

## SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

### FACTSHEET 06

# For agencies and development partners sending new and used vehicles, machinery and equipment (VME)

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases

### Why is it important to us?

The movement of humanitarian aid is a known pathway for the introduction of harmful pests and diseases. Unless appropriate and timely risk management is applied, these new pests and diseases may become established and continue to cause long-term damage to our economy, environment and communities long after we have recovered from the emergency situation.

The introduction of new pests and diseases can affect the quality and yield of agricultural produce which can jeopardise food security. Pest introductions can also damage the sanitary and phytosanitary status of a country, making it more difficult to trade with other countries and build back the economy.

During crisis situations, we are temporarily constrained in our ability to implement our normal phytosanitary activities on goods at the border. This is because our treatment and processing infrastructure may be damaged or inaccessible; water, electricity and other services may be cut and staff may be unable to travel to work or may be diverted to emergency tasks. Additionally, other government agencies and officials frequently require the immediate release goods to people in need without going through our normal process.

To ensure that our staff can focus effort on other priority activities such as food and shelter distribution, please help us by taking steps to mitigate the pest risk of donated goods **prior to export**. For VME, this may include cleaning, decontamination, disinfestation and pre-clearance ahead of shipment.



Protect vehicles for export from contamination with plastic coverings (C. Dale).

### Pest risk considerations for vehicles, machinery and equipment (VME)

As VME are moved around or used they can become contaminated with soil, quarantine pests, animal and plant matter (e.g. soil, seeds, plant parts capable of propagation, pests, faeces etc.).

Used VME, particularly those which were previously used on farms, forests, or in vegetated areas have a higher likelihood of contamination. However, even new VME may become contaminated or infested during outdoor storage or during transport.

Additionally, a range of pests can penetrate and reproduce in vehicles or machinery seats and other soft materials. It may be necessary to apply a treatment (e.g. fumigation or temperature) to ensure disinfestation prior to shipment.

**TIP:** Brightly lit areas are likely to attract a range of pests at night to areas where VME may be stored. Prior to shipment, it is best to store VME away from heavily vegetated areas or areas that are lit at night. This reduces the likelihood of pest contamination.

### What can you do to help us?

Before sending any aid, please work with your department of agriculture or relevant quarantine authority to ensure that:

- The goods are permitted into the country receiving aid.
- All import requirements of the country receiving new and used VME are met.
- Required treatments are applied before export.
- The appropriate documentation and clearances are sent with the aid shipment.

The above processes are performed by your country's department of agriculture or relevant quarantine authority as part of normal trade/export practices, please contact them if you have any queries on what to do.

## To help us by mitigating the pest risk prior to export we suggest that:

- VME (used or new) should be inspected, cleaned and disinfested before shipment to destination countries.
- In some cases, a partial or full dismantling of machinery parts may be required to allow for proper cleaning. This is especially important if the VME has been used on farms or an area contaminated with high-risk plant pests of quarantine potential (e.g. nematodes, *Fusarium oxysporum* or other *Fusarium* spp, *Phytophthora* spp. etc.).
- After cleaning and decontaminating VME (and potential packaging), VME should be stored in 'low risk' areas with the following characteristics:
  - away from vegetation and artificially lit areas
  - on surfaces preventing contact with soil, seeds, plant material and animal debris e.g. concrete surfaces
  - If VME are stored in areas where seasonal pest outbreaks (e.g. brown marmorated stinkbug) are a normal occurrence, special protection should be provided e.g. wrapping/covers.
- Consider using clear labelling to state that VME have been cleaned and decontaminated e.g. "VME FUMIGATED OR HEAT TREATED"; "NEW VME PRE-CLEARED" etc. This will help on-ground staff prioritise inspection on arrival.

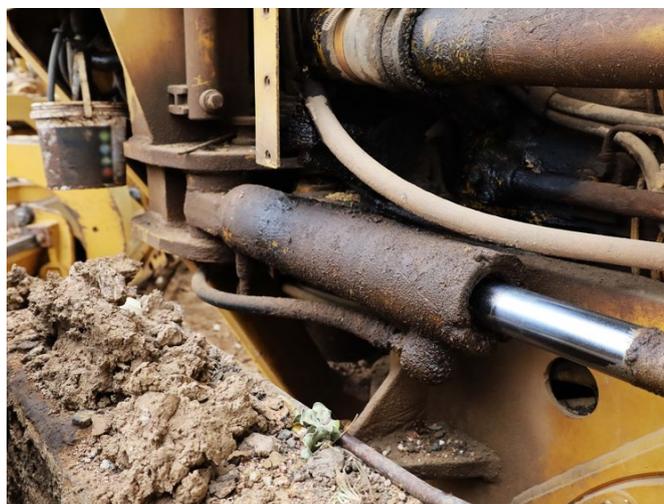
**Look out for:** snails, moth egg cases, ants, soil (which can contain fungal spores, soil-borne nematodes and pathogens) and weed seeds contaminating the inside and outside of donated VME. Visually inspect VME for the presence of these pests and thoroughly clean if any traces of these pests are found.

To effectively clean VME please:

- Empty water reservoir
- Remove debris from filters
- Sweep and vacuum
- And use either abrasive blasting, pressure washing, steam cleaning or compress air cleaning

If packaging or packing is used, it should be new, clean and free of pests and other contaminants. Any freight containers that are used for storage or transport should also be cleaned and be pest free (see [IPPC best practice guide on measures to minimise pest contamination](#) for more information)<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) recommendation on the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89786/>.



Soil, plant and animal matter contaminating vehicles can harbour plant pests and diseases (Shutterstock).



To assist on-ground staff thoroughly clean all VME prior to export (Shutterstock).