



**Government of Western Australia**  
**Department of Training**  
**and Workforce Development**

**MURESK INSTITUTE BIOSECURITY POLICY**

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VERSION: 1.0

*All policy and procedural statements contained within this document are lawful orders for the purposes of section 80(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA) and are therefore to be observed by all Department of Training and Workforce Development employees.*

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

Equity impact assessment

This policy considers and reflects where appropriate the principles of the Department's:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Disability access and inclusion plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Language services policy
<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce diversity and inclusion policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovate reconciliation action plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantive equality policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	

Approval

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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Muresk Institute is committed to following biosecurity legislated requirements and actions with the purpose of safeguarding Muresk's agricultural interests and operations from threats and impacts of pests, weeds and diseases entering, establishing, or spreading. This Policy identifies necessary processes to protect, mitigate risk and to enable Muresk to maintain a high standard of best practice in agricultural biosecurity.

## 2. SCOPE

The Muresk Institute Biosecurity Policy applies to Muresk employees all visitors and other external parties entering the site. This includes, students, training partners, contractors and their employees who enter Muresk property/land (campus buildings or farm).

## 3. PRINCIPLES

Any identified activity or intended activity at Muresk that may result in a biosecurity risk, including activities falling outside of the general scope of this document, **MUST** be stopped and the Farm Manager or Farm Technical Officer **MUST** be consulted immediately when identified.

Muresk will operate in accordance with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act) the regulatory framework for Western Australia's plant and animal pest and disease biosecurity, the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, and ensuring safe and quality agricultural products.

Muresk will abide by the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 requirements that certain diseases must be reported to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) if they are known or suspected to be present in Western Australia. Refer to the Reportable animal diseases - Western Australia.

Staff, contractors, residents, visitors and other patrons required to report any potential biosecurity risks or concerns, including feral animal sightings as soon as possible to the Farm Manager.

## 4. BACKGROUND

Muresk is situated on 898 hectares of agricultural farmland and functions as a multi-tenanted, multi-functional facility for training, higher education, research and development, professional development and learning extension. The following is a snapshot of Muresk's scope of operations:

- Livestock and cropping production systems.
- Education and training.
- Agricultural research, development, extension; and
- Conferencing and accommodation.

Muresk recognises a high biosecurity risk due to the high volume of visitors, farm machinery, equipment, livestock, fodder and seed arriving at our site and or moving from one farm to another. It is therefore, of vital importance that all people entering Muresk Institute follow Muresk's biosecurity requirements and protocols.

Muresk Farm staff are actively involved in the day-to-day management of insects, diseases, weeds, feral animal control and other damaging organisms. However, to limit the threat of pests, weeds and diseases establishing or spreading everyone entering Muresk's property must adhere to the procedures, guidelines and requirements set out in this Policy.

## **5. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

### **5.1 Biosecurity Risk**

The likelihood and consequence of a breach of biosecurity that can results in harm to Muresk Institute operations, farm enterprise and reputation.

### **5.2 Biosecurity Risk Management Plan (Appendix 3)**

The assessment process Muresk staff will undertake when a biosecurity hazard or risk has been identified and the appropriate mitigation action to be implemented.

### **5.3 Muresk Institute property/land**

Includes all carpark, campus buildings, accommodation, leased or tenanted training venues, amenities, paddocks, unsealed roads, farm ring road, holding yards, cattle yard, sheep yards, farm workshops and shearing shed.

### **5.4 National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)**

The National Livestock Identification System is Australia's system for the identification and traceability of cattle, sheep and goats. NLIS reflects Australia's commitment to biosecurity and food safety. All livestock are identified by a visual or electronic ear tag/device.

### **5.5 Visitors**

All persons on Department of Training and Workforce Development Muresk's premises, other than employees, who have good cause to be there.

### **5.6 Zoonoses or Zoonotic disease**

Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can pass from animals to humans. Some zoonotic diseases, such as Hydatids, Anthrax, Hendra virus infection, Avian influenza or Rabies can be very serious in humans and may cause fatalities. It is important that people who handle or treat animals are aware of the risk of zoonotic diseases.

## **6. PROCEDURES**

### **6.1 Biosecurity Muresk Institute Management Protocols**

- The General Manager of Muresk will delegate resources to ensure effective Biosecurity Risk, Biosecurity Risk Assessment, Biosecurity planning and communication for all Muresk Institute areas of activities and operations. This includes the responsibility for alerting Muresk staff and other third parties onsite when there is a DPIRD high Biosecurity Risk and or emergency outbreak.
- Muresk staff will make available biosecurity awareness information at to all new staff members, visitors and external parties prior to their arrival as well as on arrival, through biosecurity signage, notification and induction.

