

Key Concepts

- Risk Based
- Flexible
- Reasonable & Practical

What are 'biosecurity risks' and 'biosecurity events'?

A biosecurity risk is the risk that exists when you deal with:

- any pest, disease or contaminant
- something that could carry a pest, disease or contaminant (e.g. animals, plants, soil, equipment—known as 'carriers').

A biosecurity event is an event that:

- has, or may have, a significant harmful effect on human health, social amenity, the economy, or the environment and
- is caused by a pest, disease or contaminant.
- The GBO shares the responsibility for managing biosecurity risks more broadly so that we can reduce the likelihood of having a biosecurity event.

The General Biosecurity Obligation

Applies to all persons who deal with biosecurity matter, carriers, or carries out activities that pose a biosecurity risk

The person has an obligation (a ***general biosecurity obligation***) to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk.

This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are:

- under their control and
- that they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.

*Biosecurity matter is—

(a) a living thing, other than a human or part of a human; or

(b) a pathogenic agent that can cause disease in—

(i) a living thing, other than a human; or

(ii) a human, by the transmission of the pathogenic agent from an animal to the human; or

(c) a disease; or

(d) a contaminant.

The General Biosecurity Obligation

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk.
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused.
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.