

Biosecurity Procedures for Visitors to Pig Units in Ireland

Teagasc Pig Development Department

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Second Edition*





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Summary

Biosecurity, in the context of pig production, refers to measures taken to keep disease agents out of the national population, individual herds or groups of animals within a herd. Intensified precautions are advisable where particular diseases are present in a given locality e.g. PRRS.

Minimal precautions

Site security

- Maintain a secure perimeter fence
- Exclude birds and other wildlife
- Place notices (with mobile phone number) at perimeter stressing biosecurity measures and contact details
- Exclude casual visitors

Incoming stock

- Check recent veterinary reports from supplying herds. Insist on updated health reports on a regular basis including farm and ideally slaughterhouse inspections
- Quarantine stock at adequate distance (at least 2km from farm for 4-8 weeks)
- Blood test stock before moving them in to the unit
- Operate quarantine on all-in / all-out basis
- Ensure no cross-contamination by staff – have separate staff to operate quarantine unit or have farm staff manage it on the way home from work and then have a shower before returning to work the following day. Operate the quarantine with a separate clothing and footwear policy.

Incoming packages

Including semen, portable goods and tools

- Obtain regular veterinary reports from AI studs
- Packages should not be placed in contact with floor surfaces which may be contaminated
- Staff should not make physical contact (e.g. handshake) with delivery personnel

Incoming vehicles

- Ideally the following operations should be carried out from outside the perimeter fence:
 - » Filling feed bins
 - » Collecting dead pigs
 - » Removing manure
 - » Loading pigs
 - » General deliveries
- Farm staff must not enter trucks or stand on tail-boards
- Drivers must not enter pig buildings
- Pig trucks must be washed and disinfected prior to arrival at the unit. Trucks should ideally be given a minimum 24 hour rest period after factory deliveries. Trucks should not leave a slaughter facility without washing and disinfecting the transport before going to another pig farm. Transporters should start at the top of the disease pyramid and work downwards when arranging transport of pigs to slaughter. Ideally, farms should have their own dedicated transport.

Staff

Persons working in pig units may carry disease organisms on their boots, clothes, hair, skin, or even in the nasal tract, in pig meat or pig meat products.

- Provide clean and warm changing area with adequate hot water
- Provide comfortable, clean canteen area, free of farm footwear and farm clothing. Arrange a rota of staff to maintain the canteen area
- Provide clean work wear and launder regularly. Work wear should not leave the unit
- No contact with pigs when off duty. Facilities to shower-in and shower out are highly recommended
- No packed lunches or food outside the canteen
- Inform herd owner/manager or biosecurity advisor before returning to work if you were in contact with pigs or involved in hunting wild boar when travelling overseas
- Minimise movement of staff from older to younger pigs

Visitors

Visitors include; service personnel, consultants, auditors and inspectors.

- Have signposted hard-surfaced staff and visitor parking areas
- Confine visitors to office unless access to the farm is essential
 - » Agreed interval (at least 15 hours and ideally 72 hours) since last pig or pig manure contact
 - » Shower-in
 - » Use clean clothes and boots provided by the farm
 - » Use tools provided by farm
- Minimise animal contact as far as possible

Routine hygiene

- Subdivide houses to facilitate emptying and washing
- Wash / dry / disinfect / dry pens after each batch
- Allow to dry before refilling
- Arrange pig flow to avoid contact of young pigs with older animals
- Cover dead pig skips and keep area clean and empty regularly
- Effective pest control procedures should be practiced to exclude/eliminate rodents, birds, flies, wild mammals, pets
- Have facilities for washing and disinfecting boots and for hand washing at key locations around the farm (junction between different sections)
- Ensure that washing of transport vehicles carrying live pigs is done correctly – regularly inspect prior to loading and don't be worried about offending someone and turning them away if the washing is not carried out to a defined standard.

Veterinary Input

- It is critical that pig farmers work closely with their Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP) to develop a Biosecurity Farm Plan specific for each pig unit. This Biosecurity Farm Plan should be regularly reviewed and updated as new disease challenges and new information emerges.

Introduction

The protection of the national pig herd from the entry of disease-causing organisms is of concern to pig producers because a high-health status is critical to good animal performance, the production of safe pig-meat, the procuring of certain specialized markets and ultimate farm profitability. Advisers and other agricultural professionals must be knowledgeable in disease prevention procedures because they serve as an information resource for their clients. They must be role models in respecting the biosecurity measures required on each farm when their duties take them on to pig units. This booklet will address primarily external biosecurity measures.