- Domestic and feral animal biosecurity control measures onsite are an important operational function and clients, students or visitors shall not bring animals, bird, fowl, reptile, fish or pet of any kind on site without seeking prior permission. An exception is a Guide Dog specifically trained to assist a person with low vision or blindness to navigate the environment safely. Long term residents in residential house accommodation with adequate fenced yards and in accordance with their lease agreement may seek pet approval to bring pets to their place of residence.
- Muresk Institute management will ensure livestock management procedures are performed by competent persons or under the direct supervision of an experienced person. When in doubt, workers will obtain advice from qualified advisers or veterinarian.
- Farm staff must regularly inspect crops, pastures and road verges for exotic pests, weeds and diseases and develop and record risk controls by undertaking a Biosecurity Risk Assessment Management Plan (Appendix 3).
- A Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan will be undertaken by a Muresk Staff member involved relationship management and coordination of any event or activity identified with a biosecurity consequence. This process will be in accordance with DTWD 2010-05 Risk Management Policy and utilise the risk reference tables, and matrix authorised within the Risk Management Policy and procedures. The completed Biosecurity Risk Assessment Management Plan will be forwarded to the Farm Manager and General Manager seeking their approval to proceed.
- Livestock are identified according to NLIS regulations will be applied to enable Muresk Farm staff to assess and trace where animals or plants have come from and where they went. The Muresk farm staff are required to keep accurate records of purchases, sales and movements.
- Ensuring livestock management procedures are performed by competent persons or under the direct supervision of an experienced person. When in doubt obtain advice from qualified advisers or veterinarian.
- Any animal's authorised by the Farm Manager to come to Muresk and farm must be contained in an area for quarantine for a suitable period before being allowed to integrate with Muresk and or any other animals on Muresk Property. This also applies to domestic pets (refer to Muresk Institute community guidelines and residential tenancy agreements).

## **6.2 On arrival, while onsite and departure**

- Prior to arrival and on departure from Muresk, all persons must check clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicle for any organic matter, mud, dirt or manure to ensure all items and equipment are clean.
- All Visitors must park in the main Visitors Carpark area in front of Reception. Unless other parking access approval has been issued or directed by Muresk.
- All Visitors must follow the directions at client services and complete the Visitor Registration requested information on the Visitors Sign in Book (*Appendix 1*) or the Contractor Sign in Book (*Appendix 2*). In some circumstances when a visitor has been overseas or on another farm recently the Farm Manager or staff will need to be notified to provide further instruction prior to entry.

- While onsite, visitors should wash and sanitise hands before and after handling or have been in the vicinity of livestock.
- When a vehicle, farm machinery or equipment has been brought onto Muresk to be used or accessed on the Farm (tractor, harvester or other equipment), the Farm Manager must be advised prior to entry. The owner of the item must identify and confirm a thorough biosecurity wash down, decontamination and rinse has occurred prior to arrival to ensure the vehicle(s) are free from dirt, mud and organic matter. Note: Muresk currently does not have a biosecurity washdown area available for cleaning larger machinery brought to Muresk Institute, it is the equipment owner responsibility to ensure equipment is cleaned appropriately prior to entry.
- Visitors, patrons, training providers, researchers and residents must abide with the Muresk Institute Campus Biosecurity, Health and Safety zones as identified in appendix 4 and detailed within the Muresk Institute Community Guidelines.
- On departure all Visitors and External Parties are to sign out at Reception on the visitor registration sign in book.

### **6.3 AgriPork Piggery**

- Muresk staff, Visitors accessing the AgriPork Piggery located within Muresk must comply with AgriPork's Biosecurity policy.
- AgriPork must comply with the detail provided in this biosecurity plan when passing through or visiting Muresk property outside the leased Piggery area and liaise with the Farm Manager as appropriate.

### **6.4 Livestock illnesses and potential zoonotic/zoonosis disease**

Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can pass from animals to humans. Some zoonotic diseases, such as Hydatids, Anthrax, Hendra virus infection, Avian influenza or Rabies can be very serious in humans and may cause fatalities. It is important that people who handle or treat animals are aware of the risk of zoonotic diseases.

The Muresk Farm Manager and associated staff will maintain regular livestock inspections to prevent illness and diseases spreading as well to ensure that sick, injured or diseased livestock are given prompt and appropriate treatment. All farm workers and farm contractors must take steps to reduce the likelihood and risk to exposure or spread of a zoonotic disease. If an animal is suspected of having a disease, appropriate action must be taken to avoid or minimise contact with other animals, as well ensure staff use personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling infected animals or their products.

