

DATE

Dear Watercraft Manufacturer:

Aquatic invasive species pose great risks to aquatic ecology, native species, fisheries, water-operated infrastructure, and recreational access. Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan (referred to as Western Provinces herein) are taking this threat very seriously and have initiated comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Species Programs that include watercraft inspections, outreach, response planning, monitoring and policy development. The most likely source of introduction of many of these high risk species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, is trailered watercraft coming from outside of the province. Invasive mussels, fish diseases and other aquatic hitchhikers can attach to boats or travel in standing water on board.

None of the western provinces have zebra or quagga mussels in our waters, and so we are undertaking extensive prevention efforts to protect our waters, which includes the operation of mandatory inspection stations primarily located at entry points to the province. **All boats must stop at mandatory inspection stations, including non-motorized, motorized and commercially hauled** when the stations are open (clearly marked by signage). Your haulers must stop for an inspection every time they enter the province.

We have had many new boats come through with standing water (from testing), which poses a large risk of transporting microscopic aquatic invasive species, many of which can survive great lengths of time. If boats are not able to be safely and effectively inspected on site, a follow up will be required. For example, if boats are shrink-wrapped when they arrive at the scale, the wrap may need to be removed enough to conduct the inspection on site. If this cannot be conducted, a Quarantine Order will be issued until a time that the wrap can be removed and properly inspected. Quarantine Orders prohibit the following until it has been lifted; launching the watercraft, draining water, washing the watercraft (internal or external), or altering the watercraft, including the addition of any fluids, that the inspector issuing the quarantine order did not see. Many new boats are tested prior to shipment in high risk areas (e.g. lakes and reservoirs outside of Western Provinces). We are really trying to work with watercraft manufactures, commercial haulers, and the boat shops that are receiving the boats to ensure that there are no aquatic invasive species risk and that the process is as efficient and effective as possible.

If watercraft manufacturers can provide Standard Operating Procedures on how/where boats are tested prior to shipment, we can review these procedures to evaluate risk. There is potential that we could 'exempt' boats from follow up actions if we can be confident that there is no risk of aquatic invasive species being introduced into Western Canada. Please see the form below if you are interested in pursuing an exemption from quarantine and decontamination. Once watercraft are cleared, they may still be subject to a future audit. Any information provided will be used to assess eligibility for exemption. Follow-up will be completed to provide feedback on how to achieve exemption if not initially successful. Regardless of whether or not we can 'clear' your boats, stopping at the inspection station is still mandatory.

NOTE: A letter certifying a boat as "aquatic invasive species free" will not be sufficient, we will require Standard Operating Procedures/documentation on exactly how the boats are tested prior to shipment.

Another good source of information for haulers is the 'Western Aquatic Invasive Species' website – there are very similar programs in all of the western US states as well. They now have an 'inspection station viewer' for the entire west: <http://www.westernais.org/moving-a-boat>. You can find more information about Alberta's Aquatic Invasive Species here: <https://www.alberta.ca/aquatic-invasive-species-overview.aspx>. You can find more information about British Columbia's Aquatic Invasive Species program here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/invasive-mussels>. You can find more information about Saskatchewan's Aquatic Invasive Species program here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/invasive-species/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention-program>.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or need more information.

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Watercraft Manufacturers Form

MANUFACTURER INFORMATION

Name of Manufacturer:	
Type of Watercraft(s):	Type of Propulsion:
Location of Factory: Address:	
City:	State/Province:

TESTING

Are the watercraft tested in a naturally occurring system such as a lake, reservoir, or river? Yes No		
If yes, has the watercraft been inspected for aquatic invasive species, decontaminated, and/or previously quarantined by another jurisdiction? Yes No		
If yes, please explain:		
Are the watercraft tested in a controlled facility (e.g. man-made pond onsite, indoor facility, etc.)?: Yes No		
If yes, what is the source of the water?		
If yes, is the testing facility used for new watercraft only or used/warranty returns as well?		
Describe specifically where the watercraft are tested:		
Waterbody:	Nearest City:	State/Province:
DESCRIBE SPECIFIC TESTING PROTOCOLS:		
Are ballast tanks/bags filled?		
If ballast bags are filled to test, how was the water drained after testing?		
Is the watercraft shipped to Alberta or British Columbia fully winterized?		
Is the trailer submerged as well during testing?		

Is testing performed on a fully finished hull? Yes No If no, explain:			
For outboards, are the engines water tested by the factory?			
Factory/Shop tested? Yes No		Water Source:	
Field tested? Yes No		Waterbody:	
Nearest City:		State/Province:	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Do watercraft routinely leave your factory with standing water (e.g. engine, ballast tanks, etc.):	
Do you undertake any mitigating factors to minimize the standing water present on watercraft leaving your factory?: Yes No	
If yes, please describe in detail:	
If not, are there mitigating actions your company could take?	
What is your process for winterizing watercraft (if applicable)?:	
When was the watercraft tested (date):	
Standard Operating Procedures attached? Yes No	