

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/pests/fire-ant-movement-controls>

Fire ant movement controls

As of 1 July 2016, fire ant biosecurity zones come into effect and will replace all previous versions of the fire ant restricted area.

To prevent the spread of fire ants, the Queensland Government has implemented movement controls in areas of Queensland where this pest species has been detected. These controls apply to individuals and commercial operators, and restrict the movement of materials that could carry fire ants.

It is an offence if you do not comply with movement controls within fire ant biosecurity zones. Breaches of these controls can potentially impact the community, economy and the environment.

To help prevent the spread of fire ants, you should:

- understand what fire ants look like and what materials (i.e. fire ant carriers) they might be moved in
- be aware if you are living or working in a fire ant biosecurity zone
- take all reasonable steps to ensure you do not spread fire ants.

If you are unsure of your obligations contact a Biosecurity Queensland inspector on 13 25 23.

Report fire ants online or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

This guide explains your obligations when moving or storing fire ant carriers in the fire ant biosecurity zones.

Print this page

Last reviewed

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Fire ant biosecurity zones

As of 1 July 2016, fire ant biosecurity zones come into effect.

Fire ant biosecurity zones are in place in areas of Queensland to restrict the movement of materials that could spread fire ants.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (PDF, 1.5MB), individuals and organisations whose activities involve the movement or storage of fire ant carriers will have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not spread fire ants.

The Biosecurity Regulation 2016 prescribes procedures that you must follow when moving or storing a fire ant carrier. Find out more about the procedures for managing fire ant carriers. Specific provisions are not provided for all situations and there is flexibility to find better ways of managing risks.

There are 3 fire ant biosecurity zones in Queensland. Refer to the fire ant biosecurity zone maps to see the boundaries of each zone.

The table below outlines certain conditions you must meet before moving fire ant carriers. In particular, there are different levels of controls for moving soil.

Fire ant carrier	Fire ant biosecurity zone 1	Fire ant biosecurity zone 2	Fire ant biosecurity zone 3
Soil (includes fill, clay, scrapings, and any material removed from the ground at a site where earthworks are being carried out)	Movement of soil from a property in zone 1 is not allowed without a biosecurity instrument permit , unless:	Movement of soil from a property within zone 2 is not allowed without a biosecurity instrument permit , unless:	Movement of soil from a property within zone 3 is not allowed without a biosecurity instrument permit , unless:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the material remains within zone 1* the material is moved to a waste facility within zone 1 and zone 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the material remains within zone 2 or is moved to zone 1* the material is moved to a waste facility within zone 1 or 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the material remains within zone 3* the material is moved to a waste facility within zone 3
Mulch	Movement of these fire ant carriers from a property within a biosecurity zone is not allowed, unless:		
Animal manures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> risk mitigation procedures specific to that carrier have been undertaken as outlined in the Biosecurity Regulation 2016. Refer to the guidelines for managing fire ant carriers 		
Baled hay or straw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you move the material directly to a waste facility (zone restrictions apply) 		
Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you move the material directly to a waste facility (zone restrictions apply) 		

Fire ant carrier	Fire ant biosecurity zone 1	Fire ant biosecurity zone 2	Fire ant biosecurity zone 3
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- the material has been at the property for less than 24 hours.

If you are unable to comply with the above conditions then you must obtain a biosecurity instrument permit from an inspector before moving the fire ant carrier from a property

Other fire ant carriers (includes material that is a product or by-product of mining or quarrying (e.g. gravels) or composted materials

Movement of these fire ant carriers from a property within a biosecurity zone is not allowed, unless:

- you move the material directly to a waste facility (zone restrictions apply)
- or
- the material has been at the property for less than 24 hours
- or
- a biosecurity instrument permit has been issued

***For soil movement within fire ant biosecurity zones, a person must meet their GBO.**

Complete the biosecurity instrument permit request to obtain a permit from a Biosecurity Queensland inspector or call 13 25 23.