The Department of Primary Industries identify some animal zoonotic diseases of concern for Western Australia (but not limited to) as leptospirosis Q fever, anthrax, leptospirosis, brucellosis, Hendra virus, avian influenza and psittacosis.

When an incident occurs that involve an injury or illness through contact with animals or animal material, or a hazard is identified, this needs to be immediately reported to the Muresk Farm Manager so a WHS hazard/incident can be submitted. The General Manager must notify the Department's WHS Team so relevant action can be taken.

The Work Health and Safety Act 2020 legislates a duty for the 'person conducting a business or undertaking to ensure the regulator is notified immediately after becoming aware a notifiable incident from a serious illness or a prescribed illness has occurred through contact with animals, animal hides, skins, wool or hair, animal carcasses or animal waste products. A notifiable incident includes; when a person contracts a prescribed occupational zoonosis illness or infection to which carrying out the work was a major contributing factor. Relevant to workplace zoonoses at Muresk is the risk of infection to the following workers:

- farm staff and workers
- shearers
- wool sorters
- veterinary workers
- livestock handlers, including transport workers
- Refer to Appendix 5 *WorkSafe WA Zoonoses on farms – checklist*

Access from:

[www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/zoonoses\\_on\\_farms\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/zoonoses_on_farms_checklist.pdf)

### **6.5 Maintaining Biosecurity currency and reporting requirements**

- Muresk will maintain up to date knowledge on biosecurity requirements through regular monitoring and subscription to notifications from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Industry - Agriculture and Food (DAFWA or DPIRD), industry news bulletins, legislative and regulation updates/amendments.
- Muresk understands that DPIRD has a lead role in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Under the State Emergency Management arrangements, DPIRD is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for emergency management of significant:
  - animal pest or disease
  - plant pest or disease.
- Muresk will liaise with DPIRD to identify and manage biosecurity risks, develops legislation, establishes import controls, conducts inspections, and provides quarantine services as required.  
In accordance with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act, Muresk will report the presence or suspicion of any reportable animal diseases, declared pests and prohibited organisms to DPIRD via: [www.agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/biosecurity-emergency-contacts](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/biosecurity-emergency-contacts) (refer to this policy Section 12. DPIRD Contacts)

### **6.6 DPIRD Contact information:**

- Nearest DPIRD field office; Northam, during office hours: 9690 2000 or
- South Perth Animal Health Laboratories duty pathologist: 9368 3351.
- Email: [enquiries@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@dpiird.wa.gov.au)
- Afterhours Emergency Disease Watch hotline: 1800 675 888
- Exotic Plant Pest Disease Hotline or the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS): 1800 084 881



## 7. GUIDELINES

Controlling and limiting access to Muresk Farm area is the key factor in minimising biosecurity risks. This will be undertaken by ensuring:

- 'Keep it clean' with cleaning practices diligently followed. Since weed, seeds and pathogens can be transferred on people's footwear and clothing, it is a requirement that employees and visitors ensure that they have clean clothes and boots and follow the Muresk biosecurity instructions and protocols. All wash down cleans are followed with a broad-spectrum disinfectant to further reduce the risk of introducing bacteria, viruses, and spores to Muresk.
- Fodder or grain bought to feed livestock is inspected and free from weed, seeds and other pathogens. Muresk encourages buying locally where possible, and a supplier Commodity Vendor Declaration should be obtained. Where possible isolate new stock feed for 10-14 days.
- Scrubbing brushes and footbaths to be made available for people arriving with dusty or muddy boots. Footwear should also be cleaned when people leave Muresk.
- Limiting to farm access points, with residents, visitors and contractors instructed not enter farm zones and as well park their vehicles within their designated parking area, refer to appendix 4.
- Visitors contact with crops or plant material is minimized where possible, with steps taken to eliminate unnecessary contact all together.
- Well positioned signs are installed to inform controls and commitment to farm hygiene, alert people and remind everyone of their shared responsibility in maintaining biosecurity.
- All farm storage containers, tools and equipment are regularly cleaned, disinfected and stored away from potential contaminants. The regular use of a suitable disinfectant is important and most effective when applied to a visually clean surface.
- All surfaces are disinfected and free from soil, manure, plant and animal residues.
- Regular checks are undertaken in areas around the wash down facility or washdown areas for new pests or weeds.

