

WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY INTO DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREA COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

To be approved by a Human Biosecurity Officer

Background

The freight, logistics and transport industry (the **industry**) is critical to the economies of Western Australia (**WA**) and the nation. The industry is a significant employer, purchaser and taxpayer.

The availability and mobility of the industry's workforce is critical to ensuring continuity of essential services, production and imports/exports to WA.

Worker health and safety is the industry's top priority, with protocols in place to ensure the health of its workforce. The Industry continues to respond proactively and swiftly to developing risks posed by the Novel Coronavirus (**COVID-19**).

WA freight, logistics and transport industry entry in to designated biosecurity areas covid-19 risk management plan (Plan)

For the purpose of paragraph (j) of the definition of "essential activity" in section 4(1) of the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) Determination 2020¹ "transporting freight to or from a place in the area" will be carried out in a manner that is agreed with a Human Biosecurity Officer so as to minimise the extent to which other persons in the Designated Biosecurity Area are exposed to the persons carrying out those operations.

1. Reducing the potential spread of COVID-19

(Transit protocols) All workers will be restricted to operational critical personnel only. Industry representatives will work with freight and logistics companies (**companies**) to undertake a 'needs analysis' and, if necessary, to adjust shift rosters to ensure the minimum necessary personnel are moving around or entering the Designated Biosecurity Area.

(Temporary relocation) Freight and logistics companies may offer interstate critical personnel the option of being based in WA or a specific region during this period.

(Education/information for workers) Freight and logistics companies will provide regular and consistent updates to workers on the spread of COVID-19 in their communities; strategies to avoid contracting it both in and outside the workplace (e.g. social

¹ Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020. Declared by the Commonwealth Minister for Health, 26 March 2020

distancing/sanitation etc.); ways to support colleagues and their families; and the requirements contained within this Plan.

(Mental Health) Freight and logistics companies and industry representatives acknowledge that this is a difficult and stressful time for its workforce. The industry is already proactively addressing mental health and wellbeing and is well placed to support workers. Companies continue to ramp-up a wide variety of support to the mental health and wellbeing of their employees.

(Equipment) Freight and logistics companies will ensure, so far as is practicable, that workers have access to all the necessary health and safety equipment needed such as PPE and sanitiser to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and protect themselves from contracting it.

(Point of contact) Each freight and logistics company will nominate a key contact for their workers to get more information about the company's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect its workers.

2. Risks during travel and at accommodation

(Accommodation) Freight and logistics companies will ensure vehicle operators on long haul routes or who are entitled to sleep breaks will use vehicles equipped with sleeper boxes (or equivalent resting provisions) and carry sufficient food and essentials on board to avoid, as best as practicable, stopping at roadhouses.

(Rest areas and amenities) Freight and logistics companies require their vehicle operators to preference roadside rest areas not adjoining or in a community or built up area. Where access to amenities at roadhouses is required, vehicle operators will manage the risks in accordance with company guidance and in line the Freight and Logistics Council of WA *COVID-19 Hygiene Protocols for drivers and roadside service centres (roadhouses)*.

(Refueling) Where refueling is required, freight and logistics vehicle operators must designate where they intend to refuel, and preference unattended refueling points where possible. Refueling locations will be described by vehicle operators in their Operator Declaration.

3. Risks at the workplace

(Symptoms testing) Freight and logistics companies will incorporate a symptoms identification process to identify early warnings and presentations (e.g. temperature testing/self-reporting, guidance on other signs on illness such as dry cough etc.) Where

access to suitable thermometers is possible, driver temperatures will be captured and recorded on departure and arrival to a depot or branch.

(Government rules) The industry will make all possible endeavours to enforce the Australian and WA Government's rules amongst their workforces (e.g. that any worker who has been overseas or in contact with someone with COVID-19 will be in self-isolation for 14 days).

(Sanitation) A high standard of sanitation will be applied by freight and logistics locations such as depots and yards with additional cleaning protocols in place for all common areas and equipment. Vehicle operators will be supplied with sanitiser and issued with guidance on truck cleaning and hygiene. At any point, the WA Government can query, inspect premises and make recommendations on the sanitation at a site.

(Distancing) Companies will implement procedures and processes to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, physical and social distancing through individual or group segregation, consistent with Australian and WA Government advice. Workers will be provided with information on how to implement physical or social distancing, and additional measures required where dual vehicle operators are required ('two-up teams' for long haul routes. Companies will implement procedures and processes to ensure physical and social distancing is practised at all delivery and pick-up locations.

(Group events) Group events like meals and start-ups are cancelled or staggered and held outdoors/larger facilities to significantly reduce people numbers in one place and comply with social distancing requirements.

(Health professional support) Each company will have a procedure in place to manage the initial stages of situations where a suspected COVID-19 case presents.

4. Dealing with symptoms

(Quarantine) Where a positive test is returned, or a case is suspected, the individual will be documented on a register and sent home to self-isolate.

(COVID-19 Action Plan) Every freight and logistics company will have a specific action plan in place for responding to COVID-19 cases (e.g. standing down/isolation of workers, cleaning of workplaces etc.)

(Effective communication) Freight and logistics companies will communicate with other parties on any suspected COVID-19 cases where there is a possibility of contact across companies.

(Risk assessment and mitigation). Freight and logistics companies will compile a list of workers that fit into highest risk categories as identified by the Australian Government's

Chief Medical Officer² or his/her delegate (e.g. older workers and those with underlying health issues) and ensure there are appropriate mechanisms in place to prevent and respond to an infection.