Fire ant biosecurity zone maps and information

- The fire ant biosecurity zones map shows where restrictions apply to the movement of fire ant carriers within Queensland.
- The suburbs register is a list of suburbs found within the fire ant biosecurity zones.
- Map of areas of South East Queensland restricted for interstate market access shows where restrictions apply in Queensland for movement of fire ant carriers interstate.

Moving fire ant carriers interstate

Other states and territories place conditions on the movement of fire ant carriers from Queensland, and these conditions may differ from Queensland's movement restrictions. If you are moving fire ant carriers interstate, contact the entry state to confirm the entry conditions.

Related links

- Find out about waste facilities for fire ant carriers.
- Complete the biosecurity instrument permit request.
- Learn more about fire ants in Queensland.

- Learn more about fire ant carriers and how to manage the risk of spreading fire ants.
 - Report suspected fire ants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
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General biosecurity obligation for fire ants

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (PDF, 1.5MB), all Queenslanders have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to manage biosecurity risks and threats that are under their control, they know about or they are expected to know about.

In terms of fire ants, a biosecurity risk exists when you deal with materials that the pest can be carried in, including:

- soil
- turf
- potted plants
- mulch
- baled hay or straw
- animal manures
- mining or quarry products
- composted materials.

Anyone involved in the movement or storage of fire ant carriers in Queensland has a GBO to take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not spread fire ants.

Fulfilling your general biosecurity obligation

Individuals and organisations moving or storing fire ant carriers can fulfil their GBO by:

- understanding what fire ants look like and what materials they might be moved in
- being aware if you are living or working in a fire ant biosecurity zone
- being aware of movement controls relevant to the fire ant carrier you intend to move
- cleaning down machinery and equipment used when dealing with fire ant carriers before moving the equipment off site
- conducting inspections of material that can carry fire ants for any ant activity
- reporting suspect ants online or by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

The Biosecurity Regulation 2016 prescribes procedures that you must follow when moving or storing a fire ant carrier. Find about more about procedures for managing each fire ant carrier.

Specific provisions are not provided for all situations and there is flexibility to find better ways of managing risks.

Failure to comply with movement controls

Biosecurity Queensland inspectors conduct random compliance checks to ensure businesses and individuals are complying with the procedures outlined in the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 when moving or storing a fire ant carrier.

Penalties for non-compliance apply under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Related links

- Learn more about fire ant carriers and how to manage the risk of spreading fire ants.
- Learn more about fire ants in Queensland.
- Report suspected fire ants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Register for fire ant general awareness training

Fire ant general awareness training sessions are available for individuals and businesses that operate within fire ant biosecurity zones and deal with fire ant carriers.

By participating in this training you will learn:

- about the eradication program and movement control requirements
- how to minimise the risk of spreading fire ants without interrupting your business activities
- how to confidently identify fire ants and their nests.

The 90 minute training session is designed for businesses and government bodies operating within fire ant biosecurity zones.

Fire ant training is also suitable for groundskeepers and anyone wishing to become a fire ant volunteer ranger.

What the general awareness training includes

Sessions include:

- fire ant identification and reporting
- the impacts of fire ants
- the fire ant eradication program

- the fire ant biosecurity zones and movement controls
- how you can assist
- the opportunity to view live fire ants.

Fire ant general awareness training details

Cost

Free

Venue

Biosecurity Queensland Control Centre
51 Fulcrum Street
RICHLANDS QLD 4077

Date

Sessions are held fortnightly on Tuesdays (subject to change on public holidays).

Time

9am - 10.30am

Bookings

Bookings are necessary, as sessions are limited to a maximum of 50 people. To make a booking, contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or register online.

External sessions can be booked free of charge if there are 25 or more people to attend the training.

