STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP):

Waterhog Plus Forklift Mats Operational & Maintenance Guidelines

Target Environments: Food & Drink Production, Healthcare, Pharmaceutical Labs, High-Hygiene Warehousing

1. Purpose & Application

The Waterhog Plus Forklift Mat serves as a dual-action sanitising wheel bath and mechanical tyre scraper. It is designed to decontaminate heavy wheeled traffic and footwear, preventing the tracking of outside contaminants into hygiene-critical zones.

2. Correct Installation & Positioning

- **Surface Preparation:** The mat must only be installed on a smooth, clean, level, and completely dry sub-floor (such as concrete).
- **Fixing and Security:** For industrial traffic, the mat **must** be permanently secured into position using heavy-duty industrial double-sided tape to prevent shifting or bunching under heavy machinery. One roll of tape is recommended per installation area.
- **Traffic Alignment:** Position the mat so that the low-profile, ramped safety borders face oncoming traffic, ensuring a smooth transition for forklifts, trolleys, and pedestrian traffic.

3. Sanitising Solution Protocols

- **Capacity Limits:** The integrated containment dam system is designed to hold up to **6 litres of liquid solution per square metre**. Do not overfill past the level of the raised dam borders.
- **Chemical Compatibility:** The 100% Nitrile rubber backing provides high resistance to common industrial chemicals, oils, and grease.
- *Mandatory Practice:* It is the responsibility of the facility management to cross-reference their specific sanitising chemical formulation against standard Nitrile rubber and P.E.T. material safety data to ensure compatibility.

4. Critical Safe Forklift Operation (Damage Prevention)

To preserve the structural integrity of the liquid retention system and fabric fibers, the following strict operational rules must be communicated to all material handling operators:

- **Straight Travel Only:** Forklifts and heavy wheeled machinery must **only drive straight** over the matting surface.
- **Zero Torsional Force:** Operators must strictly avoid turning, pivoting, steering, or braking aggressively while positioned on the mat. The extreme rotational torque exerted by heavy industrial tyres will tear the P.E.T. fibres and permanently damage the internal mat structure.
- **Static Load Prohibition:** The mat surface must be kept completely clear of static or stationary loads. Pallets, crates, or heavy machinery must never be stored on, rested on, or dragged across the surface, as this will crush the 6.4mm raised nubs and compromise the liquid-retention dam.

5. Cleaning & Maintenance Procedures

- **Routine Debris Removal:** Clean the mat regularly using a pressure washer, hose, industrial wet/dry vacuum, or mechanical sweeper to prevent particulate buildup.

- **Solution Refresh:** Periodically extract spent sanitising fluid, rinse the mat thoroughly, and refill with fresh solution according to your facility's internal hygiene schedule.

- **Temperature Restrictions:** Safe for operational environments ranging from -20°C to +160°C. Do not expose to temperatures outside this range during washdowns.

6. Health & Safety Integration

- **Skid Mitigation:** The mat removes moisture to minimise forklift skidding. However, because wheels exit the mat wet with sanitising solution, it is **highly recommended** to position a **Modular Forklift Matting zone** immediately after the Waterhog Plus mat to act as a dedicated dry-off zone.

- **Air Quality:** The dual-action upper surface traps dust and micro-particles beneath the tyre level, preventing them from becoming airborne.

Legal Disclaimer & Notice of Liability

This document is intended solely as an operational guideline based on general manufacturer technical specifications. Because site-specific factors—including vehicle weights, speeds, floor types, frequency of use, and chemical formulations—vary completely outside the control of the supplier, the end-user/facility manager assumes all liability for verifying the ultimate safety, compatibility, and regulatory compliance of this product within their specific facility workflow. The manufacturer and supplier accept no liability for damage resulting from improper use, sharp vehicular turning, or overloading.