



Last Modified	November 2020
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Policy Owner/Contact	GM Policy, Environment and Safety
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1. Policy Coverage

1.1 Scope

This policy covers the movement of all personnel and cargo to and from New Zealand and Antarctica and between sites within Antarctica.

1.2. Statements

Antarctica New Zealand is committed to the biosecurity of New Zealand, Antarctica, and the Southern Ocean. In our operations we aim to:

- Conserve Antarctic biodiversity and intrinsic values by preventing the unintended introduction of non-native species and diseases to the Antarctic;
- Avoid the movement of species within Antarctica, especially from one Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region to any other; and
- Protect New Zealand's unique environment from imported non-native species and diseases.

To achieve this, we will:

- Comply with, and where possible, exceed all national legislation and Antarctic Treaty System requirements;
- Take a risk and evidence-based approach to biosecurity and exercise the precautionary principle in instances where limited evidence makes it difficult to inform best practice;
- Work with the science community and biosecurity experts (Ministry of Primary Industries, Department of Conservation and others) to develop and implement best practice biosecurity procedures.

- Operate a Biosecurity Group to lead the development and review of standard practices and procedures, coordinate information sharing on biosecurity measures across the organisation and identify areas for continual improvement.
- Ensure appropriate permits are obtained for the movement of any animals, plants, microorganisms or soil collected and transported for environmental monitoring or scientific purposes;
- Apply preventative measures such as inspecting and cleaning all clothing, footwear, equipment, cargo, shipping containers, food and packaging bound for Antarctica or New Zealand This also applies to any movements between Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions and within other particularly sensitive regions such as movement between sites in the McMurdo Dry Valleys.
- Give special consideration to poultry products, ensuring they are free from disease, not disposed of in the Antarctic environment, or taken to any field sites near bird colonies.
- Ensure, as far as possible, no diseases, pathogens or other non-native organisms are released via the Waste Water Treatment Plant into the marine environment.
- Provide training and education of our biosecurity procedures and communicate our requirements to all programme personnel, contractors, suppliers and the public.
- Identify and work with high biosecurity risk suppliers (e.g. fresh food and poultry suppliers, contractors for major construction projects, third parties undertaking offsite packing of shipping containers) to ensure biosecurity requirements are understood and implemented.
- Ensure suppliers are aware of our biosecurity expectations by providing requirements within procurement documentation.
- Monitor and audit our activities for compliance and report on our performance.

2. Key Definitions

Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions (ACBR): Distinct areas within Antarctica host to unique biological communities and underlying physical, climatic and environmental characteristics. There are 16 ACBRs in total.

Biosecurity: controls to prevent unintentional transfer of organisms, diseases or biological material from one habitat to another.

Non-native species: an organism occurring outside its natural past or present range and dispersal potential, and whose presence and dispersal in Antarctica is due to intentional or unintentional human actions.

Introduction/introduced: direct or indirect movement, as a result of human activity, of an organism outside its natural range.

Range: the geographical area within which a species can be found.

3. Related Documents and Information

- [SOP BS - 001](#) Minimising the Risk of Non-Native Species reaching Scott Base through Antarctica New Zealand's Freshies Supply
- [SOP BS - 002](#) Monitoring Invertebrate Traps at Scott Base
- [SOP BS - 003](#) Importing Preserved Animal Specimens from Scott Base to New Zealand
- [SOP BS - 004](#) Disposal of natural materials at Scott Base
- [SOP BS - 005](#) Handling of Poultry and Avian Products
- [SOP BS - 006](#) Disposing of biological materials from the field
- [Biosecurity Prevention and Response Plan](#)
- [CIMS Pre Plan](#) for Biosecurity
- [COMNAP / SCAR Checklists](#) for Supply Chain Managers of National Antarctic Programmes for the Reduction in the Risk of Transfer of Non-native Species
- [CEP Five-Year Work Plan](#)
- [CEP Climate Change Response Work Programme](#)
- [IMO Polar Code](#)

Document History and Version Control Table			
Version	Action	Approval Authority	Action Date
<i>For document history and versioning prior to September 2016 see the GM of People and Performance or the Information and Records Manager</i>			
1.0	Original Version - revised content and changed to corporate template	Rebecca Roper-Gee	July 2018
2.0	Biannual Review Minor updates	Ceisha Poirot	September 2019
3.0	Minor updates to include the marine environment and the use of best available scientific evidence. Addition of new SOP (BS – 006) to related documents.	CEO	November 2020