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## High Risk Biosecurity Controls – Events & Public Access

**Introduction:** The purpose of this guidance is to detail measures that will help protect the health of our trees where an event is being held in the P. Ramorum Management Zone or within part of a P Ramorum SPHN Control Zone. And arrangement for biosecurity for members of the public visiting the forest

**What/ Why:** The threat to our forest and woodland health from pests has never been greater. Biosecurity measures are a series of precautionary steps designed to reduce the risk of transmission of harmful organisms. The process includes removing all debris, mud, soil and needles from equipment, vehicles and footwear entering and leaving the site.

### **Biosecurity for members of public visiting the forest:**

- Encourage MOPs to arrive clean and leave clean through KIC campaign including signage. Signs must be used to communicate Biosecurity messages/information for visitors to forests close to, and within P. Ramorum control zones (the infection site plus 250m buffer). Corporate biosecurity signs PLUS bespoke signs should be used to help explain what the public need to do e.g. clean boots, bikes, dog feet, horse hooves.
- Signage must be displayed clearly at all key entrances and on the entrance and exit for control zones. The instructions should aim to keep public on hard surfaces and away from mud and needles. We should tell visitors to arrive and leave the forest clean.
- On sites where there are higher visitor numbers significant effort must be made in communicating the above messages with the public including a social media messages / media campaign / local press as appropriate. Please contact alan.gale@forestry.gov.uk for further information.
- Disinfectant and mats must not be used for MOPs because we do not have an approved chemical for application on mats, and we want to keep the message simple - arrive clean and leave clean.
- On Low Risk Zones (all forests not under a SPHN or within the management zone). Ensure footwear, dogs paws and horses hooves are clean prior to visiting the forest (visually free from loose soil and plant debris). If necessary brush or wash in soapy water before the visit. Make use of any facilities provided at the premises to clean footwear.

### **Planning before the event:**

- Find out if water will be available? If required, ask to have some water provided.
- Organise an area of hardstanding (away from water courses) near the exit of the woodland or control zone for washing bikes / vehicles / equipment / horses
- Ensure all your equipment is clean and serviceable
- Plan the access route. Do not take vehicles further into the site than necessary: try to leave them at designated car parking areas where possible.
- Alert everybody who will be entering the site about the requirements for High Risk Control Zones.

### **Tools required for event:**

- Water and bucket(s) for washing tools and foot wear. A jet wash will be required for vehicles that leave the forest roads and rally cars leaving control zones
- Tools for scraping mud, stones and debris from wheels, foot wear and wheel arches
- Brushes for removing mud and soil

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### **Biosecurity before entering the site:**

- Ensure all equipment (including vehicles, bikes, horses, dogs and footwear) is clean before entering the site.
- Have all the necessary tools listed above.

### **Biosecurity before leaving the site:**

- Set up the biosecurity equipment on the area of hardstanding (away from water courses) near the exit of the woodland which has designated for the biosecurity procedures
- Arrange for all staff/ participants to leave via the area of hard standing
- Use a brush and water to remove all mud and debris on equipment (bikes), tools, shoes and dogs. It is essential that all traces of soil be removed. Once washed, make sure the equipment is placed on a 'clean area' to stop it becoming dirty again.
- Vehicles that have entered the site but **have not left the forest road** do not have to be washed down however built up mud and needles should be removed with a brush. Jetwash at nearest convenient garage/facility.
- Vehicles, bikes, people, and horses that **leave the forest road** must be washed (using a jet wash or hose) on an area of hardstanding to remove all mud and debris. No disinfectant required. Rally cars must also be washed down with high pressure washer on finishing the stage/before leaving the forest. Again, no disinfectant required.