

CARGO - PACKING



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

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1. Background

These cargo packing standards apply to all cargo shipped to South Georgia irrespective of point of origin.

The standards are designed to minimise biosecurity risk and to prevent the introduction of non-native species and other biological material to South Georgia, including (but not limited to) rodents, invertebrates, seeds, soil, and other contaminants. Compliance with these standards is mandatory for all consignors. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action, including refusal of shipment.

2. Scope and application

This SOP applies to all general cargo, including:

- Stock for retail operations.
- Scientific equipment.
- Domestic goods.
- Building materials.

3. General Requirements

Cargo must be packed in a manner that minimises biosecurity risk and prevents movement or damage during handling and transit.

Excess packaging must be removed wherever practicable. This includes unnecessary plastic wrapping, surplus cardboard, fillers, or secondary packaging.

All packing materials must be clean, dry, and free from visible contamination or biological material.

3.1 Prohibited Packing Materials

The following packing materials must not be used under any circumstances:

- Soil
- Moss
- Used sacking
- Hay
- Straw
- Chaff
- Wood shavings



These materials present an unacceptable biosecurity risk. Use of prohibited materials will result in cargo being rejected.

3.2 Acceptable Packing Materials

Acceptable packing materials include:

- Shredded paper
- Vermiculite
- Bubble wrap
- Other clean, air-filled cushioning materials

All packing materials must be new, clean, and free from visible contamination.

3.3 Cardboard Boxes

Where cardboard boxes are used, the following standards apply:

- Clean and dry
- Structurally sound
- Free from holes, tears, or rips

Boxes must be fully sealed along all edges and potential openings. Reused or damaged boxes showing signs of wear or degradation must not be used.

✔ Acceptable

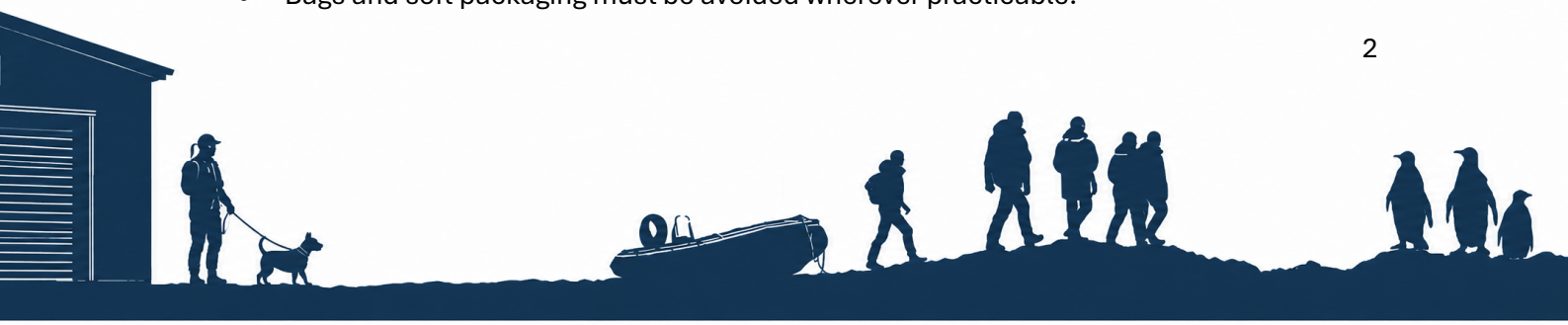


⚠ Unacceptable



3.4 Bags and Soft Packaging

- Bags and soft packaging must be avoided wherever practicable.



- Soft packaging is susceptible to damage during handling and transit and presents an increased biosecurity risk.
- Where soft packaging cannot be avoided, additional protective measures must be implemented to prevent tearing or puncture.

3.5 Building Materials and Breakbulk Cargo

Building materials and breakbulk cargo present an increased biosecurity risk, particularly where materials have been stored outdoors. The general requirements above apply; however, additional vigilance is required.

- Materials must not be stored directly on the ground.
- Each item must be individually inspected to ensure it is free from soil, seeds, and other biological material.
- Timber, bricks, and similar materials must be stacked with sufficient air gaps to facilitate effective fumigation.

3.6 Vehicles

The shipment of vehicles to South Georgia is discouraged and will only be permitted by prior agreement.

Where a vehicle shipment is proposed, GSGSSI must be contacted at an early stage to develop a bespoke biosecurity management plan. New vehicles are preferred wherever practicable.

4. Packing Environment Standards

All cargo must be packed in an environment that meets the following minimum standards:

- Indoors, clean, and well lit.
- Free from rodents, supported by active monitoring and control measures, including traps and bait stations.
- Free from invertebrates, supported by active monitoring and control measures, including flying and crawling insect traps.

Cargo packed in environments that do not meet these standards may be rejected.

5. Containers

All freight containers used to transport cargo to South Georgia must meet the following requirements.

5.1 Container Condition and Preparation

- Containers must be structurally sound, with intact floors, walls, roofs, and doors.
- Door seals must be effective and capable of preventing the ingress of rodents and invertebrates.



- Containers must be cleaned prior to packing
 - Preferred method: commercial steam cleaning.
 - Acceptable alternative: thorough sweeping followed by application of insecticide to corners, seams, and door thresholds.

5.2 Container Handling During Packing

- Container doors must not be left open and unattended at any time.
- Containers must be positioned on hard standing to prevent contamination from soil, mud, or organic material.
- Cargo must be packed in a stable configuration to prevent movement or collapse against container doors, ensuring doors can be re-closed if biosecurity issues are identified upon opening.

5.3 Biosecurity Measures Prior to Sealing

Once loading is complete and prior to sealing:

- One rodent bait station containing toxic bait and one crawling insect trap must be placed inside the container near the door for inspection upon opening.
- Unless incompatible cargo is present, the container must be fumigated using a pyrethrum-based insecticide fogger.
- Cargo must be packed to allow sufficient airflow to ensure effective fumigation.

6. Compliance and Enforcement

Failure to comply with these Cargo Packing Standards may result in one or more of the following actions:

- Delays to shipment
- Requirement for additional cleaning or repacking at the consignor's expense
- Refusal of cargo or vehicles for shipment.

GSGSSI reserves the right to inspect cargo, containers, and vehicles at any stage of the supply chain and to take appropriate action to protect South Georgia's biosecurity.



7. Reporting

All cargo being loaded onto the Pharos SG through the Stanley facility will be checked to ensure packing standards are met and logged in the biosecurity database using the approved digital reporting form.