Related links

- Learn more about fire ants in Queensland.
- Report suspected fire ants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Waste facilities for fire ant carriers

Certain waste facilities within fire ant biosecurity zones in South East Queensland can accept fire ant carriers.

Below is a list of waste facility locations and the materials they will accept.

Contact the waste facility directly to discuss specific requirements and opening hours.

Please be advised that Biosecurity Queensland is not responsible for the materials individual waste facilities accept.

We recommend that you check with the operator for any pre-entry requirements.

Movement of fire ant carriers may be subject to other local government and state government regulations in addition to Queensland biosecurity regulations.

Biosecurity zone 1

Facility location details	Materials accepted/conditions
BMI Group, Watson Road Resource Recovery 146 Watson Road ACACIA RIDGE Phone: 07 3272 0143	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concrete• Builder's rubbish• Green waste• Clean fill
Alex Fraser Group (Queensland Recycling Pty Ltd) 40-50 Beaufighter Avenue ARCHERFIELD Phone: 136 135	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concrete• Brick• Masonry• Asphalt
Veolia Environmental Services Archerfield Transfer Station 40-50 Beaufighter Avenue ARCHERFIELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction and demolition material (no putrescibles)• Soil
Logan City Council, Greenbank Waste and Recycling Facility 124-142 Pub Lane (Corner of Equestrian Drive) GREENBANK Phone: 07 3412 3412	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General waste including soil and green waste• Commercial general waste, and construction and demolition waste only accepted if delivered in vehicles less than 4.5t (e.g an average car, station wagon, utility or four-wheel drive with or without a trailer)
Logan City Council, Browns Plains Smart-tip 339-355 Browns Plains Road HERITAGE PARK Phone: 07 3412 3412	<p>General waste including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• soil• green waste
Cleanaway 100 New Chum Street NEW CHUM Phone: 07 3816 2166	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulky waste• Green waste• Clean fill• Construction and demolition materials

Facility location details

Ipswich City Council, Riverview
Recycling and Refuse Centre
81 Riverview Road
RIVERVIEW
Phone: 07 3810 6666

Veolia Environmental Services
Wattle Glen Landfill
Redbank Plains Road
REDBANK PLAINS
Phone: 0457 566 389

Brisbane City Council
360 Sherbrook Road
WILLAWONG
Phone: 07 3403 8888

Materials accepted/conditions

- Contaminated soil
- Dry non-hazardous waste
- Green waste and untreated timber
- Dirt and concrete
- Construction and demolition material (no putrescibles)
- Commercial and industrial waste
- General waste
- Uncontaminated green waste
- Domestic quantities of soil, concrete and masonry (i.e. equivalent to a utility or trailer load)

Biosecurity zone 2

Facility location details

Logan City Council, Beenleigh
Waste and Recycling Facility
15 Wuraga Road (corner of
Beenleigh-Beaudesert Road)
BEENLEIGH
Phone 07 3412 3412

Queensland Rifle Range
Association
1485 Old Cleveland Road
BELMONT
Phone: 07 3398 4309

Logan City Council, Carbrook
Waste and Recycling Facility
1801 Mount Cotton Road

Materials accepted/conditions

General waste including:

- soil
- green waste
- commercial general waste, and construction and demolition waste only accepted if delivered in vehicles less than 4.5t (e.g. an average car, station wagon, utility or four-wheel drive with or without a trailer)

Fill including:

- soil
- rock
- fill with less than 16% concrete

General waste including:

- soil
- green waste

Facility location details

CORNUBIA

Phone: 07 3412 3412

Brisbane City Council

728 Tilley Road

CHANDLER

Phone: 07 3403 8888

Scenic Rim Regional Council,
Peak Crossing Transfer Station

62 Faulkner's Quarry Road

HARRISVILLE

Phone: 07 5540 5444

City of Gold Coast Council, Jacobs
Well Waste and Recycling Centre

250 Skopps Road (off Behms
Road)

JACOBS WELL

Phone: 07 5667 5976

Lockyer Valley Regional Council,
Laidley Transfer Station

Burgess Road

LAIDLEY HEIGHTS

Phone: 1300 005 872

Materials accepted/conditions

- commercial general waste, and construction and demolition waste only accepted if delivered in vehicles less than 4.5t (e.g. an average car, station wagon, utility or four-wheel drive with or without a trailer)

