Title: Stop and search of vehicles at checkpoints
Version: 1.1
Prepared by: Subcommittee on Emergency Animal Disease
Approved by: Animal Health Committee

Revision history:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date of approval</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>28/04/09</td>
<td>AHA Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>02/05/11</td>
<td>Approved by AHC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Purpose
   • To outline the steps to stop and search vehicles at checkpoints.

2. Application/Scope
   • Checkpoint teams control or prevent the spread of disease by controlling the movements of animals, persons and products.
   • The checking of a vehicle may be necessary to restrict the movement of infected animals and materials in accordance with specified movement restrictions.
   • A risk assessment should be carried out to determine which vehicles are deemed to be a ‘high risk’ vehicle. Such vehicles may include:
     - vehicles carrying livestock or livestock products
     - vehicles whose occupants appear to be acting suspiciously
     - vehicles reported to be acting contrary to movement restrictions.
   • A pass or permit system could be used to allow low risk vehicles to move through the checkpoint without stopping.

3. Resources/equipment
   • Personnel
     - appropriately credentialed
     - authorised "inspector"(appointed under relevant legislation)
   • Equipment
     - high visibility vests and other personal safety equipment
     - torch, witches hats, stop sign and light wands
     - appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
     - camera
     - decontamination equipment
   • Communications equipment
   • Information
     - written information for vehicle drivers
     - relevant movement conditions
     - list of prohibited items
   • Administrative items
     - recording materials
4. **Warnings**
   - Operating on a roadway can be extremely hazardous. This danger is increased during times of increased traffic or adverse road or weather conditions.
   - Checkpoint operators must wear appropriate safety equipment at all times including clothing that provides adequate protection from the weather and sunscreen protection.
   - Appropriate PPE is to be worn if applicable to the emergency disease.
   - Checkpoint operators may experience irate drivers or threatening behaviour.
   - Under no circumstances should operations centre or checkpoint personnel attempt to pursue a vehicle or persons that have not complied with the checkpoint requirements.
   - Personnel may be required to use portable or temporary toilets and dining facilities.
   - Communications between the checkpoint and the operations centre must be in place at all times. Scheduled regular “call-ins” may be required.
   - Severe weather or other circumstances may impact on the ability to maintain the checkpoint.
5. Description of activities

- Determine whether approaching vehicle is to be stopped in accordance with established policy.
  - Assess whether the occupant(s) and/or vehicle are a potential risk to personal safety. If such a risk is identified, the vehicle should not be approached unless police support is readily available. Record the registration and pass the details on to police.
- If vehicle is to be stopped, an approved stop sign should be deployed.
- Stay within designated safe area until the vehicle(s) comes to a halt.
- Once the vehicle has completely stopped, check the driver has applied the handbrake and the vehicle is turned off.
- Identify yourself and explain the current situation.
- If checkpoint pass system exists, check for presence of pass, and if satisfied, signal driver to proceed.
- Otherwise, ask the driver whether they have any restricted goods in their vehicle and ask for permission to inspect the contents of the vehicle.
- Check any permits presented for compliance.
- Conduct inspection of vehicle and contents.
  - Items to be inspected must be opened and moved by an occupant of the vehicle. Checkpoint personnel should not personally move, open or unpack any items requiring inspection.
- If unauthorised animal and/or materials are found, the driver should be asked to park their vehicle in a designated location and await further instructions.
- Detained vehicles are to be managed in a manner determined by the operations centre.
- In the event of a vehicle and/or persons not complying with the checkpoint requirements, police should be provided with the details of the occupants and vehicles.
- Once inspection is complete and no unauthorised animal and/or materials are found, ensure load is returned to its original condition. Thank the driver, and provide printed information if available.
- Ensure vehicles and personnel are appropriately disinfected as required.
- Record the appropriate details of each vehicle inspected and its contents.
- Allow compliant vehicles to proceed through the checkpoint.
- Provide a detailed activity report to the Restricted Area Movement and Security (RAMS) section of the operations centre at the completion of each shift.

6. References

- NASOP 12—Decontamination of large equipment
- SOP—Stop and Search of Vehicles at Checkpoints, Mulligan, A. and O’Connor, G. NSW DPI.

7. Appendices

- Nil