



Biosecurity requirements:

for moving used cotton machinery & equipment

With the cotton industry expanding across Northern Australia, it is likely used cotton machinery and equipment may need to be moved across state and territory borders. When importing and moving machinery and equipment, it is your responsibility to ensure you meet the biosecurity requirements of any state or territory travelled through, and the destination. This fact sheet outlines these requirements.

Different laws for different states

Australian states and territories have different biosecurity requirements based on their biosecurity legislation and pests, diseases and weeds of concern. The aim of biosecurity import requirements is to minimise the likelihood of pests, diseases and weed seeds being spread across Australia affecting agricultural production and the environment.

While not common for machinery related to cotton production, further requirements may be required for machinery sourced from states or territories with quarantine zones or pests under containment. For example, serious ant pests or pests and diseases of other crops (potato, grapevine, citrus, blueberry rust hosts, cucurbits and banana) and some weeds.

If your machinery has been used for other types of cropping or areas of concern, please contact the relevant state or territory for more information.

Key considerations:

- Ensure machinery and equipment is free of soil, plant and other organic material before leaving the property of origin.
- It is recommended to pressure clean machinery and equipment with high volume water and agricultural detergent, followed by an agricultural decontaminate.
- It is recommended to keep good records of machinery cleaning and decontamination.
- See [our guide to effective wash-down](#).
- Extra conditions can apply for machinery and equipment that has come from an area with specific pest, disease or weed risks.
- Ensure machinery is cleaned thoroughly to ensure that it is not delayed by being placed under quarantine for cleaning or denied entry.
- Visit the [Interstate Quarantine website](#) or contact the State or Territory Agricultural Department in the State or Territory that machinery is transiting and being imported into for clarification on their specific requirements.





WESTERN AUSTRALIA

All used machinery and equipment used in association with agriculture, soil, animals or plant material arriving in Western Australia must be presented for inspection to Quarantine Western Australia at a prescribed inspection checkpoint immediately upon arrival into the state.

All used machinery and equipment entering Western Australia must be:

- **Clean** and free from soil, plant material, pests and other matter that may transport pests or diseases; AND
- **Declared** to Quarantine WA at least 24 hours prior to arrival at an **inspection checkpoint** using an approved **Notice of Intent** to import; AND
- Where designed to be used on or likely to come in contact with Poaceae plant material, must be accompanied by a **statutory declaration**, completed by the machinery exporter, stating that the machinery (or parts thereof) has not been used in a State or Territory where Russian wheat aphid has been detected in the 30 days prior to entry into WA.

Contacts:

Contact the WA Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development for assistance.

Phone: (08) 9334 1800

Kununurra – WA/NT border inspection point.

Phone: (08) 9168 7354

Eucla – WA/SA border checkpoint.

Phone: (08) 9039 3227

Useful links:

- [Quarantine WA border checkpoints](#)
- [Notice of Intent for Import](#)
- [Statutory Declaration – Russian Wheat Aphid](#)



NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory has requirements to restrict the entry of pests or diseases that may be introduced into the Territory in specified plant-related materials including machinery and equipment.

- All used machinery and equipment entering the Northern Territory must be:
- **Clean** and free of soil, plant residues, pests and other matter that may transport pests and diseases; AND
- Accompanied by a **NT permit to import machinery and equipment** (allow your application at least five working days for approval); AND
- Accompanied by a **government certificate**, also known as a Plant Health Certificate, stating that before transportation to the NT it was visibly clean and free of soil, plant residues or other matter that may transport pests OR accompanied by a government certificate stating that it has undergone an approved treatment; AND
- **Copies of all certificates must be forwarded to NT Quarantine prior** to sending the consignment/moving machinery.

Inspections will occur before entering the Northern Territory and may occur after entering the Northern Territory. On arrival into the Northern Territory from Queensland, there are no facilities available to wash-down, so it is important this be done prior.

Contacts:

Contact the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources for assistance.

Northern Territory Quarantine

Phone: (08) 8999 2118

Email: quarantine@nt.gov.au

Useful links:

- [Plants and Quarantine](#)
- [Application for Permit to Import Machinery and Equipment](#)



QUEENSLAND

Queensland requires that everyone meet their General Biosecurity Obligation and take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks, including the spread of pests, diseases and weeds. This includes any person moving machinery or equipment that could be a potential carrier of pests, diseases or weeds. It is the responsibility of everyone in Queensland to know the biosecurity risks associated with their actions.

No specific import permits or Plant Health Certificates are currently required for movement of used cotton machinery into Queensland. However, there are import requirements for used machinery coming from areas with other serious crop plant pests, diseases and weeds.

You are still required to meet your General Biosecurity Obligations (GBO) i.e. that you do not bring dirty machinery or equipment into the state, which could spread pests, weeds and disease. **Machinery should be thoroughly cleaned before entering Queensland.** A record of the cleaning and decontamination process should be kept to demonstrate you have met your GBO.

Contacts:

Contact Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for assistance.
Phone: (07) 3404 6999 or 132 523 if in Qld.
Email: info@daf.qld.gov.au

Useful links:

- [General Biosecurity Obligation \(GBO\)](#)
- [Restrictions on moving plant material, soil and related equipment into Queensland](#)
- [Vehicle and machinery cleardown procedures for weeds](#)



NEW SOUTH WALES

In New South Wales, everyone is subject to the General Biosecurity Duty, which requires reasonable and practical steps to be taken to ensure the risk of spreading pests, weeds and disease is prevented, eliminated or minimised. This includes any person moving machinery or equipment that could be a potential carrier of pests, weeds and disease.

It is the responsibility of everyone in NSW to know the biosecurity risks associated with their actions. If you know, or ought to reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed by your actions and do not take appropriate steps to mitigate that risk, you may be liable under the General Biosecurity Duty .

There are no specific import requirements for the movement of used cotton machinery into NSW. However, there are import requirements for other machinery coming from areas with other serious crop plant pests, diseases and weeds. You are still required to meet your General Biosecurity Duty i.e. that you do not bring dirty machinery or equipment into the state, which could spread pests, weeds and disease. **Machinery should be thoroughly cleaned before entering NSW.** A record of the cleaning and decontamination process should be kept to demonstrate you have met your general biosecurity duty.

Contacts:

Contact NSW Department of Primary Industries for assistance.
Phone: 1800 680 244
Email: biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Useful links:

- [The General Biosecurity Duty](#)
- [Your role in biosecurity: primary producers](#)

Important note:

A record of the cleaning and decontamination process should be kept to help demonstrate best practice and that you have met biosecurity responsibilities of machinery and equipment being clean and not spreading pests, diseases and weeds.

- [Vehicle contamination cleaning record template](#)

