

Administrative Guideline on Aircraft Disinsection

1. Introduction

1.1 This administrative guideline introduces the requirement of disinsection for aircraft arriving in Hong Kong from areas affected by Zika virus. It should be read in conjunction with the Technical Guidelines on Aircraft Disinsection for Flights.

1.2 In view of the spreading Zika Virus Infection in some parts of the world and the significant health impact to the community, in April 2016, an Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Aircraft Disinsection, convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), recommended among other things that Member States in relation to disinsection policies should undertake a risk assessment relating to the probability of the importation of mosquito vectors, the presence of mosquito vectors and the probability of infected persons entering the country, and consider to conduct aircraft disinsection based on the risk assessment.

1.3 In Hong Kong, upon the risk assessment by the Government, the Department of Health (DH) adopts a prudent approach on aircraft disinsection in reducing the risk of importation of Zika virus through infected mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. After balancing the public health benefit against the potential impact on travellers, aircraft operators and airport, the declaration of aircraft disinsection will be implemented and aircraft disinsection be conducted in end-April 2017 (date to be announced) **for all incoming aircraft from Zika affected areas (i.e. last port being a WHO Category 1 or Category 2 area)**. The current list of Zika affected areas can be found in WHO's latest Zika virus situation report: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/situation-report/en/>

1.4 The Port Health Office (PHO) of DH enforces the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) at the Hong Kong International Airport and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of aircraft disinsection.

2. Requirement of aircraft disinsection

2.1 All airlines/aircraft operators are required to provide PHO with

information on flight details and disinsection practice upon request. Airlines are also required to complete and return to PHO the Declaration on Aircraft Disinsection by Airlines (**Annex**).

2.2 In accordance with disinsection practice, each airline/aircraft operator with incoming flights from Zika affected areas falls into one of the following three groups:

Airlines/Aircraft operators	Requirements
A. Airlines/Aircraft operators adopting residual disinsection	<p>Since WHO recommends repeating residual disinsection at intervals not exceeding two months, this group of airlines/aircraft operators should repeat residual disinsection before the expiry dates marked at the last residual disinsection certificates and provide PHO with the new disinsection certificates upon request.</p>
B. Airlines/Aircraft operators adopting non-residual disinsection	<p>Upon request, this group of airlines/aircraft operators should provide PHO with the details of non-residual disinsection in the Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration and empty or partly used insecticide cans within 24 hours of arrival of each aircraft. These items should be submitted to PHO (Room 5T577, Level 5, Arrival Hall, Terminal 1, Hong Kong International Airport) at 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm daily.</p> <p>For private jets, their crew/operators should submit the Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration and the photos of empty or partly used insecticide cans to PHO by email.</p> <p>PHO will take follow-up actions if an airline/aircraft operator fails to comply with the above requirement.</p>
C. Airlines/Aircraft operators adopting no disinsection	<p>For airlines/aircraft operators not adopting regular disinsection, they will be reminded of the disinsection requirement before their aircraft arrive. The Airport Authority will allocate an outside berth for the aircraft.</p>

	<p><i>On-arrival disinsection</i></p> <p>On arrival, PHO staff will board the concerned aircraft and, after confirming no disinsection having been performed, serve to the airline/aircraft operator an order which requires on-arrival disinsection to be carried out by the airline/aircraft operator to the satisfaction of PHO.</p> <p>At the beginning, passengers will be informed of the disinsection requirement. Any passenger with a pre-existing medical condition or health problem may request for disembarkation prior to the commencement of disinsection, but their personal belongings must remain on board for disinsection. Under the supervision of PHO staff, cabin crew will then conduct spraying of insecticide while passengers are on board. On completion, a five minute saturation period must be observed prior to resuming air conditioning and maximizing airflow. Cargo hold will be disinsected as well.</p> <p>Airlines/aircraft operators will provide PHO with the details of on-arrival disinsection in the Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration and empty or partly used insecticide cans. These items should be submitted to PHO staff on site or to PHO (Room 5T577) within 24 hours of arrival.</p>
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3. Further information

3.1 For details on disinsection procedure, airlines/aircraft operators are advised to refer to the Technical Guidelines on Aircraft Disinsection for Flights.

3.2 For other enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Senior Port Health Inspector (Airport) of PHO at

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Department of Health
March 2017