Note: This document provides guidelines only and the biosecurity needs of individual units should be agreed with the farm veterinary consultant (PVP)

Biosecurity - Its Meaning and Implications for Pig Farms

Biosecurity, in the context of pig production, refers to those measures taken to keep disease agents out of the national population, individual pig herds or groups of animals within a herd. These measures are implemented by legislation at EU and national levels. Herd-level biosecurity usually rests with the owner/manager and staff who try to exclude any disease which is not already present in the herd and to limit the spread of existing diseases within the herd.

No pig herd is so unchallenged that biosecurity can be ignored and no biosecurity procedure is guaranteed to be fail-proof. It is prudent to be strict rather than casual in implementing a biosecurity programme. Intensified precautions are advisable where particular diseases are present in the locality e.g. potentially widespread infections like PRRS or Mycoplasma hyopneumonia.

Site security

Farm entrances should be used to convey a positive image of the operation by using trees and shrubs, landscaping and a tidy appearance. Warning signs should be worded to convey, in a positive way, the need for biosecurity and not give an impression of suspicious activities. Each sign should carry at least one contact mobile phone number for the manager or owner.

Pig units should have secure perimeter fencing to protect the herd from stray animals and human intruders who may not have observed proper biosecurity precautions. If possible the vehicles performing the following operations should operate from outside this fence:

- filling feed bins
- collecting dead pigs
- removing manure

Loading of pigs for sale should if possible take place at the perimeter fence. These areas should have a hard packed or concrete surface with surface water draining away from the unit. Ideally, fallen animals and biological wastes (afterbirths etc.) should be brought to a collection point well outside the farm perimeter where loading can occur. Storage pending collection should be in covered skips labelled “Category 2 Not for Animal Consumption”. This site should be washed and disinfected after each collection.

Persons visiting pig units may carry disease organisms on their boots, clothes, hair, skin or even in their nasal tracts.

For admission to well-managed pig units, the visitor must:

- **Not** have been on another pig farm within a specified period agreed with the farm owner or manager in consultation with his veterinary consultant. This period will vary depending on the health status of the unit. In the case of high health (minimal disease) units this period will be at least 15 hours (overnight away from pigs) and ideally 72 hours in the case of nucleus breeding herds and,
- **Shower-in** (including hair) and wear only farm-supplied clothes and boots.

Visitors to Ireland from overseas and Irish persons travelling abroad may face even greater restrictions, if admitted to pig units at all.

The current health status of the herd and the type of trading carried on influences the level of biosecurity which should be adopted. The following is the approximate ranking of the level of biosecurity which is required (highest to lowest):

- AI studs
- Nucleus breeding herds
- Multiplier breeding herds
- SPF/minimal disease/high health commercial breeding herds
- Commercial breeding herds
- Smaller breeding herds on mixed farms
- Single source finishing herds
- Multi-source finishing herds.

This ranking is based on the potential for financial loss from a disease breakdown and the possibility of infecting other herds i.e. through semen or breeding stock. AI studs and nucleus breeding herds should confine

visitors to seeing pigs through a viewing window unless animal contact is unavoidable e.g. vets.

A biosecurity plan should at least address:

- how “new” animals are introduced to the herd
- movement of people, animals, and equipment within the unit
- movement of visiting persons, vehicles and equipment
- reception of packaged deliveries (semen, portable goods, hand tools)
- cleaning and disinfection procedures
- exclusion of wildlife (birds, foxes) and pets (dogs and cats)
- possibility of airborne infection
- fly and pest control

Biosecurity measures can be categorized as either **external** measures taken to prevent the entry of new diseases into a herd or production group or **internal** taken to prevent the spread of a disease already in the herd to non-infected groups within the herd. With the relatively large number of pigs housed in a modern production unit, disease prevention, rather than treatment, is easily the better alternative. In general, diseases within a herd spread from older animals to younger animals. Therefore, houses should be operated on an all-in all-out basis with pig flow in one direction only and movement of staff within the farm restricted to dedicated areas.

Where visitors or staff moves from section to section within a farm, boot wash/disinfection facilities should be provided between sections.

