



Anti-mosquito measures

Purpose

This article offers useful advice to ferry owners, masters and crewmembers on ways to control the breeding of mosquitoes, especially *Aedes albopictus*.

The Mosquito Problem

2. Mosquitoes cause nuisance to human beings. Some species even pose threats to public health as vectors of diseases like dengue fever – a severe mosquito-borne disease characterised by high fever, headache, rash, joint and muscular pain. *Aedes albopictus*, a vector of dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever, is prevalent in Hong Kong. It breeds both in rural and urban areas and its breeding places can be grouped into two broad categories: artificial receptacles like containers, discarded tyres, lunch boxes and cans; and natural habitats such as tree holes, bamboo stumps and leaf axils.
3. Other than mosquitoes can fly, they may also be carried by vessels or other means of transport to other places. Stagnant water on a vessel may breed mosquitoes.

Anti-mosquito Programme

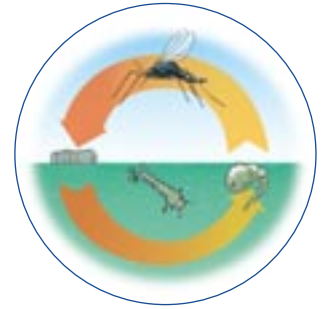
4. It is important that ferry owners, masters and crewmembers should actively take part in mosquito control in order to contain the mosquito problem and to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes on their vessels. Ferry owners/ masters should draw up anti-mosquito programmes for their vessels.

Objectives

5. The anti-mosquito programme aims to achieve the following objectives:-
 - i) To encourage ferry crewmembers to participate in preventing and containing the mosquito problem so as to avoid mosquito breeding on their vessels;
 - ii) To eliminate breeding places for mosquitoes; and
 - iii) To get rid of mosquitoes on board the ferry to contain the mosquito problem.

Working Schedule

6. As it takes an average of 7 days for eggs of mosquitoes to develop into adult mosquitoes, inspection of the vessel should be conducted every 7 days.



Co-ordination plan

7. Ferry owners/masters should arrange for their crewmembers to inspect the ferry and undertake anti-mosquito measures regularly.

Mosquito Prevention and Control Measures

8. The following measures are recommended to be taken on the ferry:
 - i) Dispose of refuse, especially empty lunch boxes and soft drink cans, into refuse collection bins with well-fitted covers;
 - ii) Properly cover all water containers;
 - iii) Make large holes on tyres used as anti-bumping measure;
 - iv) Change the water in flower vases at least once every week;
 - v) Drain off any stagnant water in the saucers of flower pots.
9. Stagnant water with larvae of mosquitoes should be discarded into the sea.
10. Adult mosquitoes found on the ferry should be killed by using household aerosol pesticides.