- General waste
- Uncontaminated green waste
- Domestic quantities of soil, concrete and masonry (i.e. equivalent to a utility or trailer load)

- Green waste

- Concrete (small domestic loads only)
- Domestic green waste
- Soil and clean fill (road base and clay base only - small domestic loads only)

- Domestic waste
- Commercial or industrial (construction or demolition)
- Green waste
- Scrap metal
- Concrete

General waste including:

Logan City Council, Logan Village
Waste and Recycling Facility

1406-1432 Waterford-Tamborine
Road

LOGAN VILLAGE

Phone: 07 3412 3412

- soil
- green waste
- commercial general waste, and construction and demolition waste only accepted if delivered in vehicles less than 4.5t (e.g. an average car, station wagon, utility or four-wheel drive with or without a trailer)

BMI Group, Pine Mountain Road

279 Pine Mountain Road

Clean fill including:

Facility location details

MOUNT GRAVATT EAST
Phone: 07 3254 2933

Redland City Council Waste
Transfer Station
761-789 German Church Road
REDLAND BAY

Ipswich City Council, Rosewood
Recycling and Refuse Centre
Oakleigh Colliery Road
ROSEWOOD
Phone: 07 3810 6666

Resource Recoveries and
Recycling
706 Mount Cotton Road
SHELDON
Phone: 07 3206 0022

City of Gold Coast Council,
Stayplton Recycling Centre and
Landfill
Rossman Road
STAYPLTON
Phone: 07 5667 5976

Materials accepted/conditions

- soil
- rock

- General domestic waste
- Bricks and concrete
- Hazardous waste
- Green waste
- Clean fill and soil*
- Commercial green waste
- Commercial clean fill and soil*

*Clean fill is only accepted in residential vehicles under 4.5t.

- Green waste
- Untreated timber

- Soil
- Tree stumps
- Green waste
- Concrete

- Asphalt
- Clean fill (commercial and large loads)*
- Commercial waste*
- Concrete (commercial and large loads)*
- Domestic green waste
- Landfill
- Soil and clean fill (road base and clay base only, small domestic loads only)

*Please phone ahead to confirm.

Biosecurity zone 3

Facility location details

Alex Fraser Group (Queensland
Recycling Pty Ltd)
1512 Nudgee Road
NUDGEE
Phone: 136 135

Materials accepted/conditions

- Concrete
- Bricks
- Masonry
- Asphalt

Facility location details

Brisbane City Council
1560 Nudgee Road
NUDGEE
Phone: 07 3403 8888

GLB Quarrying & Logistics
45 Eagle Farm Road
PINKENBA
Phone: 07 3260 2100

Materials accepted/conditions

- General waste
- Uncontaminated green waste

- Concrete
- Clean fill
- Dirty concrete
- Dirty fill
- Green waste
- Bricks
- Mud

Related links

- [Learn more about fire ant carriers and how to mitigate the risk of spreading fire ants.](#)
- [Learn more about fire ants in Queensland.](#)
- [Report suspected fire ants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.](#)

Cleaning machinery after working with fire ant carriers

Businesses that use machinery, slashers and other equipment in fire ant biosecurity zones must clean down all their equipment before it is moved off-site, to prevent the spread of fire ants.

Cleaning ensures your equipment is free from fire ant carriers such as soil and other materials that may spread fire ants.

Checking machinery components

Before cleaning, check all machinery, slashers and other equipment closely to ensure they are not infested. If you think you have found fire ants, report it to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 and take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the spread of fire ants.

