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港口衛生科
Port Health Division

23 August 2023

Mr Walter LI
Chairman, Airline Operators Committee
Room 6S007, Level 6, Passenger Terminal Building
Hong Kong International Airport
Lantau, Hong Kong

Dear Walter,

Launching New Onboard Inspection Programme

Further to our briefing session to AOC members dated 15 August 2023, on the “New Onboard Inspection Programme” (New Programme) which aims at enhancing mosquito control and sanitary condition of inbound aircrafts, we would like to announce that the New Programme will be launched on 30 August 2023. Simultaneously, the existing “Zika Virus Disinsection Programme” and its relevant requirements of submitting records will be cancelled on the same day.

As reiterated in the briefing session, airline operators are strongly advised to put in place their own disinsection programme and continue regular practice of up-to-standard aircraft disinsection, to protect health of passengers, crew members and the public. This is particularly important for aircrafts routing through Vector-borne Diseases (VBD) affected ports.

Under the New Programme, aircraft will be randomly selected among inbound flights for onboard inspection, and our Port Health Inspector (PHI) team will communicate in advance with respective airline for operational arrangement. Please note the inspection will be conducted after disembarkation of passengers. This programme will mainly focus on mosquito control and sanitation condition inside the aircraft (please refer to Annex I for key requirements).

If irregularities were identified during the onboard inspection, PHI would give verbal warning to the airline representative and necessary immediate remedial action should be taken on-site under the supervision of PHI. A follow-up onboard inspection would also be arranged upon the aircraft's next return to HKIA. For refractory cases refuse to comply with relevant advice such as immediate remedial



disinsection, the airline would be subject to legal order pursuant to the Cap.599A Regulation (please refer to Annex II for detailed protocol).

If you have enquiry regarding the programme, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Port Health Inspector (Airport) at

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Address : Room 5T577, Level 5, Arrival Hall, Terminal 1,
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Chek Lap Kok, Lantau, Hong Kong

Grateful for your further dissemination to relevant parties. Thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases and protecting public health.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr LO Chiu Sing, Patrick)
for Director of Health

Key Requirements on Aircraft Inspection

Mosquito Control

- No adult mosquito infestation
- No mosquito larvae infestation
- Empty container(s) properly covered
- No stagnant water
- Insecticides properly stored, labelled and used
- Disinsection programme* in place with record available for inspection (if applicable)

