

**NFSCO CIC:
BIOSECURITY GUIDANCE**
■ Introduction

1. The primary aim of these guidelines is to stop taking disease from one farm to another while fallen stock are being collected under the NFSCO CIC Scheme.
2. These guidelines must be followed by collectors registered under the Scheme when collecting fallen stock for disposal. It is also in the interests of farmers/livestock keepers to ensure that collectors comply with these guidelines.
3. As the Scheme involves the collection and disposal of fallen stock that have died and the reason may not be readily apparent, it is particularly important that you comply with these guidelines. .
4. The most important biosecurity measures are:
 - (a) To ensure that methods of working are designed to minimise the movements of people, vehicles or equipment into areas where farm animals are kept, including fields, sheds or other holding areas;
 - (b) pending collection under this Scheme farmers must remove fallen stock to a designated area of their premises to which livestock, vermin or scavenging wildlife do not have access and where appropriate (e.g. poultry, young stock, small ruminants etc.) stored in leak proof, vented and covered containers. The fallen stock should be collected from that area;
 - (c) whenever possible the fallen stock collection vehicle should not enter any part of the premises where there are livestock and the collectors should keep out of such areas as well.
5. It is a condition of Scheme approval that collectors comply with the biosecurity measures set down in these conditions. Those found to be in breach of this guidance might have their scheme approval revoked. Where any person is aware or suspects that this guidance is not being followed they should report it to the NFSCO helpline Phone No 01335 320014. Where the breach is substantiated this may result in the removal of the collector from participation in the Scheme.
6. All collectors must ensure all their operators/drivers have adequate training and/or experience, and shall certify to this effect for each driver, and retain a record of that training or experience. All vehicles will carry a copy of the NFSCO Biosecurity conditions. Where any complaints arise concerning the practice of any operator then, an inspection and assessment, and possibly further training will be required as directed by NFSCO CIC.

GUIDANCE FOR FARMERS AND LIVESTOCK KEEPERS
■ Suspected Notifiable Disease

8. If you suspect that your stock may be infected with or have died from any notifiable disease you must immediately notify your nearest APHA office for further investigation., Further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notifiable-diseases-in-animals>. Sudden and unexpected deaths in livestock must be reported to your nearest APHA office so that they can consider if an Anthrax

investigation is necessary. You must not arrange for anything to be collected under the scheme until you have discussed this with the DVM.

NB: Farmers in Northern Ireland should contact their Department of Agricultural Rural Development Northern Ireland representative.

■ On-farm collection point - responsibilities of the farmer or keeper

9. Wherever possible, the farmer must transfer the fallen stock, once discovered, to a specially designated area on their holding, from where it can be easily picked up by collectors with minimum risk of spreading any disease. Ideally, this should be an area of hard dry ground away from any surface water, or a hard standing area, capable of being cleansed and disinfected, away from livestock, and with easy vehicular access. The farmer is responsible for liaising with the collector to ensure the operator/driver knows the location of the collection site.
10. If it is not possible to designate a single allocated area, the farmer must choose a site that minimises the risk of spreading any disease affecting the fallen stock to other livestock. It is important to remove fallen stock from the vicinity of other livestock as soon after discovery as possible. On all types of farms, the farmer must store these carcasses etc. while waiting collection – away from other livestock, vermin and scavenging wildlife. The use of lidded containers can be considered for small carcasses e.g. young lambs in a plastic sack and placed in a bin. The farmer also needs to ensure that feedstuffs and watercourses are protected from any discharges from the fallen stock and any disinfectants used. Every farm is different and the keeper must carefully assess the choice of collection site, and take into account the other activities such as dwelling houses, walkers' roads and public access.
11. Pig and Poultry holdings in particular may already have, or wish to consider, storing carcasses in suitable containers whilst awaiting collection. Examples of good practice include the use of dedicated covered containers that are of a suitable construction to store the number and size of carcasses that could be expected to occur in between pick-ups. Biosecurity would be improved further if these were capable of being picked up mechanically and tipped into the collection vehicle. Farmers may wish to discuss with their nominated collectors whether they have suitable vehicles to facilitate this type of arrangement and consider choosing a collector which is able to use such vehicles. It is recommended that farmers discuss their specific biosecurity arrangements with their vet or farm advisor, this is a requirement of some Farm Assurance schemes.
12. It is recognised that in many cases, particularly on large pig and poultry holdings, collection is on the basis of the disposal operator picking up a full skip/container of material and replacing it with an empty skip/container. This could pose a biosecurity risk and farmers may wish to consider improving biosecurity by making arrangements with the disposal operator to permit the skip/container to remain on the holding and the contents transferred by mechanical means to the collection vehicle rather than the skip/container being exchanged with an empty one not originating from the holding. Again, farmers may

wish to discuss with their nominated collectors whether they have suitable vehicles to facilitate this type of arrangement and consider choosing a collector which is able to use such vehicles.

