



## Decontamination guidelines

### *Dickeya dianthicola*

Soil, water and plant material attached to vehicles, machinery and equipment are a pathway for the spread of *Dickeya dianthicola*. Decontamination measures are an important part of farm biosecurity, and should be in place to help prevent spread of the bacteria to other areas or crops.

### General guidelines

#### Clean in, clean out

**Equipment, vehicles, footwear and surfaces should be washed down or disinfected prior to moving onto or off your property, and when moving between different areas on your property.**

- Keep farm vehicles clean from soil.
- Where possible, use your own vehicle to transport visitors around your farm.
- Restrict vehicle movement to a minimum, particularly on wet soil.
- Stick to road access.
- Always ensure visiting vehicles, and borrowed or second hand equipment and machinery is clean of all plant material and soil before they enter your farm.
- Avoid movement in areas where water pools or collects.
- Avoid recycling or reusing irrigation water.

*Dickeya dianthicola* is a serious bacteria that can lead to significant production losses in potatoes, some ornamental crops, chicory and artichoke

### You will need...

#### Clean hot water

Use hot water that is more than 55 degrees. Use a clean water supply that has not flowed over agricultural soil planted to crops, and is from an uncontaminated tank or system capable of removing organisms (eg. chlorinated town water).

#### Equipment

- Hard stand area for wash down to contain run-off water.
- High pressure water cleaner, preferably a mobile water tanker or spray unit.
- A large tarpaulin or plastic container to clean smaller equipment.
- Disposable overalls and gloves if handling infected plant material.
- Strong plastic bags for sealing items for disposal.
- Approved disinfectant solutions. Plastic footbath, bucket and spray bottle to disinfect boots and equipment
- Hand sanitiser and/or soap with a minimum of 5 litres of clean water.
- Rubber boots that are easy to wash.

**Soil, clay and organic material neutralises disinfectants so check recommended rates and suspension of disinfectant.**

## Important

### Wash-down facility

- Ensure the facility is well away from crops, waterways and drainage areas.
- The facility should be close to property or production block entry and exit points.
- To prevent run-off to waterways, enclose the area where the wash-down occurs.
- Ensure any run-off is directed away from paddocks, crops and waterways.
- Have a sump to collect any waste water.
- Try to contain waste water for as long as possible to allow for biodegradation of compounds (10 to 14 days is usually sufficient).
- Disposal of contained wastewater can be done via absorption and evaporation methods.
- Locate facility on level ground, preferably concrete, bitumen or gravel.
- Regularly check areas around the facility for new pests, diseases or weeds.



## Wash-down process

Wash-down should include cleaning to remove dirt and plant material from vehicles, machinery and equipment, followed by disinfection to kill or inactivate bacteria.

### Step 1 – Cleaning

- In the first instance use compressed air for removing dry material to clean areas such as radiators.
- Prior to disinfection, use a detergent-based cleanser with a high pressure hose to ensure all surfaces are visibly free from soil and plant material.
- Clean from the top down and pay particular attention to mud guards, protective plates and underneath the vehicle.
- Use a tarpaulin for smaller tools and equipment to avoid recontamination.

### Step 2 - Disinfection

- Use a broad spectrum disinfectant on surfaces that can come into contact with soil, such as tyres, axels, mud guards on vehicles, or blades on rotary hoes.
- Potassium peroxymonosulphate (Virkon S) is recommended for vehicles, machinery and tools. Mix as per label instructions and apply with a spray pack. As it is corrosive avoid contact with paint and glass. It can be rinsed off following application.

- Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) is effective but needs exposure of 30-60 minutes. Pallets and plastic containers can be soaked in bleach and left to dry.
- Un-used product can be stored for several days – see label instructions.

### Step 3 – Rinsing and documenting

Following disinfection, rinse all surfaces with clean water. Ensure waste water drains into the sump.

Record details of each clean down and decontamination in machinery log books.

## People

All personnel and visitors who have entered production areas must follow decontamination guidelines. Particularly the decontamination of boots/ footwear, clothing, reusable gloves and hats.

- Brush down clothing and remove soil from boots (check the tread).
- Thoroughly wash hands with a sanitizer.
- Have a foot bath filled with potassium peroxymonosulphate (Virkon S), placed on a hard surface or plastic sheet. Step boots in and out of the foot bath to ensure that all contact areas are soaked with solution.
- Dispose of chemical in footbaths at the end of each day into the wash-down facility sump.

### Important disclaimer

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