Factors posing the greatest risk for disease introduction should be prioritised.

Precautions relating to incoming stock

Regardless of species, the most common way contagious diseases are introduced is by incoming pigs, typically replacement breeding stock. Pig production in Ireland (ROI) enjoys a significant advantage over many of its competitors in that it has developed and successfully implemented on-farm herd replacement programmes involving the purchase of AI and on-farm production of gilts. However, this does not negate the need to be vigilant against the threats posed by the introduction of any stock to a pig enterprise. Excluding obviously sick animals is not sufficient to prevent disease introduction; new stock may be incubating diseases to which they were recently exposed, or they may be carriers and shedders of disease organisms (e.g. Salmonella). In these cases, it is likely that they will have no apparent signs of disease.

Regular and updated veterinary reports should be sought from the source herd but these are not a guarantee of the absence of disease, merely that its presence was not detected on testing. Appropriate tests should have been carried out for the specific diseases being monitored.

To reduce the risk of introducing diseases with incoming stock, the following general guidelines should be adopted:

- The health status of the source herd should be known and the information regularly updated. The number of source herds should be minimized - a single-source of animals is preferred.
- All in-coming animals should be isolated from the herd for at least **four to eight weeks** depending on the incubation period of the disease being monitored.

The isolation facility should be at least several hundred metres from the rest of the herd (and preferably >2km from the nearest pigs), have its own unloading facility and positioned so that surface drainage and prevailing winds do not carry contamination to the importing herd. As a rule of thumb, the isolation facility should be far enough away so that it is not readily and easily accessible to staff as they perform their regular duties.

- Incoming animals should have been vaccinated well before (at least three weeks) delivery to the purchaser in order for immunity to have developed and for the purchaser to revaccinate after arrival. Such vaccinations could include Parvo, Erysipelas, Mycoplasma etc.
- The isolation facility should be managed all-in/all-out. No animal should be moved from the isolation facility to the recipient herd until the most recent addition has completed the testing protocol and isolation period.
- Animals should be carefully observed at least daily during the isolation period. Pigs showing signs of illness should be separated and promptly examined by a veterinary surgeon.

- Tests for diseases of specific interest should be carried out before the isolation period ends. Acceptable test results should be received before animals are released from isolation.
- Preventive treatments such as deworming and vaccination can be started in preparation for moving to the herd. The quarantine period also allows boars to be prepared for use.
- Outerwear (boots, overalls, hats) worn while tending these animals should be restricted to the isolation facility.
- Duties should be sequenced so the person caring for the isolation animals does not come into contact with other pigs later that day. If possible, the person taking care of the isolation animals should have no other pig-contact duties.
- Equipment such as feeders, shovels, scrapers, hand tools, etc., used in the isolation facility should not be used in other parts of the pig farm.
- Any importation of AI or stock from abroad should be notified to the National Pig Health Council and the voluntary protocols specified by the NPHC adhered to, to ensure a smooth integration of imported stock into the herd as possible. One of the declarations attached to the NPHC protocols is an undertaking by the importer that the imported animals will be destroyed if they succumb to a disease specified as being a threat to the national pig population.

Incoming Packages including Semen and Portable Goods

- The health status of the source stud should be known and the information regularly updated. The number of suppliers should be minimised - a single-source is preferred.
- Delivery personnel should not make contact with farm staff e.g. handshake.
- Goods must not be placed on floor surfaces, which may be contaminated by footwear of staff and/or visitors.
- Packaging should be disposed of outside the farm.
- Where high level biosecurity is required hand deliveries should be made to a neutral location outside the perimeter fence and the use of pass-through windows avoided.

Staff

- Management should set an example to others by their own adherence to biosecurity procedures and by insisting on others doing so.
- Workers on pig farms should have no contact with pigs (including pet pigs) or pig manure outside of their employment and this should be a condition of employment.
- Farm employees who have livestock other than pigs at their own home should be required to report to work personally clean and in clean clothes that have not been exposed to their own livestock.
- Employees should be provided with outerwear and boots that are left at the farm when the employee returns home.
- Clean, warm facilities for showering and changing clothes should be provided with a plentiful supply of hot water, shampoo, soap and clean towels. These facilities should be kept to a high standard. Separate, secure storage lockers for clean clothing and work wear should be provided for each employee. Jewellery and watches are difficult to clean and should be left in the clean storage locker.
- Laundry facilities should be provided for washing and drying of work wear. Alternatively a contract work wear firm should be used. Boots, overalls and personal protection equipment (ear protectors, goggles, dust masks) should be for the exclusive use of each individual and should be replaced regularly.
- Clean, warm canteen facilities should be provided with basic food preparation facilities. A high level of hygiene should be maintained. Employees should remove work wear (boots and outer clothes) and leave these outside the canteen area. Mingling of staff from different areas of the farm makes the canteen a high biosecurity risk. Employees should