## 8. RELATED POLICIES AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- *Australian Government Department of Agriculture. Fisheries and Forestry: National list of notifiable animal diseases*
- *Animal Biosecurity & Welfare program contacts for Western Australia*
- *2013 - 39 Muresk Institute Firearms Policy*
- *Muresk Institute Community Guidelines*
- *2010-05 Risk Management Policy (DTWD)*
- *Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2025*
- *WorkSafe WA Zoonoses on farms – checklist*

**9. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *The Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)*
- *The Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013.*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Reportable animal diseases - Western Australia – Declared Pests under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*
- *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022*

**10. REVIEW DATE**

31 October 2025

**11. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Muresk Institute

Service Resource Management

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### APPENDIX 3 - BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (SAMPLE)

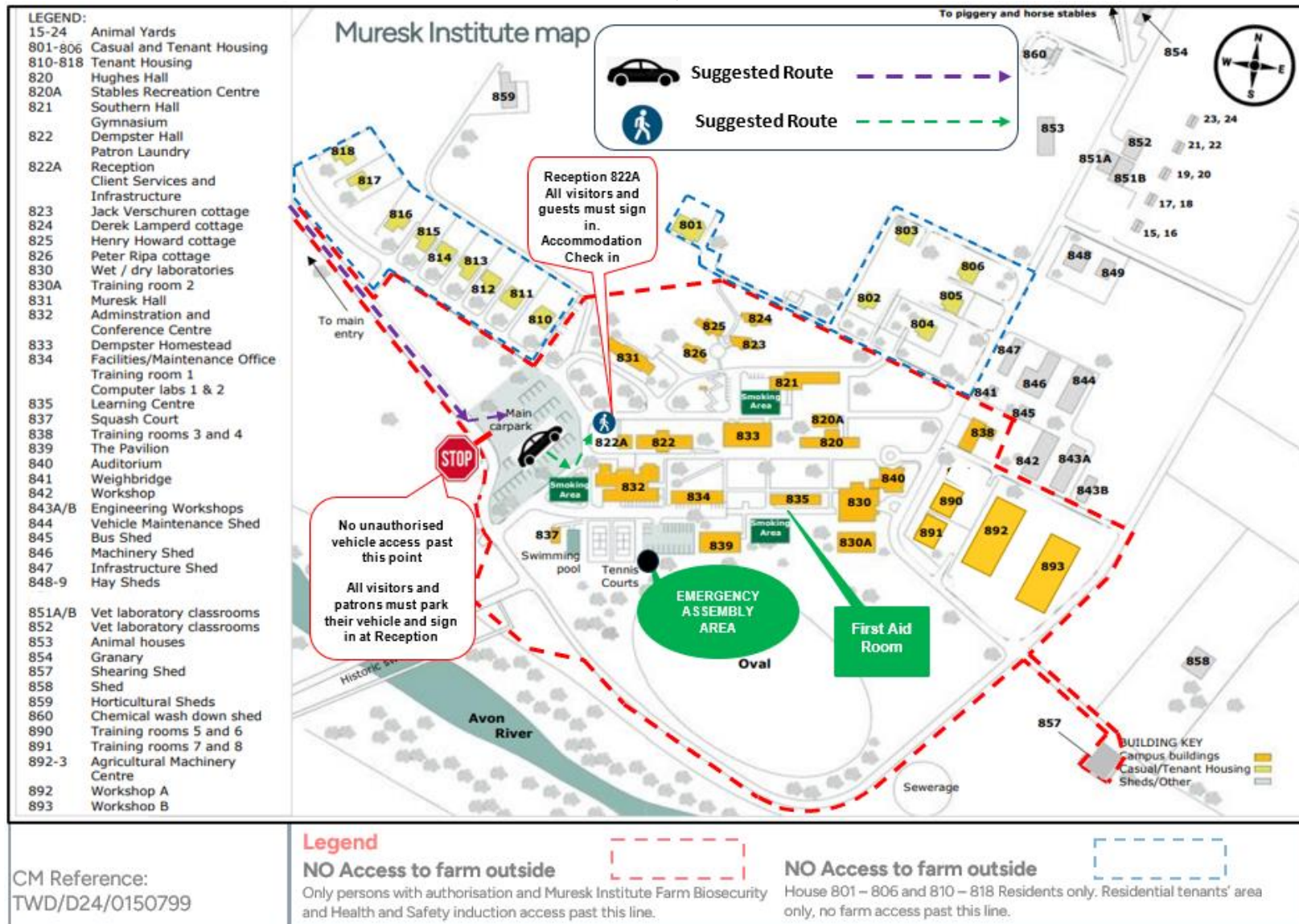
<b>Activity:</b> <b>Muresk Institute venue/s or location:</b> Developed by: Date:					Date of event: How many people: Activity Start time: Activity End time:				
Client / External Contact: Name of person: _____ Ph: _____ Email: _____ <b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> Will the client or contact be present for the duration of the event: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Has the client been notified in advance of biosecurity protocols: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Advise those responsible for trucks and equipment entering to ensure vehicles are free of mud and other accumulated debris. Contact the Farm Manager for authorisation, information and direction.					<b>Accepted</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Declined</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated Position _____ Approved By: _____ Date: _____				

