**Standard Operating Procedure**

<Insert Company Name>

<Insert Street Address>

<Insert Town, State, Post Code>

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| --- | --- |
| **Feed delivery biosecurity** | |
| SOP number: | <Insert SOP Number> |
| Version number: | <Insert Version Number> |
| Effective date: | <Insert Effective Date> |
| Review date: | <Insert Review Date> |
| Approved by: | <Insert Approver Name> |
| **Purpose** |  |

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes procedures for the effective cleaning and disinfection of vehicles used for the transportation of feed to a pig farm regardless of the disease status of the farm.

# Procedure

Several aspects of feed delivery present a biosecurity risk to the farm. As part of this Standard Operating Procedure, the reader should also review the APL Standard Operating Procedure for “Pig transport vehicle cleaning and disinfection”. Though feed transport vehicles present a lower biosecurity risk than pig transport vehicles, the principles for truck washing and disinfection are identical.

**Materials**

The following is essential safety equipment.

* Eye protection
* Helmet
* Ear protection
* Waterproof clothing
* Waterproof gloves
* Slip-resistant boots
* Disposable boot covers
* Spray disinfectant or disposable disinfectant wipes

**Methods**

## DELIVERING FEED TO A KNOWN INFECTIOUS DISEASE FARM SITE

* Delivery to known infectious sites should occur at the end of the day or week, followed by a full truck wash and disinfection. If for any reason feed is being delivered to a farm known to be infected with an EAD, then additional special conditions may apply.

## FEED VEHICLE CLEANING PROTOCOLS

* Feed vehicles should be washed once a week at minimum and may require additional washing when the vehicle or driver has been exposed to manure or has travelled to a farm infected with an EAD or other high consequence disease. The recommended feed vehicle cleaning protocols include:
* Washing the exterior of the truck including wheel wells, followed by disinfection and drying.
* Washing all floor mats, brake and gas pedals, and any other potentially contaminated contact surfaces inside the cab.
* Washing and/or disinfecting inside of truck used for bagged feed delivery, to control biosecurity risks introduced by the driver’s boots.

## DRIVER PROTOCOLS

* Drivers should arrive at work wearing clean clothes and footwear which hasn’t been worn around any livestock.
* The driver should put on cleaned and disinfected coveralls and boots before leaving the cab to enter a farm site. As an alternative, drivers may put on disposable boot covers before exiting their vehicle. Upon return to vehicle, the boot covers should be removed before getting into the cab and placed in a plastic bag or ‘dirty box’ for later disposal.
* Drivers should stay as close to the truck as possible to minimize the areas in which they come into contact with and to maintain the Line of Separation (LOS; see Standard Operating Procedure “Line of Separation”). Whenever possible, farm staff should assist by opening and closing bin lids, thus avoiding the driver contaminating the area.
* Drivers should never need to enter the farm office or pig sheds. An area should be designated, such as a mailbox attached to the bin leg or a location outside of the farm office, for the driver to leave invoices or delivery tickets.
* Bagged feed should be delivered to the designated area, preferably at a site away from the pig sheds.
* Boots or boot covers should be removed when climbing back into the truck; any rubbish including used boot covers should be placed into a designated “dirty” box in the truck or cab for later disposal.
* Apply hand sanitizer to maintain a clean cab before touching surfaces. As an extra precaution, spray disinfectant on the floor and any other surfaces in the cab that may have become contaminated during the delivery. Disposable disinfectant wipes are another convenient means for completing this step.
* If using cloth coveralls and rubber boots, clean and launder all clothing/footwear and allow for at least 24 hours downtime after cleaning and drying before use on another farm. Once fully clean (no organic matter visible), be sure to also disinfect rubber boots.

## FEED SUPPLIER OBLIGATIONS

Delivery of feed or feed ingredients to a farm exposes the truck, the driver, and the feed mill to pig diseases. If biosecurity measures are not undertaken by the feed supplier, there is risk that the feed supplier can then act as a means of spreading animal diseases to other farms across a region. Suppliers should develop systems and processes that ensure feed can be delivered in a biosecure manner, and to enable effective tracing to occur if an outbreak of disease does happen.

* Ensure batch or lot numbers are recorded. Pathogens have the potential to be moved around on feed trucks but also, some pathogens may be a direct contaminant in the feed itself.
* Ensure equipment is clean and in proper working order prior to loading. Develop good practices around cleaning and / or repairing equipment to avoid contamination or cross-contamination in the mill environment.
* Secure truck trailers, both bag and bulk, once they are loaded.
* In the case of soft-topped trailers, measures should be taken to prevent environmental contamination or unauthorized persons from accessing and adulterating the shipments. Birds, mice, cats, and their droppings can be a source of pathogens for pigs.
* Clean tarps (or covers) before using, as follows:
  + Establishing cleaning protocols to follow if covers are soiled.
  + Ensuring tarps (or covers) are in good repair, are not torn, and are sealed properly when used.
* Establish and maintain a disease status log for livestock farm where feed is delivered, as follows:
  + Establish routine and trusted communication customers. Develop a relationship that promotes prompt disclosure of disease events. Communication should happen in both directions.
  + Establish a hierarchy for feed delivery locations based on the disease status of the location; the hierarchy should consider the following: The biosecurity level of the production unit (i.e., for example a gilt multiplier may have a higher biosecurity need compared with a commercial finishing location).
  + Consult the hierarchy routinely before scheduling deliveries or entry onto a customer’s premises.
  + Complete deliveries to customers according to the hierarchy.
  + Establish cleaning procedures, including down time, as appropriate, consistent with the disease risk hierarchy for feed deliveries.
* Ensure drivers understand any particular protocols for unloading feed at specific customer sites. Suggested minimum procedures are described above but each farm may have different requirements. Work across your customer base to develop common procedures whenever possible.
* Potentially contaminated rubbish such as boot covers will almost certainly be created during every delivery event. Ensure drivers are given a means to deal with this rubbish. Use of clearly marked “Clean” and “Dirty” plastic containers in the cab of each truck is a simple system that can keep gear organised and can be implemented by anyone. Make sure drivers know what to do with the rubbish once return to the mill or truck depot!
* Avoid using customer equipment to unload deliveries if this will create a biosecurity hazard.
* Prohibit drivers from entering pig sheds; even entering the farm office presents a biosecurity risk and should be avoided.
* Prohibit the return of wood pallets from farms. Plastic pallets may be returned but a process needs to be developed to ensure these are cleaned and disinfected before re-use in the mill or on another customer farm.

**Further guidance**

For further guidance, please see:

<https://australianpork.com.au/best-practice-truck-wash-biosecurity-guidelines>