13. It is a condition of the Scheme that the collection vehicle must take all reasonable steps to minimise the spread of disease from farm to farm. This means that the collection vehicle must arrive on the premises and leave it in a clean condition. For the purpose of these conditions this means no visible evidence of manure or slurry on the outside of the vehicle and no discharges or similar coming from the part of the vehicle used to transport the fallen stock. The farmer must ensure direct access to the collection site, without the vehicle going 'off road' or through yards or tracks heavily contaminated with mud or manure.

■ Frequency of collection

14. Farmers must notify the collector of fallen stock to collect as soon as possible. Collection will normally take place by close of business on the next working day following notification but exceptionally may be longer depending on facilities for on-site storage e.g. at pig and poultry units where collection may be on a regular basis of every second or third day or where there might otherwise only be small volumes of fallen stock for collection e.g. new born lambs, and piglets farmers may discuss this with the collector. Although it may for example still be economical to pick up small quantities if it's on the route that day for the farmer's nominated collector, in other cases it may not be.
15. Farmers wishing to deliver their own fallen stock to a collection centre must:
 - (a) make arrangements in advance, with the collector for the receipt of the fallen stock. It is at the collection centre's discretion whether to accept material in this way;
 - (b) transport their own fallen stock only;
 - (c) use a vehicle/trailer which is clean, fully enclosed (a flexible sheet roof is acceptable) and sealed to avoid any loss of fluids while in transit;
 - (d) cleanse and disinfect their vehicle, particularly the load section used to carry the fallen stock, after every such delivery. The farmer should consider carrying out this cleansing before returning to the farm, to minimise any risk of introducing disease back onto the farm.

GUIDANCE FOR COLLECTORS
■ Introduction

16. It is essential that all those involved with on-farm collections are fully aware of, and are trained in how to carry out the necessary biosecurity measures at every collection. Approved collectors must be able to provide such training to the staff that go out collection the fallen stock.
17. As well as observing the following guidance collectors should also comply with any reasonable requests made by the farmer, or his appointed representative, to the collector for additional biosecurity measures especially if the farm has a recognised high herd health status. Examples of such include:

