**Standard Operating Procedure**

<Insert Company Name>

<Insert Street Address>

<Insert Town, State, Post Code>

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| **Line of separation**  |
| 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 separation between a truck driver and a biosecure site such as a piggery.

This SOP should be read in consultation with related APL SOPs “Feed delivery biosecurity” and “Pig transport vehicle cleaning and disinfection”.

# Procedure

The Line of Separation (LOS) is defined as the line between the area that is to be used by the truck and the area to be used by farm or abattoir personnel. Think of the LOS as a line dividing the area that is to be used by the farm for live animals (often referred to as the “clean” area) and the area that is outside of the live animal area (the “dirty” area).

The LOS applies at many locations but is most important for drivers to understand when loading pigs at a farm or when unloading of pigs at an abattoir or another farm site. Respecting the LOS will help to ensure that there is no cross contamination of a farm site by infective material that may be on a truck or driver that has not been properly cleaned before arriving at a farm.

At the unloading point, these procedures will prevent contamination of a truck with infected material that is present at an abattoir or another farm.

The organisms that cause disease in pigs (bacteria, viruses, and parasites) can survive in different types of materials. Organic matter (bedding, manure, etc.), feed, water, and mud can all carry diseases. Contaminated boots, clothing, tyres, undercarriages, trailers, shovels, sorting panels, and people’s clothes can infect healthy pigs. Other activities, such as walking into a contaminated barn or abattoir can increase the risk of disease spread because boots and truck or trailers can become contaminated with diseases that you are trying to keep out.

This SOP outlines the steps to be taken to effectively implement and use the LOS concept when loading and unloading pigs.

**Materials**

Signage that clearly indicates “go / no-go” areas for farm staff and truck drivers.

**Methods**

As described above, the LOS is defined as the line between the area that is to be used by the truck and the area to be used by farm or abattoir personnel. Think of the LOS as a line dividing the area that is to be used by the farm for live animals (often referred to as the “clean” area) and the area that is outside of the live animal area (the “dirty” area).

Depending on the specific farm or circumstance, this line may be defined as the cab of the truck, the back of the truck, or the loading/unloading ramp/chute at the farm or abattoir. Because the defined LOS can vary between locations, signage should be prominently placed so that drivers and farm staff know where the LOS is in every situation. A LOS should be defined at every location where an “outsider” can come into contact with a pig, farm staff, or lairage areas at an abattoir and may include:

* Load chutes
* Entry and exit doors
* Farm office
* On-farm feed mill or ingredient storage areas
* Abattoir lairage or office

The LOS concept needs to be interpreted along with the idea of “one-way flow”. Obviously, people do need to cross a LOS – how else would farm staff get to work? In essence, people can generally move from an area of higher biosecurity to an area of lower biosecurity with minimal biosecurity risk and therefore, only minimal precautionary steps are required. However, it should be remembered that once a person has entered a lower biosecurity area, they must not return to the higher biosecurity area until completing the required farm-specific decontamination steps.

For example, staff can generally move around within a farm site or between sheds on the same farm with only minimal requirements (for example, change of boots or use of boot baths) because the pigs are all of a similar health status. However, once leaving the site (going home after work), a worker potentially comes into contact with higher biosecurity risks (another farm site, public areas frequented by other farmers, hunting activities, etc.) and therefore higher precautions are needed (such showering into the farm, use of a bench-entry system, or changing into farm specific boots and coveralls before entering) in order to return safely to the farm. In other words, the staff can leave the farm with minimal requirements (high biosecurity to low biosecurity direction) but coming back into the farm (low biosecurity to high biosecurity direction) requires more biosecurity precautions.

Other examples of how LOS and one-directional movement work together include:

* Staff may enter the pig unloading area but are NOT allowed to re-enter the piggery afterwards, unless precautions are taken (overnight downtime, or other measures).
* No one is allowed enter a piggery shed through the load chute area (which should always be considered a “dirty” area). Instead, people need to enter the shed through a designated entry point where biosecurity can be managed through procedures such as showering-in, bench-entry systems, changing clothes and boots, or handwashing. The specific entry procedures will vary by farm and by situation – these should be clearly explained in a written on-farm biosecurity manual.
* Staff are not allowed to enter a pig transport. Depending on the situation, the LOS might be defined as the “back of the truck”, the “bottom of the ramp”, or the “piggery doorway”. The location doesn’t necessarily matter, as long as it is clearly understood between staff and drivers.
* LOS location should be clearly marked with signage. Even painting a line on the floor will work!
* Similar LOS principles apply when unloading the pigs at an abattoir.

**Further guidance**

For further guidance, please see:

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