

# **S. P. Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd Biosecurity Policy & Procedure – April 2018**

## Introduction

S. P. Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd is committed to environmental compliance and has a number of policies and procedures in place to support this ongoing commitment, including the achievement of ISO14001 Environmental Management Standard.

Biosecurity within the arboricultural and landscape industry is becoming ever more important, as the UK is witnessing more regular outbreaks of diseases affecting plants and trees, as well as an influx of alien invasive species which, if left unchecked have the potential to cause lasting damage to the UK's wildlife and biodiversity. Increased global trade and the movement of goods between countries means an increased risk of spreading pests and diseases, which may travel, hidden in plant products, packaging and shipping crates etc.

This policy serves as a guide to all staff and contractors employed by S. P. Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd in relation to biosecurity procedures that need to be considered when carrying out our operations.

## Policy

Biosecurity is a set of precautions that aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. These may be pests, pathogens or invasive species. It is S. P. Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd.'s policy to take a proactive and practical approach to biosecurity measures.

In doing so we will comply with relevant legislations including:

- EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species
- Wildlife and countryside act of 1982 – Schedule 9
- Infrastructure Act 2015
- Crime and policing act November 2014

We will seek to proactively identify sites with potential biosecurity concerns and will train our staff to identify invasive species, potential pests and diseases and develop procedures for mitigating against biosecurity issues.

We will ensure that all biosecurity concerns are reported to our clients and regulatory bodies where applicable.

This policy is supported by the company's top level management and all resources required will be provided to employees to ensure that this policy is delivered.

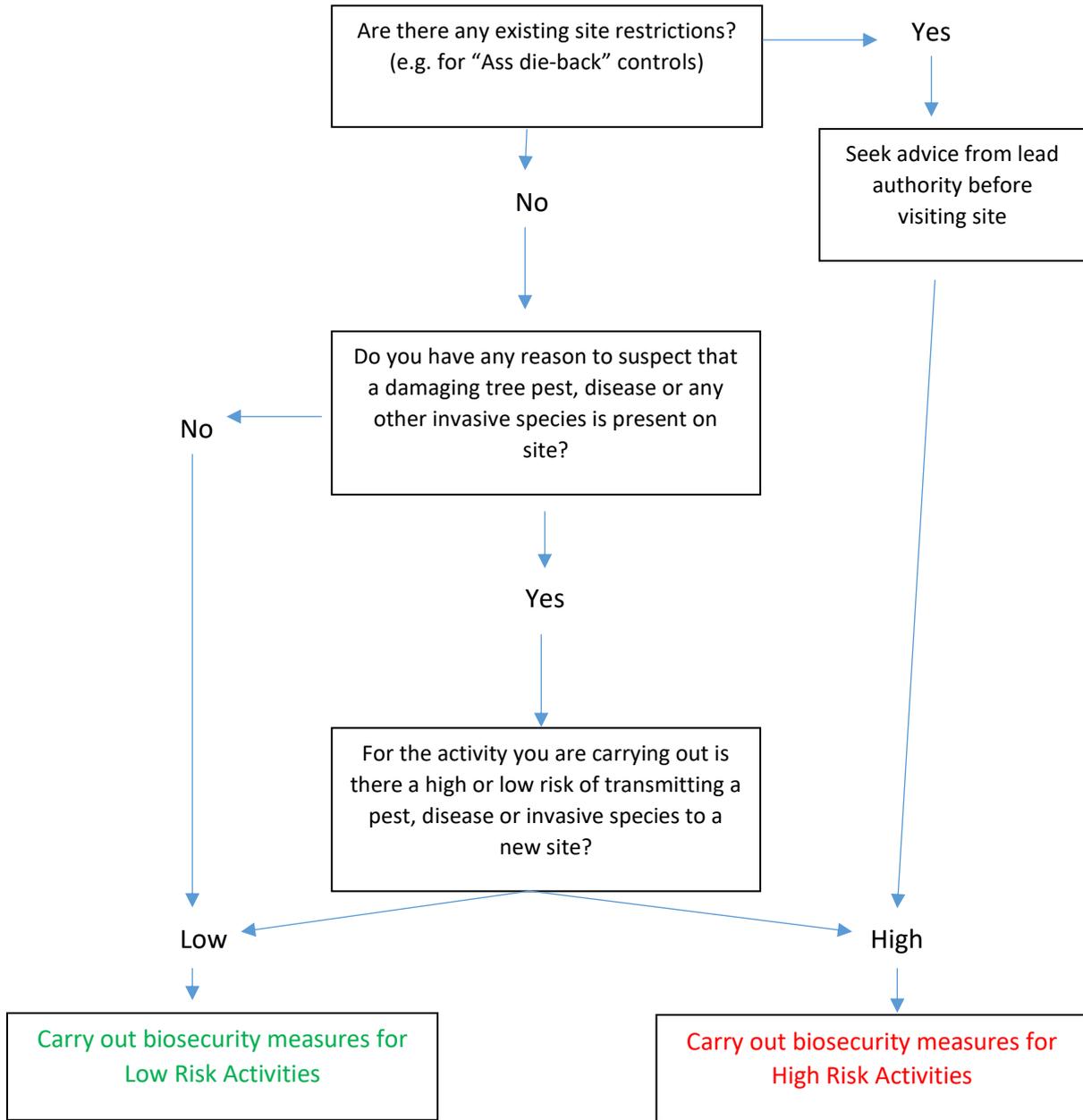
This policy and associated procedure will be reviewed annually.