- (a) collection staff to keep out of livestock buildings;
- (b) keep to a designated route on the farm; and,
- (c) to use specific disinfectants etc. provided by the farm.
18. It is particularly important that collectors should comply with all appropriate Health and Safety guidance. This will include protecting themselves against any diseases that they may pick up from the livestock and preventing physical injury while loading heavy deadstock.
- **Collection of fallen stock during an outbreak of a Notifiable Disease**
19. It may be necessary to require that enhanced biosecurity measures are adopted by, or other restrictions are applied to, farmers and contractors if there is an outbreak of a notifiable disease. Any such additional conditions will be made available at the appropriate time.
- **Making arrangements for the collection of fallen stock**
20. Where possible collectors must arrange for collection of fallen stock to take place by close of business on the next working day following notification from the farmer. At the point of notification they should confirm with the farmer:
- (a) where the fallen stock are to be collected from; and
- (b) how to access the premises and where to park the vehicle.
- **Vehicles and trailers**
21. The collector must furnish to the NFSCo the registration number of all vehicles used, or to be used by the collector.
22. Vehicles must comply with the relevant provisions of the Animal By-Product Regulation(s) and any additional local byelaws when collecting and transporting carcasses. Fallen stock must be transported in a vehicle that is lined with impervious easily cleaned material and, where appropriate, that is equipped with an adequate sized tank to collect all blood and liquids released from the carcass. For dealing with the larger fallen stock it is recommended that the vehicle is equipped with a winch or other mechanical device for loading the carcass. The vehicle and/or container(s) used must have, where applicable, a secure door and sealed cover. A flexible sheet roof is acceptable provided it is secure, impermeable, easy to clean, tight fitting and vermin proof and prevents the escape of liquids. Collectors should be aware of advice to farmers at paragraphs 11 and 12 above about the type of vehicle and collection arrangements that are recommended for pig and poultry farms in particular. Collectors should at all times comply with any vehicle Licensing and Traffic Regulations particularly those regarding the loading and unloading of vehicles on the public highway and the proper licensing of vehicles.
23. Before arrival at each and every farm, collectors must ensure that the outside of vehicles or trailers used to collect dead stock are cleansed and disinfected to the same standards required by the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection)(England) Order 2003 and its equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland before the vehicle enters any premises. The inside and outside of the vehicle and fallen stock part of the vehicle or trailer must also be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before the first pick up of the day.
24. All collectors must carry on the vehicle, at all times, a portable hand operated spray wash containing a general disinfectant mixed and ready for use in disinfecting wheels and external areas of the vehicle. The hand operated wash should use a disinfectant knapsack spray with a capacity of not less than 15 litres, carried on the vehicle and stored outside the drivers cab. All vehicles will be required to carry a spillage kit including granules for use in the event of a spillage or leakage from a vehicle. Care must be taken to prevent materials, including liquids, entering watercourses according to the requirements of relevant legislation. You must only use disinfectants that are approved under the General Orders of the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) order 1978 at the specified dilution rates and in compliance with the labelling instructions. Information on approved disinfectants can be found on the Defra website at: http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList_SI
25. Collectors could be required to use disinfectants approved for other purposes if there is an outbreak of a notifiable disease.
26. On arrival, collectors should ideally park vehicles on a hard standing away from live farm animals and visibly free of animal excreta, slurry etc. Collectors should not normally take collection vehicles or trailers into areas where farm animals have access. The farmer must use his own equipment or vehicles to remove fallen stock from fields or buildings, to the collection site.
27. Before collectors leave the premises they must cleanse and disinfect vehicles of all visible contamination with manure, slurry or similar material (including where appropriate, cleaning of the inside of vehicles, especially foot wells and pedals). If this is not possible, the outside of the vehicles and trailers must be cleansed and disinfected before they are taken onto another premises with farm animals. This may mean returning direct to the approved collection/disposal premises for a full clean-down before making another collection visit.
28. On return to approved premises, the parts of the vehicle used for transporting the fallen stock must be thoroughly washed clean and disinfected as soon as practical after the animal carcass is unloaded and must not be re-used until it is cleaned. In no event should the vehicle remain uncleaned for a period exceeding two hours after being emptied. Any blood or body fluids from the animal shall be transported and disposed with the animal.
- **Clothing and Footwear**
29. Collectors must wear robust protective clothing and footwear while handling fallen stock. Collectors must carry personal protection equipment (gloves and eye protection for use where appropriate in accordance with any Health and Safety Guidelines). The purpose of the protective clothing is to prevent street clothes from being contaminated with manure, slurry, blood or other discharges from the fallen stock. Protective clothing must be cleansable and disinfected after each premises has been visited and must be put on at the start of the visits and removed at the end, and stored outside the drivers cab.
30. For the purposes of this Scheme it is considered that waterproof protective clothing and waterproof boots (with steel toe caps, if necessary) are used in most circumstances. These must be cleansed and disinfected before entering the premises and again at the end of the visit just before leaving the premises.
31. Before collectors leave the premises, check that there is no manure or other animal product (e.g. mud, slurry, animal faeces, droppings, excretions) to be seen on footwear, outer clothing, vehicle or anything else taken outside. Remove any visible contamination and cleanse with disinfectant.
- **Equipment**
32. Collectors must clean all equipment they use before arrival and departure, making use of any facilities available.
- Take great care when cleaning electrical apparatus or tools (e.g. hoists and pulleys) and observe health and safety rules.
- **Complaints**
33. Complaints concerning farmers or collectors should be directed to the NFSCo help line on 01335 320014 or member@nfsc.co.uk. Each and every complaint will be treated on its individual merit. The initial response will be to discuss by telephone: if no improvement is effected, or if complaint(s) persist a written warning may follow, and in extreme cases the Board of NFSCo may suspend or exclude the farmer or collector.