department employees and contractors who carry out work on agricultural land must be able to do the following:

- Refer to and comply with the requirements of the SOP and the Agricultural Biosecurity Policy.
- If requested, be able to provide a copy of this SOP to the landowner or producer leasing the land.
- Be able to inform a landowner or producer leasing the land about the SOP, if asked.

Internal Training

A computer based training (CBT) course will be made available for training purposes. All individuals required to undergo training will complete the CBT and will have fulfilled the training requirement.

External Training

The Agricultural Biosecurity Policy and the SOP will be incorporated into the safety and environmental orientation prior to the start of work. Contractors will be required to view the biosecurity videos available from Corporate Environment as a part of their training.

Related Policy: P853 Agricultural Biosecurity

Revision # 5 Date: February 14, 2017

Annual Review Date: June 30, 2017

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Registered Manitoba Land Surveyors are reminded of their responsibility under the Manitoba Land Surveyors Act, 59 (1). Specifically, surveyors are to do no actual damage to the property being surveyed or passed over. Transporting diseases or invasive species between fields could be considered as damage under the Act.

5. PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS

- a) Where possible or practical, communicate with landowners to explain this SOP and take into account any reasonable site-specific access requirements.
- b) Ensure tools, footwear, and clothing are clean before entering agricultural land.
- c) Identify potential agricultural biosecurity risks using the chart below and take prescribed steps to manage risk.
- d) Document compliance through the use of field notes, tailboard documentation or other means

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

The most significant agricultural biosecurity risk is found in the movement of soil, manure, and/or seeds. Managing the risk requires that employees and contractors do not transport soil, manure, and/or seeds between fields. The risk assessment chart is to be used to determine the prescribed actions to be carried out.

CONDITIONS	RISK LEVEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frozen or snow-covered ground with little or no exposed soil or;• Dry ground with lower potential for accumulation of soil on footwear, clothing, vehicles, and/or tools	Low Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wet or disturbed ground with potential for accumulation of soil on footwear, clothing, vehicles, and/or tools; or• Livestock present in field or manure has been spread on fields• Documented evidence of invasive species or pests such as PEDv or clubroot	High Risk

7. PRESCRIBED ACTIONS

Low Risk

- In winter conditions, avoid exposed soil where possible
- Ensure all equipment and clothing is **clean** prior to entering onto agricultural land.
- When leaving the field, check clothing, footwear, and equipment for seeds, soil, or manure and if required, brush off prior to leaving the field. The use of a brush will remove most surface soil, plant material, and foreign matter from clothing and equipment.
- If soil, manure, and/or seeds have accumulated on footwear or tools, scrape off larger pieces with wire brush, then follow by spraying disinfectant solution Virkon directly onto footwear when leaving agricultural land.
- Vehicles (snowmobiles or ATVs) may be used unless the landowner objects. In these cases, leave vehicle at the nearest public road or access point and travel to site on foot.

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- If vehicles are used, inspect vehicle before entering field and any visible seeds, soil, or manure must be brushed off and Virkon applied.

High Risk

- Where possible, schedule activities to occur when conditions are more favourable.
- Foot travel through high risk sites is highly recommended although vehicles (snowmobiles or ATVs) may be used unless the landowner objects.
- Visually inspect tools, footwear, and clothing prior to entering and leaving agricultural land and brush off any visible soil, manure, and/or seeds.
- Use safety footwear that can be easily cleaned or change footwear when leaving the field.
- Clean tools and vehicle exterior, tires, or tracks by removing all visible soil, manure, and/or seeds using wire brushes and shovels as required. Follow by spraying a disinfectant solution (Virkon) directly onto tools, vehicles, tires and/or tracks when leaving agricultural land.
- Some hog producers will apply their own biosecurity procedures within a controlled access zone. In these cases, follow the direction of the producer or seek direction from management if there are concerns about the direction provided.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

If there are any questions or concerns from the public related to biosecurity at Manitoba Hydro, they may contact the Customer Contact Centre at 1-MB-HYDRO (1-888-624-9376) or via email at environment@hydro.mb.ca.

9. APPROVALS

(Original signed by)

Karen Carswell
Supervisor
Property Department

Date

(Original signed by)

Brad Ireland
Division Manager
Workplace Safety & Health and Corporate Services

Date

NOTE: This procedure will be reviewed annually by management. As conditions change or new information becomes available, this document may be revised prior to the annual review date.

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Available in accessible formats upon request.