wash hands before entering the canteen. A rota should be developed to manage the internal hygiene of the canteen area so that one operative is responsible for hygiene in the canteen area on a given day.

- Where staff are permitted to bring packed lunches onto the premises, foodstuffs should not be permitted outside the canteen. Waste food must be disposed of safely to ensure that no pigs have access to it. Feeding of waste food to pigs (including swill) is prohibited under S.I NO. 597 of 2001 as amended, and staff should be made aware of this.
- Depending on the size of the farm, staff should be deployed to minimise movement from one section to another especially from older to younger pigs. Casual movement should be avoided. On smaller farms, young pigs should be attended to first.
- Depending on the size of the farm, toilet facilities should be strategically located and not just in the changing area.
- Staff whose duties require movement around the farm should avoid conveying infection on their person, in particular on boots, clothes and hands. Facilities for washing and disinfecting boots and for hand washing should be positioned at key locations around the farm. A brush should be located at these points to assist with removal of heavy dirt from footwear. Wellington boots are preferable over work boots because of ease of cleaning. Wearing of disposable gloves should be encouraged in all areas of production.
- The use of foot baths is an unreliable method of routine disinfection, unless boots are thoroughly scrubbed before immersion and adequate contact time in the disinfectant is permitted. Usually at least five-minutes contact time is required. Heavy duty work boots with deep corrugations in the sole are difficult or impossible to disinfect properly. Selection of work boots should take account of ease of cleaning.
- Staff who have returned from travelling overseas should notify the herd manager or biosecurity advisor before returning to work if they have had contact with pigs or been involved in hunting wild boar. In light of recent outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) in both Poland and Lithuania and on-going issues with ASF in both Ukraine and Russia and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) in the United States, any operatives from, or visiting these countries or affected areas, should be advised in advance of returning to Ireland of the dangers of contact with pigs or wild boar and the dangers of bringing back pig-meat products to Ireland.

Relief staff

Staff used in a relief role for more than one farm poses a high risk of conveying infection between farms. Extreme care should be taken regarding off-site clothing and footwear. Protective clothing, boots and tools should never be moved between farms. Within a large farm separate sets of clothing and footwear should be provided for each section.

Staff attending meetings or training courses; temporary absences

Where staff attends off-site training courses or meetings at which other pig farmers will be present, work clothes and boots should not be worn. On re-entry, staff should shower-in. This applies also to temporary excursions outside the perimeter fence during the working day e.g. to town, home for lunch. Staff from different pig farms should not share living accommodation or share transportation to work.

Routine Hygiene Precautions

- Subdivide houses to facilitate emptying and washing and operation of all-in all-out systems. Wash / dry and disinfect / dry pens after each batch. Pre-soaking using an automatic sprinkler system will reduce water usage and washing time. Clean feeders and drinkers thoroughly. Disinfectant should be allowed contact time to act and allow floors and walls to dry before refilling. In cold weather, buildings (especially for weaned pigs) should be pre-heated before new stock is introduced.
- Most disinfectant manufacturers now recommend a wash and dry cycle followed by a disinfect and dry cycle to ensure a better kill of bacteria.
- Arrange pig flow to minimise contact of young pigs with older animals. Do not house older sick pigs or runts with younger stock. Sick, lingering and injured pigs not likely to recover should be humanely euthanised to minimise suffering and minimise spread of infection. Employees should be trained in safe, efficient and effective euthanasia methods. Ideally, a dedicated person competent in euthanasia methods should be assigned responsibility for euthanasia.
- Hand tools and items such as needles, syringes, bottles of medication, etc. should be stored properly in each section of the farm and not moved around. Reuse of needles poses a special risk of transferring infection from one group of animals to another. All hospital administered treatment needles should be single use. All multiple needle use should be confined to a single needle per litter or single needle per pen.
- Cover dead pig skips and keep the storage area clean. A concrete surface, draining away from the farm is best. The area where dead pigs are loaded should be regularly washed and disinfected.
- Effective pest control procedures should be practiced to exclude/eliminate rodents, birds, flies, wild mammals and pets. While infection may be carried between farms by the wind, it is likely that many cases of apparent airborne infection are the result of unrecorded lapses in biosecurity and the movement of birds, insects and wild animals.
- Ensure feral cats and dogs are eliminated from the vicinity of the farm
- For Salmonella control and other husbandry reasons it is essential that manure must be kept below the level of the slats at all times

