



FOREST HYGIENE POLICY FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND STAFF RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS

New Zealand's exotic forest estate is worth billions of dollars. We appreciate your cooperation in reducing any risk of accidental introduction of new pests or diseases that could endanger this valuable resource.

New Zealand, being a remote and insular country, is free of many forest diseases (such as conifer rusts, pitch canker) which cause considerable losses in other parts of the world.

Many pathogens of forest trees produce large numbers of spores which, if dry, can remain infective for very long periods. Propagules of soil-borne pathogens can also remain infective in small volumes of soil.

Spores can stick to clothing, fragments of plant material bearing fruit bodies of pathogenic fungi may be lodged in pockets or other parts of apparel, and the soil sticking to footwear can carry soil-borne pathogens. Visitors to our forests may thereby unconsciously become vectors of disease causing organisms.

Many measures to reduce the chances of such diseases reaching New Zealand are implemented by the regulatory authorities and there is an active biosecurity programme operating at the borders. We anticipate your cooperation and compliance with these. However, in addition to these, and to further minimise the risks to our forest estate, we also require that both international visitors and forest staff returning from overseas comply with the following guidelines:

- **Before entering New Zealand**, clean any clothing and footwear worn during nursery, forest, port, or processing site visits. (Dry cleaning is an effective method of killing fungal spores on clothing). Boots and shoes can be brushed clean of all dirt and plant fragments and in addition the soles treated with a biocide solution such as Varicide or with hypochlorite.

- As an extra precaution, prior to entering New Zealand forests, you may be asked to submit your footwear for a brief further treatment. This will not damage boots and the compounds used have extremely low mammalian toxicity). **No clothing or footwear worn overseas is to be worn in New Zealand forests until these standards are complied with.**
- **Any field equipment that has been used in forests overseas** (e.g., pocket knives, pruners) should be wiped clean with a biocide/disinfectant. This also applies to cameras and binoculars. Camera and binocular cases should be checked for plant fragments and the interior and exterior wiped clean.
- Clean any sports equipment such as boots, golf clubs etc. **(Ensure any soil is removed.)**
- **Tents and sleeping bags are high hazard items.** Ensure they are clean and free of soil. Please notify MPI border security staff of these items.
- Notify MPI border security staff of your **involvement in forestry.**



David Rhodes
Chief Executive
NZ Forest Owners Association



Dave Cormack
Chair
NZ Forest Owners Association
Forest Biosecurity Committee

Updated March 2018