

Restricted matter

Restricted matter can be biosecurity matter like a plant and animal disease, noxious fish, insects, pest animal or weeds that are found in Queensland. Restricted matter is considered to have a significant impact on human health, social amenity, the economy and the environment. Specific actions are required to be undertaken that limit the impact of this matter by reducing, controlling or containing it.

For category 1 restricted matter there are requirements to report this matter to an inspector. For category 2 restricted matter there are requirements to report this to an inspector or authorised person. You may reach an inspector or authorised person by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Restricted matter is listed in Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act).

Identifying restricted matter

You will not be expected to know about all types of restricted matter, however you will be expected to know about the restricted matter that you could potentially come across as part of your business or hobby.

For example if you are a grazer you would be expected to know about serious diseases of livestock such as anthrax or Johne's disease, and the weeds and feral animals present in your area.

If you are an aquaculturist you would be expected to know about noxious fish and water weeds that are not to be released into rivers or creeks.

If your hobby was bee keeping you would be expected to know about serious pests and diseases affecting bees.

Categories of restricted matter

There are seven categories for restricted matter. Each category places restrictions on the dealings with the biosecurity matter or requires actions to be taken to minimise the spread and adverse impact of the biosecurity matter.



Categories 1 and 2 Restricted matter to be reported

These two categories have specific urgent reporting requirements. These categories must be reported if the restricted matter is in, or on a carrier, in your possession or under your control or at a place where you are the occupier and you are not aware that an appropriately authorised officer has been advised or you don't possess a permit for the restricted matter.

You must not take any action likely to exacerbate the biosecurity risk. You must take action likely to minimise the biosecurity risk posed by the category 1 or category 2 restricted matter.

Category 1 includes red imported fire ants, electric ants, Asian honey bees, and certain animal diseases, aquatic diseases and pathogens.

Biosecurity Queensland needs to be made aware of this restricted matter to take action to contain and eradicate it. You must report category 1 restricted matter to a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries inspector within 24 hours of becoming aware of its presence.

Category 2 restricted matter includes certain noxious fish, weeds and pest animals.

Biosecurity Queensland needs to be aware of this restricted matter to commence appropriate actions to reduce, control or contain the biosecurity matter. This restricted matter must be reported to an inspector or authorised person within 24 hours of you becoming aware of its presence.

You may reach an inspector or authorised person by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.



Categories 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

These categories relate to restricted matter that is in a person's possession, under their control and is also about the feeding of restricted matter.

Category 3 includes weeds, pest animals and noxious fish.

You must not distribute this restricted matter. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment unless the distribution or disposal is authorised in a regulation or under a permit. Deliberate human distribution or disposal is a key source of spread into other areas of the state.

Category 4 includes specific weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as the Siam weed, feral pig or giant cichlid.

You must not move this restricted matter to ensure that it is not spread into other areas of the state.

Category 5 includes weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as miconia, rabbits and carp.

You must not possess or keep this restricted matter under your control. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment. You may only keep this restricted matter under a permit of the Act or another Act.

Category 6 includes invasive animals such as feral deer, foxes, rabbits and wild dogs and noxious fish such as carp, gambusia and tilapia.

You must not possess or keep this restricted matter under your control. You must not feed this category of restricted matter. Feeding this restricted matter may cause their numbers to increase and negatively impact the economy or the environment. Feeding for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program is exempted.

Category 7 includes noxious fish such as carp, weatherloach, climbing perch, gambusia and tilapia.

If you have these noxious fish in your possession you must kill the restricted matter and dispose of the carcass in the authorised manner prescribed in regulation.

Multiple categories may apply to restricted matter

There may be several restriction categories that apply to particular biosecurity matter.

For example you would need to follow the requirements of several restriction categories for rabbits. The Act lists rabbits as category 3, 4, 5, and 6 restricted matter.

This means that rabbits must not be given, distributed, sold or traded, moved within Queensland, kept by a person or in their control, fed (except during baiting programs) and must not be released into the environment or disposed of other than in the way prescribed under a regulation. You may apply to keep a rabbit for scientific research, commercial use or biological control purposes.

Other legislation regulating the exhibited animal industry allows rabbits to be kept under permit for exhibition purposes including, for example, for use in magic acts and by zoos.



Restricted matter permit

You must comply with the category requirements for the restricted matter unless otherwise authorised by a regulation or a permit.

If you need to deal with restricted matter for a particular purpose you may apply for a restricted matter permit. The Act defines that 'deal with' includes: to keep or possess, experiment with, produce, breed, propagate, use, grow, feed, culture, distribute, import, transport, dispose of, buy or supply.

If you deal with restricted matter you must take the restriction category actions and you must not take any actions that are contrary unless you have a permit. You may also have a general biosecurity obligation and need to take actions that minimise other risks posed by your dealing with the restricted matter.

You may apply for a restricted matter permit for purposes such as commercial use, biological control or scientific research of a restricted matter. The permit will allow the dealings, under specific conditions that would otherwise be restricted by the category requirements.

When a person or business applies for a restricted matter permit they are required to submit a permit plan. The permit plan will describe how the applicant proposes to deal with the restricted matter. This includes identifying the potential biosecurity risks, describing how the risks will be minimised and providing documents confirming that for example the dealings will be conducted in an approved, certified or registered facility.

Further information

To find out more about the Act, visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.



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