(0.3m at a minimum). Part-slatted houses are prone to pigs dunging on the solid floor. This can be minimised by keeping air temperature at a comfortable level, avoiding draughts in the lying area and moving groups if necessary. Ventilation experts should be consulted if problems with poor lying patterns and poor pig cleanliness are experienced.

Assessing the disease risk posed by visitors

Although diseases are most commonly introduced into a herd by movement of animals, there is a risk of disease introduction by people travelling between farms or between groups of animals. This risk varies considerably and is influenced by the specific disease agent, the extent of the animal contact, the time elapsed since the last animal contact, and the preventive measures used.

Low-risk visitors include those from urban areas or those who have had no recent livestock contact (last several days). Although these visitors present very little risk of introducing disease to the farm, precautions should include (at a minimum):

- All visitors should sign the visitors declaration form on arrival. This should record the interval since their last pig contact. Ideally this should be 48-72 hours, depending on the health status of the unit. A sample copy of a visitors declaration form is included in Appendix A.
- Asking visitors to wear freshly laundered outerwear and clean footwear. They should be provided with disposable plastic boots (or clean rubber boots which remain at the farm) and overalls. This not only reduces the disease risk for your herd but also helps prevent guests from contaminating their clothing with odours, dust and germs from your farm.
- Showering including hair and changing to clean outer clothes and boots. Secure storage lockers should be available for visitors. Jewellery and watches should be left in these lockers.
- The use of foot baths is an unreliable method of routine disinfection, unless boots are thoroughly scrubbed before immersion and adequate contact time in the disinfectant is allowed. Usually at least five-minutes contact time is required. Shoes with deep corrugations in the sole are difficult or impossible to disinfect properly.
- Visitors should not enter pens or passageways used for moving animals, or touch animals unless necessary.
- Visitors must not bring food articles with them onto the farm.
- A plastic bag for collection and disposal of the disposable boots should be provided.
- Ask guests to wash their hands (and boots, if worn) before leaving.

- It is good practice to provide and wear disposable gloves and dust masks in all pig housing.

Moderate risk visitors include those people who routinely visit farms, but who have little or no actual contact with animals. These include salesmen, feed and fuel delivery drivers and maintenance workers who do not enter pig houses.

They should be expected to observe the same precautions as stated earlier for low risk visitors and in addition:

- They should wear clean overalls and boots if there is any contact with feed, animals, soil, or manure.
- Any sampling, measuring or recording equipment should be properly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Dirty boots should be cleaned and disinfected, and overalls should be removed and placed in a clean plastic bag or container before re-entering the vehicle. Where visitors provide their own reusable or disposable clothing and boots, separate areas of the car should be used to store used and unused apparel e.g. inside the car for clean and the boot for dirty or used clothing/boots.

High-risk visitors are those who come into direct contact with pigs in their work and would include vets, hauliers, advisers, consultants, maintenance workers who enter pig houses, manure spreading personnel, meat factory workers, quality assurance personnel and persons who work on other pig farms. These people typically have direct contact with animals and/or their bodily discharges. In addition to the precautions listed earlier, other recommendations might include:

- Vehicles should be clean and free of visible manure on the tyres and wheel arches and should be kept away from animal areas and driveways used by the farm's own vehicles.
- In an emergency disease situation, restrictions on access to the farm should be in place and washing and disinfection of vehicles should be compulsory.
- Vehicle interiors (including driver's cab and foot-well) should be clean, easily cleanable and regularly cleaned including disinfection.
- Truck-wash facilities should be slatted and drivers should use disposable over-boots (in addition to wellington boots) while washing. These should be disposed of on-site and not returned to the vehicle.
- Livestock trucks and trailers should be clean, dry and disinfected, before arrival on the farm. Ideally the livestock truck should only serve one pig farm to reduce the risk of disease spread from another pig farm. Drivers should not enter the pig farm and farm staff should not ascend the truck loading ramp. Loading areas should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after use with the washwater draining away from the pig farm.

