



Preventing Spread of Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds

TO: Industry Clients

BACKGROUND:

The Peace River Regional District Northeast Invasive Plant Committee has expressed concern about the transport of rig mats and the potential to spread invasive plants and/or noxious weeds.

The *Weed Control Act* regulates the control of noxious weeds. It is a contravention of the Weed Control Regulation to transport construction equipment carrying noxious weeds on a provincial highway. Noxious weeds are listed in the regulation.

For more information on noxious weeds, a Field Guide to Noxious and Other Selected Weeds of British Columbia is available at the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands website: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/weedguid/weedguid.htm>

BEST PRACTICE:

One effective control practice for invasive plants and noxious weeds is to make reasonable efforts to clean construction equipment prior to transport. This reduces the risk of spreading invasive plants and soil-borne plant pests and diseases. The types of cleaning methods include mechanical, washing, and chemical/disinfecting. A recommended first order practice is mechanical cleaning, which involves knocking or scraping off soil lumps and sweeping off loose soil and any plant material. This may be conducted using tools such as brooms, brushes, air compressors, shovels or by hand.

The following are some factors affecting the type and level of cleaning:

- Presence of known invasive plants or soil-borne pests at a site.
- Geographic location of where equipment came from, or is being transported to.
- Land-use of the site and landowner requests and commitments.
- Specific requirements from Weed Inspectors or Weed Control Officers.
- Availability of cleaning equipment.

Please ensure field operations and contractors are aware of the importance of controlling invasive plants and plant diseases by making reasonable efforts to clean construction equipment.

Should you have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact:

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