Hazard Identification		Risk Assessment (prior to controls put in place)			Risk Control Measure	Residual Risk Assessment (After controls are put in place)			Responsibility
Risk Context	Potential Hazards	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Score		Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Score	Who is responsible to implement the Controls
<b>(Sample)</b> People and Agricultural machinery/ equipment entering	Threat and impacts of pests, weeds and diseases entering, establishing, or spreading.	Moderate 4	Likely 4	<b>12</b>	<b>1. Eliminate</b> , eg: eliminate task, remove hazard <b>2. Substitute</b> eg: replace with less hazardous process, material <b>3. Isolate</b> e.g.: enclosures, restricted access. <b>4. Engineering</b> e.g.: guarding, separation, redesign. <b>5. Administrative</b> eg: Safe Work Procedure, training. <b>6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b> eg: gloves, goggles	Moderate 4	Unlikely 2	<b>6</b>	Manager Business Development

Store in Content Manager Location: TWD/F23/0000289 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT - PLANNING - OTHER - Muresk Institute Biosecurity

## APPENDIX 4 - MURESK INSTITUTE BIOSECURITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY ACCESS MAP



## APPENDIX 5 - WORKSAFE WA ZONOSSES ON FARMS – CHECKLIST



### Zoonoses on farms – checklist

This checklist has been developed to help minimise the risks to workers that may be exposed to zoonoses at work.

Zoonoses are diseases of animals that can cause serious illness or death in people. The hazards and risks vary with the type and condition of animals, the nature of the work being done and the levels of training, instruction and supervision of workers.

#### Controls for potentially exposed workers

- ☐ Workers are provided information on zoonoses, and trained in safe work procedures and the identification of symptoms and treatment for particular diseases to minimise infection risk
- ☐ Q fever vaccination program is implemented for at-risk workplaces
- ☐ Workers who may be exposed to Q fever are tested (blood and skin) for immunity and vaccinated at no cost to the worker if not immune
- ☐ Workers are offered vaccinations for other zoonoses at no cost to the worker on a risk basis
- ☐ Workers are provided appropriate personal protective equipment, as needed based on risk, at no cost to the worker (e.g. work boots, work clothes, gloves, aprons, glasses and masks)
- ☐ Facilities are available for cleaning and laundering contaminated clothing
- ☐ Suitable facilities are provided for hand washing and drying
- ☐ Workers are instructed to wash their hands after handling animals, machinery or equipment and before handling food and drink
- ☐ Workers are instructed to ensure cuts and abrasions are treated immediately and covered with water-resistant dressings
- ☐ Contact with animals, animal body fluids, carcasses, blood or tissues is minimised
- ☐ Information about workplace zoonoses is clearly displayed, including instruction not to drink unpasteurised milk, where applicable
- ☐ Procedures are in place to notify the regulator if a worker contracts a zoonosis

#### Biosecurity controls (animal disease control)

- ☐ Systems are in place to manage zoonoses risks in all workers (e.g. contractors, labour hire workers) and visitors
- ☐ Procedures are in place for cleaning and disinfecting work spaces, floors, benches and equipment
- ☐ Potentially infectious material (e.g. placenta and litter) is disposed of in a safe and hygienic way, such as incineration

- ☐ Ventilation systems are designed to prevent contaminated material from the outlet being drawn back in by the intake
- ☐ Local exhaust ventilation used in areas known to have airborne dust/mist
- ☐ Machinery (preferably with an enclosed cab) is used to clear manure and feed waste build-up in areas where animals are regularly kept or moved
- ☐ Sick animals are treated and isolated
- ☐ Pigs and cattle are kept separated
- ☐ Animal holding pens and farm areas have good drainage and hygienic disposal of animal effluent
- ☐ Mesh floors are used in pig pens, where possible
- ☐ A rodent control program is in place
- ☐ Pets are dewormed
- ☐ Livestock and pets are vaccinated (e.g. brucellosis in cattle)

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Checklist title

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