The following table outlines different machinery and the types of components you should check for fire ants.

Machinery, slasher and equipment

Components to be checked

Bulldozer

- Rippers
- Blade
- Track frame
- Belly plate

Excavator

- Track frame
- Underside of slew ring
- Buckets

Drott

- Track frame
- Rippers
- Belly plate

Grader

- Rippers
- Mould board

Motor scraper

- Overflow area on rear of scraper

Tractor and slasher

- Top of slasher
- Skids

Backhoe

- Buckets
- Backhoe attachment

Bobcat

- Buckets
- Belly plate
- Other attachments

Trucks

- Soil build-ups in bins
- Chassis rails

Cleaning methods and frequency

You must clean down machinery, slashers and other equipment before you leave site within a fire ant biosecurity zone. Your current clean down actions for the control of weed seeds and other material may already be reducing the risk of moving fire ants.

Completely remove soil and other fire ant carriers from your equipment by:

- physically removing the material (e.g. scraping or blowing)
- brushing down

- washing down or steam cleaning
- air blasting with an air compressor.

Related links

- Learn more about managing fire ant carriers in biosecurity zones.
- Learn more about fire ants in Queensland.
- Report suspected fire ants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Conducting visual inspections for fire ants

As part of your general biosecurity obligation under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (PDF, 1.5MB), if you are moving or storing fire ant carriers within fire ant biosecurity zones, you should regularly inspect these materials and report any ants that you think could be fire ants to Biosecurity Queensland.

To successfully check for fire ants, you should be suitably trained so you know what to look for. Biosecurity Queensland conducts free training sessions to assist with the identification of fire ants and provides information on movement control requirements.

What to look for

- Small ants (2–6mm) that vary in size within the one nest and are copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen.
- Ants that exhibit aggressive behaviour when disturbed.
- Nests that are mounds of loose soil with no obvious entry or exit holes.

Watch the fire ant identification video to know what to look for.

Materials most likely to spread fire ants

Materials that can spread fire ants are known as fire ant carriers. There are restrictions on the movement of these materials within fire ant biosecurity zones. Fire ant carriers include:

- soil (e.g. fill, clay, scrapings, and any material removed from the ground at a site where earthworks are being carried out)
- mulch
- animal manures
- baled hay or straw
- potted plants
- turf
- mining or quarry products
- composted materials.

Where to look for fire ants

For a commercial or development site, you should concentrate your inspections around areas including:

- anywhere fire ant carriers are stored
- machinery used with fire ant carriers and where that machinery is stored
- the perimeter of the site area
- anywhere waste material is stored
- areas around buildings, gardens and lawns.

For a residential property the top 5 spots to check are:

- lawns
- footpaths
- garden beds
- taps
- electrical or water meter pits.

For rural properties the top 5 spots to check are:

- dams and irrigation lines
- edges of cultivated land
- crop land post-harvest
- fence lines
- piles of organic matter.

Conducting fire ant surveillance

Follow these steps when conducting fire ant surveillance.

- Ensure you wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as boots and gloves.
- Before moving a fire ant carrier or excavating at an earthworks site, examine the fire ant carrier or site for excavation, and adjacent areas on the site, for signs of fire ant nests.
- If you find a suspect ant or nest, use a long rod or stick and gently prod the nest, and inspect any ants present. Take care not to overly disturb the nest.
- Call Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** if you have found ants you suspect are fire ants.
- If you find fire ants on your commercial site, Biosecurity Queensland will work with you to ensure that your business activities can continue without the risk of further spread of fire ants.

Keeping a record

It is good business practice to keep a record of your visual surveillance activities. This can be recorded in a way that suits your business. The record should include the date, time, place and name of the person who conducted the visual surveillance.

Related links

- Learn more about fire ant carriers and how to manage the risk of spreading fire ants.
- Learn more about fire ants in Queensland.
- Report suspected fire ants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

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