- In areas where diseases such as PRRS are a concern the farm manager should discuss with feed suppliers etc. the rota in which the pig farm is visited and vehicles should receive extra cleaning after visiting high risk (i.e. infected) farms. Mud on wheel arches can carry infection.
- Visitors should be provided with clean outer clothing and boots.
- A stock of appropriate tools, extension leads and equipment should be kept on the farm to minimise use of tools and equipment, which have been used on other pig farms.
- Equipment and instruments that have direct animal contact should be cleaned and disinfected (or sterilized) after use and maintained in such a way that they do not become re-contaminated.
- Disposable sleeves/gloves, other disposable clothing, or clothing that can be disinfected should be worn whenever there is the possibility of direct contact with bodily discharges, animal faeces or animal tissues.
- Before leaving the farm, dirty equipment and footwear must be cleaned and disinfected with an appropriate chemical agent.
- Soiled overalls should be removed before re-entering the vehicle. Potentially contaminated hands and forearms should be washed with soap and water. Finger nails should be brushed clean.
- Manure spreaders should be cleaned before entering a new pig farm to start work. They should not enter premises where manure from another farm is stored or spread and should not travel over areas to which pigs have access or which are used by staff during the daily pig farm operations.

Guidelines for regulatory personnel visiting pig farms

Except in emergencies regulatory personnel (auditors, health inspectors, and environmental monitors) should make arrangements in advance for the timing of the visit and should be mindful of the biosecurity needs of the farm owners and operators. They should confirm with the farm management any requirements regarding time away from pig contact and whether protective outer clothing and boots will be provided. Farm operators should supply clean, freshly laundered protective clothing and clean boots.

In emergencies the regulatory personnel should endeavour to contact the person in charge of the farm before entry, using the contact number(s) displayed at the entrance.

During inspections they should be conscious of and respect the biosecurity measures implemented on the farm at all times. Equipment such as cameras, monitors, recording devices, sample containers, measuring devices should be in a clean condition and cleaned or disinfected as required. Cameras and phones continue to work when housed in a plastic pouch or bag and this practice should be encouraged if recording equipment or phones are brought on-site.

Unnecessary pig contact should be avoided.

Guidelines for advisory personnel visiting farms

When planning to visit a farm of unknown health status the adviser should contact the owner/manager to discuss the farm's requirements for biosecurity in terms of clothing, pig non-contact time, showering, etc.

Even if not required by the farm, advisers should, at a minimum, set the example by using measures that would seem prudent for a well-managed farm.

Expect farm managers to question potential visitors about recent contact with animals in other herds or visits to foreign countries. In the course of the interview, the manager can decide whether the person represents a low, medium, or high-risk and take appropriate measures.

The adviser should be dressed in clean outerwear (not worn on any other farm since being cleaned) if it is necessary for him/her to be in buildings, passageways or locations normally accessible to the herd. Unnecessary pig contact should be avoided.

The farm being visited should supply the reusable overalls and boots to reduce the chance of additional pathogens being introduced. Because of the difficulty in satisfactorily disinfecting reusable boots, heavy-duty plastic disposable boots are suggested for most cases.

If no farm clothes and boots are available, disposable overalls and disposable plastic boots are recommended. However, clean laundered overalls and clean disinfected rubber boots are acceptable. Disposable plastic boots are subject to leaks when worn for an extended time or on abrasive surfaces, and they provide very poor traction for walking on smooth wet floors. The biosecurity risk must be weighed against the health and safety risks associated with their use.

If advisers supply the outerwear, overalls should be clean or new and should be protected from cross-contamination with dirty items. Plastic storage containers with sealing lids can be used for storing and transporting the new and/or clean coveralls and disposable boots. Clean rubber boots can be sealed in a plastic bag until needed and stored away from soiled items.

To minimize the difficulty in cleaning rubber boots, the boots should be free of creases, folds, and buckles; the tread pattern on the bottom should not be aggressive so that debris can be removed easily. Head/hair covers and dust masks can provide added protection.

