
Overview

This standard covers maintaining and following appropriate bio-security procedures and infection controls in a Home Office designated establishment.

Good hygiene and bio-security arrangements are essential to the successful operation of any business within animal technology. They should be an integral part of the on-going management and key factors in the promotion of animal health and welfare.

The term 'work environment' is used to describe the different areas that may house animals either on a permanent or temporarily basis, or areas where equipment and consumables are stored, disinfected or sterilised before use in barrier maintained animal accommodation.

The term animal is used to cover all species; however, specific species of animals may need different bio-security measures.

This standard is for animal technologists and support staff in Home Office designated establishments.

LANAT32

Maintain bio-security procedures and infection controls in a Home Office designated establishment

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 maintain site hygiene, biosecurity procedures and barrier protocols appropriate to the animal areas on site for the following tasks:
 - P1.1 cleaning of animal accommodation
 - P1.2 cleaning of feeding equipment
 - P1.3 sterilisation or disinfection of equipment and consumables
 - P1.4 storage and disposal of all types of waste
 - P1.5 supply of equipment and consumables into barrier maintained animal accommodation
 - P1.6 entry and exit of barrier maintained animal accommodation
 - P1.7 collection of animals from barrier maintained animal accommodation
 - P1.8 delivery of animals to barrier maintained animal accommodation
- P2 identify and follow advice and guidance on barrier protocols, site hygiene and bio-security
- P3 carry out the following to ensure that potential contamination to animals and staff is minimised through:
 - P3.1 provision and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - P3.2 appropriate standard of hygiene required for personnel
 - P3.3 correct use of disinfection or sterilisation methods appropriate to items and area
 - P3.4 appropriate infection control routines and schedules
 - P3.5 specific requirements for infection control such; as arrival of new animals, working in unfamiliar environments, where there is increased risk of cross contamination
- P4 follow work routines and risk assessment requirements for barrier protocols and bio-security to minimise potential breaches
- P5 communicate site hygiene controls and bio-security procedures and protocols to all relevant parties including staff, contractors, visitors and customers
- P6 keep accurate and up to date records as required by legislation and the organisation
- P7 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies

LANAT32

Maintain bio-security procedures and infection controls in a Home Office designated establishment

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the site hygiene and bio-security procedures and barrier protocols for your area of work and the implications of not following them
- K2 what is meant by barrier maintained animal accommodation and the different types of barrier systems in use
- K3 how to follow site hygiene and bio-security procedures and barrier protocols in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements and where to seek advice if you have any queries
- K4 the potential risk of exposure to allergens and infectious microorganisms when working with animal products and equipment
- K5 the likely causes of infection, cross-contamination, and transmission
- K6 the meaning and significance of the terms:
 - K6.1 acute
 - K6.2 chronic
 - K6.3 vector
 - K6.4 fomite
 - K6.5 host
 - K6.6 notifiable
 - K6.7 pathogen
 - K6.8 zoonosis
 - K6.9 infectious
 - K6.10 allergen
- K7 how the spread of infection or cross contamination can be minimised
- K8 the different methods of hand hygiene and their correct use
- K9 the types and use of personal protective equipment and dress requirements for site hygiene and bio-security in animal units
- K10 the difference between sterilisation and disinfection and the techniques and materials used for each
- K11 the importance of your own health and why it is important to report any personal health conditions that may increase the risk of transmission, including immunosuppression and allergies
- K12 how to inform others of the site hygiene and bio-security procedures and protocols in place
- K13 the hygiene and bio-security measures required for the handling, storage and disposal of different types of waste
- K14 the reasons for controlling access to different areas of the work environment and protective barriers
- K15 appropriate records to be kept and their significance
- K16 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

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