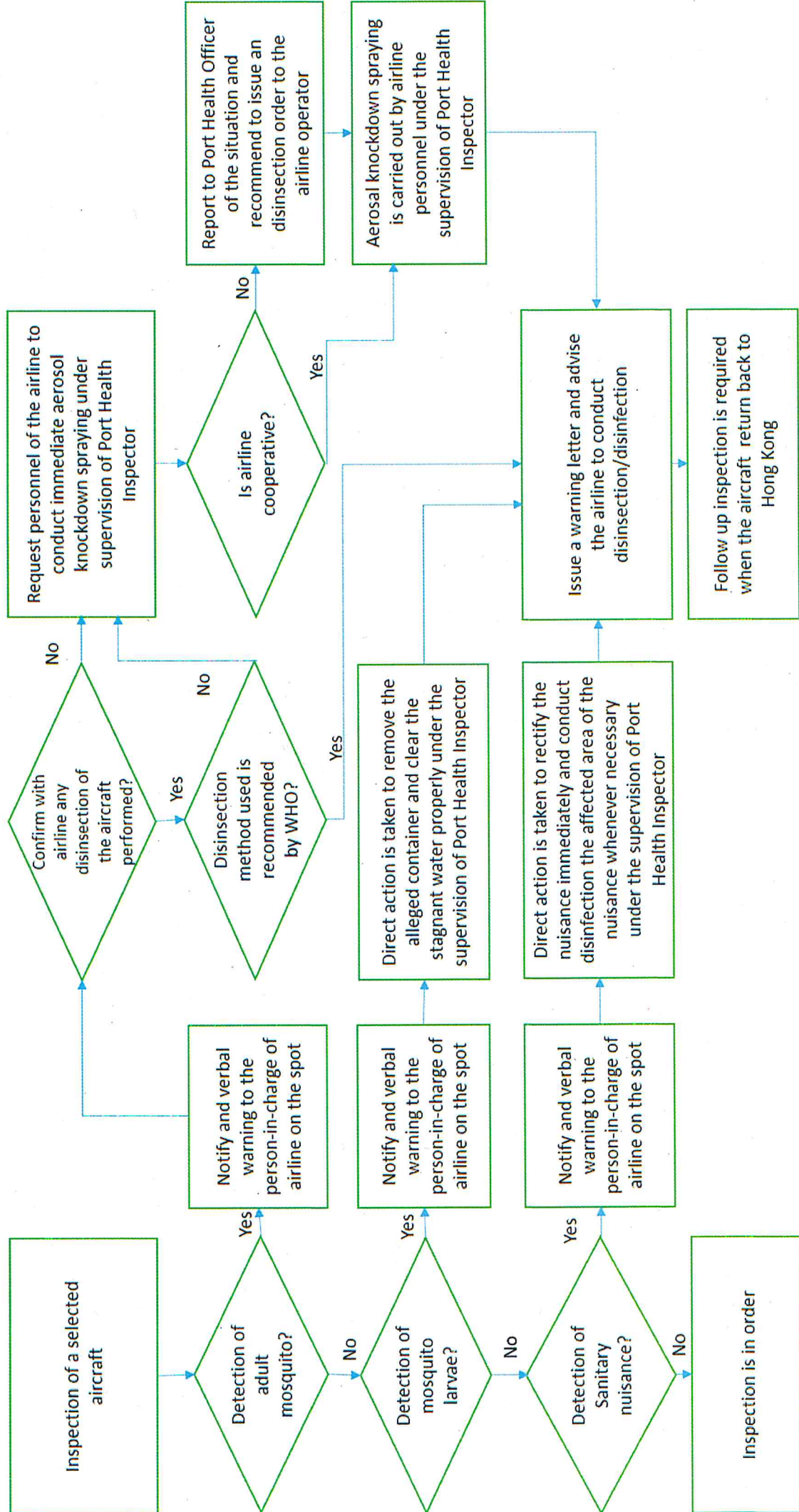
*Disinsection method recommended by WHO adopted

1. Residual treatment
2. Blocks away
3. Pre-flight and Top of Descent Disinsection

General Sanitation

- Cabin, galley, overhead locker, cargo hold, toilet and seat free from dirt, dust, cobweb
- Proper drainage in galley, pantry and toilet
- Hand-washing facilities including soap/liquid soap, paper towel, wash hand basin are provided and properly functioned and maintained
- Adequate lighting and ventilation without stuffiness and unpleasant smell.
- No standing water or accumulation of refuse on board
- Free from any sanitary nuisance and no signs of pest infestation (e.g. cockroach, rodent)

Operational Flow Chart of Aircraft Onboard Inspection



Aircraft Disinsection Recommendations

Aircraft Disinsection Methods as recommended by WHO are shown in the table below:

Method		Brief information
Residual Disinsection	Residual treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal surface of the aircraft, excluding food preparation areas are sprayed with residual disinsection at intervals not exceeding eight weeks. Pesticides used and methods of application should be recommended by the WHO. • The residual disinsection remains efficacious for eight weeks and causes minimal inconvenience to passengers and prevents the crew or passengers from exposure to aerosol sprays. • It kills arthropod pests which land on or have contact with treated surfaces.
Non-residual disinsection	Blocks away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The blocks away disinsection is recommended by the WHO and takes place after passengers have boarded, the doors have been closed and prior to take-off. The cabin is treated by crew members walking through the cabins discharging aerosols. • All possible insect harbourages in the aircraft should be treated. • Hold and flight decks are sprayed before departure prior to boarding of crew.
	Pre-flight and Top of Descent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pre-flight spraying involves the aircraft cabin and hold being sprayed with an aerosol containing a residual insecticide while the aircraft is on the ground but before passengers embark. <u>Pre-flight is spraying usually followed by a non-residual top of descent spraying.</u> The combined treatment lasts for the duration of single flight sector.

For details of the **procedural requirement** and **insecticides** to be used of each disinsection method can reference to the previous Technical Guidelines on Aircraft Disinsection for Flights into Hong Kong with the link below:

https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/main/main_ph/files/Technical_Guidelines_on_Aircraft_Disinsection_for_Flights.pdf