## Procedure

When carrying out the initial site inspection prior to works commencing, management and supervisors are required to fill out a site specific risk assessment. This form includes a section requiring the assessor to check for bats, nesting birds and biosecurity issues. This form will act as the trigger point if the assessor should find any evidence of invasive species or other bio security issues that need to be addressed and where further mitigation measures need to be implemented. When using the risk assessment form management will use the decision making tree attached to this policy to make an assessment of the site.

If an issue is identified on site that has potential biosecurity implications, then the mitigation measures will be included within the risk assessment and method statement and will include some or all of the measures outlined in the guidance table below.

## Biosecurity Decision Making Tree



**Biosecurity Measures Table**

Biosecurity Measures	Low-risk activities	High-risk activities
Use the decision tree provided to help plan the level of biosecurity needed, if in doubt seek advice.	Low-risk activities include routine operations that are unlikely to involve contact with high-risk pests, diseases or invasive species. For example, day-to-day arboricultural and woodland management, routine visits to sites or premises	High-risk activities include specialist or targeted operations that may involve contact with infected or infested material. For example, a visit to site to carry out work on diseased or infected trees or to treat invasive plants
Personal biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear footwear and outerwear that can easily be kept clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to visit highest-risk areas last</li> <li>Clean footwear and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean footwear and outerwear regularly; ensure they are visually free from soil and organic debris.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outerwear between site visits by removing leaves, soil and other organic material.</li> <li>• Spray cleaned footwear and outerwear with disinfectant until it runs off (boots can be dipped in disinfectant).</li> </ul>
Vehicle biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean vehicles regularly; do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels or under wheel arches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid vehicular access to high-risk sites park off site if possible.</li> <li>• Keep to established hard tracks &amp; agreed site routes</li> <li>• Remove mud and organic debris from tyres, wheels and wheel arches.</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect tyres and wheels.</li> </ul>
Equipment biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict the equipment taken onto a site – take only what you need for the task.</li> <li>• Ensure all tools and equipment are clean, serviceable and free from organic debris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If taking samples from site or removing invasive species this must be done by transporting them in sealed containers to authorised sites only.</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect other tools and equipment before leaving the site.</li> <li>• Keep any samples in sealed containers.</li> </ul>

### **Using disinfectants**

Alcohol-based disinfectant (such as industrial methylated spirit or isopropyl) at 70% concentration is recommended as it is effective against Phytophthora and other pathogens. S. P. Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd carries a stock of Propellar disinfectant, please ensure you are aware of the relevant health and safety guidance and follow the COSHH risk assessment prior to use. In addition to this you should always:

- Follow the instructions on the product label.
- Wear protective gloves and eye protection.
- Mix and use disinfectant in a well-ventilated place.
- Carry out the disinfection process on a flat area well away from any watercourses.
- Apply disinfectants to clean surfaces – remove mud, soil, leaves and other organic debris by first washing with water (or hosing down if necessary and where permitted).
- Observe any specific contact times and, if necessary, rinse off the disinfectant afterwards with clean water.
- Minimise pollution risk from run-off. Do not allow disinfectants or washings to enter watercourses, surface-water drains, or springs and wells.