

# DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

## Quarantine Protocol:

### Charter Vessel Operators

These quarantine procedures are applicable to operators of charter vessels using the Pilbara offshore area, with or without shore visits. This includes operations at the Montebellos and in the Dampier Archipelago.

#### General

The procedures defined below have been modified from those currently accepted as industry standard by commercial operators working on or close to CALM lands off the Pilbara coast. This protocol has been simplified to reflect the smaller scale of charter vessel operations. These procedures are considered the minimum required to provide low risk of exotic contamination to the offshore islands.

#### Inspection criteria.

Quarantine relies upon visual inspection of material transported from the mainland, and the destruction or removal of problem plants, animals and other materials before they reach island environments. Inspection should identify not only the presence of signs of vermin, weeds or any other foreign material, but should also locate any breakages in packaging which may allow vermin to enter the interior of the package undetected. Appropriate tagging of cargo (by adhesive labels) and recording of quarantine processes is essential for keeping track of inspection and other quarantine procedures.

Vermin can include mammals (mainly rodents), insects (such as bees, wasps, ants, termites etc) and other creatures such as spiders. Signs of vermin include animals, scats, wasp nests, and termite or ant infested pallets.

Weeds include any plants not native to an island's ecosystem. Signs of weeds can include seeds, vegetation, soil, any other foreign material which may carry seeds.

### PROCEDURES

#### 1. Materials loaded onto charter vessels.

Prior to loading, luggage, stores and other goods are to be inspected fully for sign of vermin and weeds, or damage to packaging. If damage to packaging is detected, confirm that the interior is clear of contaminants. If this cannot be confirmed, open the package and inspect.

Inspected packaging should not be re-opened until it is delivered offshore.

If materials are left standing for longer than 24 hours between inspection and loading, they should be inspected again.



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**



If signs of vermin are detected, goods must be placed into an enclosed container and baited for a minimum of 24 hours, prior to loading.

If signs of weeds are detected (eg soil, mud etc), good must be thoroughly washed down with water, prior to loading.

Place a green INSPECTED label prior to loading, and after inspection (see Section 11 below). Inspections and labelling to be recorded on cargo manifest or in a dedicated record.

## **2. Charter vessels.**

All vessels are to be permanently baited with rodenticide baits (eg Talon wax blocks). Snap or Elliott traps can also be deployed, but only as an addition to baits. Used baits are to be returned to the mainland for disposal.

Cargo and food storage areas are to be inspected regularly for presence of vermin, and for the maintenance of permanent bait stations.

Any dead vermin or weed material detected are to be removed to the mainland for disposal, to avoid any possibility of transport of disease onto the islands.

## **3. Tender vessels.**

Tender vessels to be regularly inspected for sign of vermin or weeds.

## **4. Reporting.**

Report discovery and destruction of any vermin or weeds to DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service.

Records of inspection of cargo are to be recorded on the vessel's manifest, or in a dedicated record. Records of baiting are to be maintained in a dedicated record.

## **5. Labels procedures.**

Labelling and recording of quarantine procedures ensures that quarantine actions are performed as required. Labels are to be placed on inspected or treated goods or cargo after treatment and prior to loading. The label identifies when the treatment was given, so that it is obvious if repeat inspection or other treatment is required.

Two quarantine labels are required for these procedures.

A green INSPECTED label

- indicates that cargo has been visually inspected for quarantine breaches, including the interior of cargo that can be accessed by rodent vermin, and no sign of vermin was detected;
- to be inspected and labelled just prior to loading.



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**



A yellow WASHED DOWN label

- indicates that cargo has been inspected and washed down, and is free of dirt, soil and debris;
- to be inspected, washed down and labelled just prior to loading.

Each label should indicate the location, date and nature of the cargo inspected, and have the signature of the inspecting person. Labelling and associated inspection, washdown or baiting actions should be recorded in the cargo manifest or in a dedicated record.

In the event that baiting or insecticide bombing is required (for large, dirty or difficult to inspect items of cargo), a blue BAITED/ BOMBED label is required.

- indicates cargo has been inspected and baited for rodents (wax block) and/or insecticide bombed;
- to be inspected, baited/bombed and labelled prior to loading.

July, 2018.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Pilbara Region.



Department of **Biodiversity,**  
**Conservation and Attractions**