(Evacuation – mild or medium) Freight and logistics companies will have plans in place as part of their COVID-19 Action Plan for mild or medium presentations. These could include, for example, evacuation of a vehicle operator with symptoms presenting during a trip and the segregation and stand-down of exposed crews. If a vehicle operator presents with symptoms during a trip, can they remain isolated in the cab, except to use ablutions facilities, and proceed to the nearest depot where the Manager will arrange needed assistance to them and the change-over of trailers to continue delivery. Freight and logistics companies typically operate within a large regional network enabling contingency options for urgent freight supplies. This would involve changing trailers with another vehicle, either local or heading to/from a pick up or drop off destination.

(Evacuation – severe) If a vehicle operator experiences severe symptoms that constitute a medical emergency, they will follow their standard plans for management of medical emergencies. This constitutes seeking emergency medical treatment at a nearby regional hospital, phoning 000 or phoning the Royal Flying Doctor Service on 1800 625 800, whichever is most suitable the particular emergency.

(Notification) In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within its workforce, the Freight and Logistics company will contact the National Coronavirus Information Helpline on 1800 020 080.

5. Compliance monitoring

(Pre-departure) A supervisor, manager or contract manager will speak on the phone to any travelling worker on the day before they travel. Drivers must complete the Freight Worker Declaration immediately prior to departure.

(Reporting) Through the industry representative, the industry is committed to provide daily reports to the WA Government of any new COVID-19 cases, evacuations, recoveries and current caseload.

(Contact person) The industry nominates the Freight and Logistics Council of WA as its representative to act as the central point of contact for this Plan with the WA Government.

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<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/advice-for-people-at-risk-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

6. Approval

This Plan has been developed by the Freight and Logistics Council of WA in collaboration with stakeholders across the freight, logistics and transport industry.

Human Biosecurity Officer

Date: _____

**WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY INTO DESIGNATED
BIOSECURITY AREA COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**
Operator Declaration

Name of corporation or person responsible for the transport of freight ("operator").	
[If the operator is a corporation] Role/position of the person making the Declaration. [If the operator is not a corporation] Write N/A	
Name or description of freight transport operations.	
Scope of operations covered by this Declaration.	

I _____ [name of person making this Declaration] hereby declare the following:

1. I acknowledge that every person entering the designated area for the purpose of the transport of freight described above is required to meet the requirements set out in 5(1)(c)(i) to (vi) of the Biosecurity Determination.
2. The freight transport operations described above will, from the date of this Declaration, will conduct the freight transport operations in accordance with the WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY IN TO DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREAS COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN.

3. A Human Biosecurity Officer may withdraw approval of the WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY IN TO DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREAS COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN, and hence the Human Biosecurity Officer's agreement to the manner in which the relevant freight transport operations are carried out, in the following circumstances:
 - a. The WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY IN TO DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREAS COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN does not, in practice, minimise the extent to which other persons in the designated area are exposed to the persons carrying out the relevant operations; or
 - b. The factual conditions change such that the WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY IN TO DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREAS COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN no longer minimises the extent to which other persons in the designated area are exposed to the persons carrying out the relevant operations.
4. If the relevant freight transport operations are not carried out in a manner agreed with a Human Biosecurity Officer so as to minimise the extent to which other persons in the area are exposed to the persons carrying out these operations, it may be an offence for a person to enter the designated area for the purpose of carrying out such operations.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The above information is required for the purposes of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Cth). The information is collected and will be used for the purposes of assisting the Chief Human Biosecurity Officers and/or Human Biosecurity Officers to exercise the power and perform functions under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Cth).

The information may also be used for the purpose of assisting the Chief Health Officer and/or the State Emergency Coordinator in the exercise of their powers, and performance of their functions, under the *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) and the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (WA), respectively.

The provision of false or misleading information to a Human Biosecurity Officer may constitute an offence punishable by up to 12 months imprisonment.

**WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY INTO DESIGNATED
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Freight Worker Declaration

As an essential freight worker crossing into this border, you declare:

		Yes	No
1.	<p>Have you travelled overseas in the last 14 days?</p> <p>Note: You are not allowed to enter a designated biosecurity area if you have travelled overseas in the last 14 days.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Have you travelled interstate in the last 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<p>To your knowledge, in the last 14 days have you been in close contact with any person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, without adequate protective measures?</p> <p>Note: You are not allowed to enter a designated biosecurity area if you have been in close contact with any person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 if protective measures were inadequate.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	To your knowledge, in the last 14 days have you been in close contact with any person who has recently returned from overseas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Do you have a fever of 38 degrees or above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Do you have a cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of acute respiratory infection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<p>Have you completed the following forms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Entry into WA Designated Biosecurity Areas (Kimberly, East Pilbara, Ngaanyatjaraku) ● WA Border Arrivals Form 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Will you use all appropriate PPE (where available), adhere to social distancing requirements and maintain the highest levels of personal hygiene?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9.	Are you fully informed of, and will fully comply with, the WA FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENTRY IN TO DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREAS COVID-19 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Declaration	
I declare the information above is true and correct.	
Name of person completing this checklist:	
Mobile number:	
Email:	
Employer i.e. Name of corporation or person responsible for the transport of freight ("operator")	
Name and mobile number/email of Supervisor or Alternative Contact	
Accommodation while in Designated Area (address or description).	
Planned date of arrival into biosecurity area:	
Planned date of departure from biosecurity area:	

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The above information is required for the purposes of the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth)*. The information is collected and will be used for the purposes of assisting the Chief Human Biosecurity Officers and/or Human Biosecurity Officers to exercise the power and perform functions under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth)*.

The information may also be used for the purpose of assisting the Chief Health Officer and/or the State Emergency Coordinator in the exercise of their powers, and performance of their functions, under the *Public Health Act 2016 (WA)* and the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA)*, respectively.

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