In cases where clean rubber (reusable) boots are used, they should be dipped or soaked in disinfectant solution just prior to putting on coveralls and boots before entering pig buildings.

When leaving, protective outer-clothing worn on the farm should be removed before entering the vehicle and left on that farm if at all possible. Reusable coveralls should be placed in a plastic bag and tied-off until they can be laundered. Reusable boots should be scrubbed free of debris with water, soaked in disinfectant solution, and then placed in a plastic bag or other container for transport allowing the disinfectant to dry on them.

Showering on leaving a farm will reduce pig odour on hair and skin and will also demonstrate a serious commitment to biosecurity on the part of the adviser.

When actual contact with animals is a possibility, no more than one herd should be visited on the same day, if possible. If more than one herd is to be visited then the one of highest health status should be visited first. The manager of the second farm should be alerted that another farm visit was made that day and close contact with animals on the second farm should be avoided.

Planning a Farm Tour where Pigs are present

Discuss with herd owners/managers their biosecurity expectations. This may vary greatly from farm to farm. The safety of the farm visit should be discussed with the herd veterinarian.

Publish the biosecurity standards for the event in the tour announcements and promotional materials. If registration or sign-in takes place at the farm on the day of the tour, the biosecurity standards can be reinforced at that point.

Consider including information on:

- **Dress standards** - Clean outerwear not worn on another farm since cleaning along with disposable overalls.
- **Boots** - Disposable plastic boots should be supplied for use over clean shoes (not working boots used on another pig farm).
- **Foreign travellers** - Persons who have returned from travelling overseas in the past seven days should notify the herd manager or biosecurity advisor before participating in the tour. The biosecurity advisor can evaluate the risk and make a decision about the person's participation in the tour.
- **Food products** - Foods of animal origin should not be brought onto the farm.

Establish an entry point from the parking area to the animal facilities through which all visitors will pass. A sign may indicate boots are needed beyond this point.

If disposable plastic boots are deemed unsuitable for the tour and reusable rubber boots are used, a boot washing station should be set up. The station should have provisions for scrubbing and rinsing all visible dirt off the boots. The boots are then immersed in a clean disinfectant solution for five minutes before entering the premise.

Prohibit actual contact with animals, animal waste, and discharges. Keep visitors back 3m or more where possible. Sites for visits should be chosen that allow stock viewing through observation windows rather than direct animal contact where possible.

Provisions should be made for cleansing hands and exposed skin if actual animal contact is anticipated.

Provide a disposal area for discarded plastic boots convenient to the point where visitors will be departing from the animal area. Ideally, the used boots (and disposable overalls) can be bagged in plastic refuse bags pending permanent removal.

Further Reading

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Appendix A – Visitors Declaration

FARM NAME



IFA



Visitor Declaration

- No visitors allowed onto this farm without an appointment*
 - Visitors must check in with a member of staff on arrival.
 - Visitors should have no contact with any pigs outside this farm in the last 72 hours.
 - Vehicles should be clean and free of visible manure on tyres and wheel wells.
 - Food must not be brought onto the farm.
 - All visitors must sign the visitor's book on arrival.
 - All visitors must shower and change into clean clothing (provided by the farmer) before proceeding into the farm.
 - Any sampling, measuring or recording equipment should be properly cleaned, disinfected and presented to farm management for inspection to meet farm criteria.
 - Visitors should not enter pens, passageways used for moving animals, or touch animals.*
 - We ask all visitors to follow health and safety policy while on this farm. A safety statement is available.
 - Visitors may be held responsible for disease outbreaks in cases where this protocol is not followed.
- [*It is accepted that auditors may be required, on occasion, to conduct unannounced audits and may be required to enter pens and passageways to conduct the audit]

Contact name

Pig Farm

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

We ask all visitors to respect our protocol as our biosecurity policy is intended to protect our pigs from disease and poor performance.

I hereby declare that I have minimized the risk of transmitting animal disease in accordance with the above bio-security measures.

I have not visited a foreign country and have not been exposed to or had contact with pigs (with or without contagious disease) within the last 72 hours prior to my farm visit.

I have not visited any other farm facility or entered any pig confinement or waste storage area within the last 72 hours.

Signed:

Time interval since last pig contact:

Date:



Contact Details

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