

NATIONALLY AGREED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (NASOP)

Title: Loading and unloading of carcasses and materials for biosecure transport

Version: 1.1

Prepared by: Subcommittee on Emergency Animal Disease

Approved by: Animal Health Committee

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	1.0	28/04/08	
	1.1	02/05/11	Approved by AHC

NASOPs support national consistency and provide guidance to response personnel undertaking operational tasks.

1. Purpose

- To minimise the risks associated with the loading and unloading for bio-secure transport of carcasses and materials that are contaminated or potentially contaminated with an emergency animal disease agent.

2. Application/Scope

- Contaminated and potentially contaminated carcasses and materials may be required to be moved to disposal points, such as rendering plants, landfill sites, composting sites or incineration sites.
- This NASOP describes the steps that should be followed to prepare containers and vehicles and to load and unload contaminated and potentially contaminated carcasses and materials.

3. Resources/equipment

- Lining Materials
 - plastic sheeting: minimum 300 micron, minimum width preferable – 8 metres and duct tape (minimum 90–100 mm width); and/or
 - absorbent material e.g. wood-shavings, sawdust; and
 - sealing compound e.g. expand-a-foam.
- Decontamination equipment e.g. tank, pump, disinfectant, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Tippers or skips and/or trailers must:
 - be leak-proof
 - be smooth, impervious and have sealed seams
 - have a fitted tail-gate that seals when closed
 - have a fitted impervious tarp.
- Loader with sufficient reach to place the carcasses into tipper, skip and/or trailer.
- Leak testing equipment:
 - water supply and holding tank
 - portable pump
 - organic dye for leak testing.
- Site safety equipment including, but not limited to:

- high visibility vests
- hard hats.
- Administrative items such as:
 - record keeping items
 - stickers for identification of leak tested tippers, skips, and/or trailers.
 - numbered zip tie seals (or similar) for tail-gates.

4. Warnings

- A risk assessment, including OH&S, must be conducted prior to the commencement of operations.
- Precautions and PPE are required where carcasses and materials are potentially contaminated with a zoonotic disease.
- Mobile plant and machinery will be operating.
- Absorbent material (wood shavings, organic matter) and general environmental conditions may require the use of dust masks.
- Chemical must be used in accordance with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).
- Keep equipment to the minimum required for the safe and effective operation to reduce the amount of equipment to be decontaminated at the completion of the task.

5. Description of activities

5.1 Vehicle / Container Preparation

- Conduct initial inspection of tipper, trailer and/or skip.
- Vehicles that have tipping bodies must be tested for leakage.
- Leak tests should be carried out on a weekly basis with records kept on the truck register and a sticker with the appropriate time period placed in a prominent location.

5.2 Loading—Tippers, trailers and skips (without liner)

- Carcasses and other infected materials should be surface disinfected immediately after destruction.
- Position the tipper/trailer/skip for loading.
- Place sufficient absorbent material (wood shavings / saw dust) in the corners and bottom of the trailer/tipper/skip to absorb any liquid.
- The tipper/trailer/skip must be loaded from the top.
- No personnel are to enter the body of the tipper/trailer/skip.
- Load the tipper/trailer/skip's specifications, not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ full to allow for expansion of carcasses.
- Lightly spray the contents with disinfectant when loading is completed.
- Secure tarpaulins over the body of the tipper/trailer/skip and visually assess for leaks or damage.
- Apply a unique seal to any tail-gate and tarpaulins.
- Normal decontamination and exit procedures apply, upon leaving premises.

5.3 Loading—Skips, when using plastic liner

- Carcasses and other infected materials should be surface disinfected immediately after destruction.
- Position the container for loading.
- Line the skip with plastic sheet, leaving sufficient material to be folded over the top of the carcasses when loaded.
- Loading can be conducted by hand or machine.
- Load in accordance with the skip's specifications, not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ full to allow for expansion of carcasses.
- Lightly spray the contents with disinfectant when loading is completed.
- Fold plastic over loaded materials and duct tape join to form a seal.
- Tarpaulins may be secured over skip for additional security or weather protection.
- Load skip onto the truck.
- Visually assess the container for leaks or damage that may result in leakage during transport.
- Apply a unique seal to the any tail-gate and tarpaulins.
- Normal decontamination and exit procedures apply, upon leaving premises.

5.4 Unloading

- Normal site entry procedures apply, upon entering site.
- Check seals are in place and intact
- Unsecure tarpaulin to allow opening of tailgate.
- Vehicle to be positioned to unload all transported materials.
- Contents should be unloaded as close as possible to final location to reduce further handling of material.
- Normal site exit procedures apply upon exiting site.

5.5 Reporting

- Records of loads leaving premises and arriving at disposal sites to be kept by Site Supervisor and disposal site supervisor respectively.

- Items to be recorded are permit / licence number, time of arrival and departure at both sites, registration number of vehicle and names of driver and passenger (if relevant).

6. References

- AUSVETPLAN Operational Procedures Manual – Disposal
AUSVETPLAN manuals are available at
http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm
- NASOP 12 – *Decontamination of Large Vehicles/Equipment*
- SOP (draft)—*Transport of Carcasses and Contaminated Material*, Loughlin, J. NSW Agriculture.
- *SOP—Biosecure Transportation of Contaminated Carcasses and Materials*. Winterbottom, J. DPI Victoria.
- Risk Assessment – “Transport of Carcasses”, Cooper, K. NSW Agriculture.
- Risk Assessment – “Transport of Carcasses – OH & S”, Loughlin, J & Butler, D. NSW Agriculture.

7. Appendices

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