

Acorn Environmental Management Group Ltd

Biosecurity Policy & Working Protocols

Biosecurity and Working Protocols Policy Statement

Biosecurity measures are a series of precautionary steps designed to reduce the risk of transmission of harmful organisms across the UK whilst undertaking our Arboricultural Operations. Good Biosecurity practice ensures that working methods minimise the risk of contamination and the spread of pests and invasive plants.

Outbreaks of pests can have serious implications on the tree stock and other plants throughout the UK and could have a devastating effect on other sectors such as wood processing and tourism. As a result the horticultural, Arboricultural and Forestry sectors welcome the good hygiene and Biosecurity protection to minimise the impacts of their operations.

To ensure that AEMG manage and mitigate the risk from harmful organisms to the UK tree and plant stock we will undertake the following:

- Undertake all of our operations in line with this policy and all guidance on Biosecurity measures provided by the Forestry Commission, DEFRA, Environment Agency and Natural England.
- Ensure that all of our employees have a thorough understanding of this policy, our Biosecurity measures and the reasons for doing so
- Through close consultation with government bodies continue to develop our working methods ensuring compliance
- Continue to support the aims and objectives of government departments and local authorities to minimise and eradicate harmful organisms.

AEMG will ensure that all employees are made aware of this policy by:

- Explaining this policy to all new employees as part of AEMG's formal induction procedures and documenting this in accordance with AEMG's accredited Health, Safety, Environment and quality (HSEQ) management system.
- Including reference to this policy in employment contracts for employees and contracts for services for all consultants.
- Displaying this policy in company offices and issuing a copy of this policy to all managers, Supervisors and Team Leaders.
- Any supplier or sub-contractor whose duties and responsibilities cover activities where this policy would be relevant shall be identified by the relevant Operations Manager and shall be issued with a copy of this policy and required to comply with it.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kevin O'Rourke', written over a yellow rectangular background.

Date: 1st February 2018

Kevin O'Rourke

Managing Director

1. Introduction

Acorn Environmental Management Group values its reputation and is committed to maintaining the highest level of industry standards whilst undertaking its operations. The actions of the company's staff as well as others acting on the company's behalf are key to maintaining these standards.

The purpose of this document is to set out the company's policy in relation to Biosecurity and working protocols. The policy applies strictly to all employees, directors, agents, consultants, contractors and to any other people or bodies associated with the Acorn Environmental Management Group within all regions, areas and functions.

2. Acorn Environmental Management Group's Policy

Acorn Environmental Management Group will ensure that all of our Arboricultural Operations are undertaken in accordance with the following:

- Biosecurity Guidance - Forestry Commission August 2012
- Tree Health & Plant Biology Expert Task Force – Interim Report 30th Nov 2012 DEFRA
- Interim Chalara Control Plan – December 2012 – DEFRA

3. Key risk areas

Biosecurity measures are important when working in any forest or woodland, or when entering any land or premises where there is a risk of spreading tree pests and diseases. The guidance offered by the Forestry Commission is primarily for rural situations but it is also relevant to urban parks, gardens and open spaces

4. Working protocols

By using the Biosecurity Decision Tree in Appendix 1 at the end of this policy, prior to the work commencing, a safe system of work can be planned which will determine the level of Biosecurity needed. If in doubt AEMG will seek advice from the Forestry Commission.

Once the level of Biosecurity has been established the appropriate measures can be implemented in accordance with the table overleaf. To assist in the planning of the works AEMG have produced a Biosecurity Assessment Procedure which forms part of the vehicle packs issued to each Arboricultural Team. This acts as an aid memoir and a guide for teams in the UK.

Each vehicle is issued with a Biosecurity Kit which contains the following:

Plastic storage box, approx. 5l clean water, boot tray, hard brush, disinfectant (Propeller, Methylated Spirit or Isopropyl), watertight sealed container to carry disinfectant, eye protection, protective gloves, portable sprayer to apply disinfectant, hand sanitizer, hand wipes / paper towels, re-sealable

bags (for any samples taken), robust plastic rubbish bags and ties for clothing and PPE to be removed from site to be disposed of as controlled waste.

Biosecurity Measures	Low Risk Activities	High Risk Activities
<p>Use the appropriate Biosecurity measures in the table during your visit. Be prepared to use High Risk measures if required.</p>	<p>Low risk activities include routine operations that are unlikely to involve contact with high risk pests and diseases. Example: day to day forest and woodland management and routine visits to site</p>	<p>High risk activities include specialist or targeted operations that may involve contact with infected or infested material. Example: a visit to site or premises as part of a pest surveillance programme or to collect pest and disease samples.</p>
<p>Personal Biosecurity</p> <p>Footwear and outerwear such as boots, wellingtons, waterproofs, gloves, PPE and head protection</p>	<p>Wear footwear and outerwear that can be easily kept clean Clean footwear and outerwear regularly to ensure they are visually free from soil and organic debris</p>	<p>Plan to visit highest risk sites last. Clean footwear and outerwear between site visits by removing leaves, soil and organic material. Spray cleaned footwear and outerwear with disinfectant until it runs off. Boots can be dipped</p>
<p>Vehicle Biosecurity</p> <p>Car, vans, Arboricultural trucks, and Forestry machinery</p>	<p>Clean vehicles regularly; do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels or under wheel arches</p>	<p>Avoid vehicular access to site. Park off site if possible Keep to established hard tracks Remove mud and organic debris from tyres, wheels and under wheel arches Clean and disinfect tyres and wheels</p>
<p>Equipment Biosecurity</p> <p>Chainsaws, pruning saws, spades and any other hand tools</p>	<p>Restrict equipment on site – take only what you need Ensure all tools and equipment are clean, serviceable and free from organic debris</p>	<p>If taking samples, clean and disinfect cutting tools after each sample Clean and disinfect other tools and equipment before leaving site Keep any samples in sealed containers</p>

Appendix 1 – Biosecurity Decision Tree

