SCOPE

APPENDIX F
TfL Biosecurity Requirements

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Introduction

1. The introduction of Dutch elm disease and oak processionary moth are just two examples of damage caused to UK trees and plants from imported pathogens. These can enter the UK via infected trees and plants as well as timber material such as packaging. Best arboricultural and horticultural practice as recommended by the Arboricultural Association, Forestry Commission, Defra and London Tree Officers Association is that all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate the risk of importing any pathogens.

2. Poor biosecurity practices would put TfL's customers, services and Green Estate at risk. It would be extremely reputationally damaging for TfL to be responsible for importing a new pathogen into the UK. The likely associated loss of trees would compromise London Mayoral policy such as the Mayor's Transport Strategy and London Environment Strategy, both of which state the importance of trees and other green infrastructure for the health and wellbeing of those who live, work and play in London.

3. The risk of accidentally importing pathogens can be mitigated through good biosecurity practices, particularly around the importation of trees and plant material. By sourcing only UK-grown stock and ensuring that any imported material has undergone an appropriate quarantine period prior to being planted on TfL land, the risk of TfL introducing pests and diseases to the UK will be significantly reduced. This ambition is supported by TfL becoming signatories to the Arboricultural Association's 2016 Biosecurity Position Statement.

Requirements

4. In order to meet TfL's biosecurity commitments the Contractor shall purchase and plant trees and plant material only from responsible nurseries who can guarantee that their trees, shrubs or bedding plants are UK-grown or – if imported – have undergone a quarantine period appropriate to the species prior to being purchased. This applies to all parts of TfL and its supply chain and should therefore be incorporated into all contract and sub-contract documentation and procedures.

5. The Arboriculture & Landscape Team, based within the Engineering Directorate, provides the specialist in-house service for all matters relating to trees and other green infrastructure across TfL. The Team is available to provide any additional advice about biosecurity which may be required and should be consulted prior to any tree or plant material being sourced and planted by TfL.

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