

BIOSAFETY PROCEDURES FOR VISITS TO POULTRY AND PIG SECTORS

Version 2022

INTRODUCTION

Because of growth in cases of Avian Influenza (AI) and African Swine Fever (ASF) around the world, diseases which are immediately notifiable diseases to the WOA (World Organisation for Animal Health), of which Brazil is free, and which create major economic and social impacts, ABPA is advising that biosafety measures be applied across every link of the production chain.

To this end, in order to provide technical support and a basis for internal biosafety measures, which should be created by all companies and routinely followed by the establishment, ABPA is also reinforcing **biosafety procedures for visits to poultry and pig production units** through this guidebook, available in Portuguese, English, and Spanish.

This document contains guidelines and recommendations that we suggest be broadly shared for a variety of purposes, such as in dealings related to on-site visits and audits, for service providers and professionals making periodic visits, etc. This information is related to general biosafety recommendations, the movement of people, and procedures prior to visits, in addition to a form template for controlling visitors and a card advising those external to the process to wear transit apparel, such as auditors and customers.

GENERAL BIOSAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Biosafety depends on a variety of measures to prevent the entrance and propagation of diseases in livestock and is an essential tool for ensuring animal health, work well-being, and public health. Keeping in mind the responsibility that the Brazilian poultry and pig growing industry has in relation to the safety of food in the country and around the world, one of the main measures is **strict control of the flow of people inside of facilities**.

To do this, ABPA recommends that **access be restricted to a maximum** for anyone that is not on staff, regardless of origin. In addition, it is recommended that access to agro-industrial facilities across the pork or poultry production chain be restricted

for anyone coming from other countries, especially if the country of origin has an active outbreak or is endemic for WOAH immediately notifiable diseases.

In exceptional cases where a visit is truly needed, it is important that some general biosafety measures be followed, which are:

- 1) Visit authorization:** only authorize visits according to the procedures recommended in this guidebook.

- 2) Vehicles:** prohibit vehicles not belonging to the process from entering. When strictly necessary, vehicles should be clean and disinfected prior to entering the establishment and after leaving it. Vehicles transporting visitors should be disinfected inside after the visit is over.

- 3) Records:** keep records on all visits made to the property, using the template in Annex 1 or the standard template already in use by the company.

- 4) Contact with animals:** It is strongly recommended that no visitor enter into direct contact with animals inside of the facilities.

- 5) Apparel and equipment**
 - Require all visitors entering the internal premises of genetic material (pig and poultry) farms, hatcheries, piglet production units, maternity and grow warehouses (pigs), to bathe and dress in clean and disinfected clothes and equipment provided by the company.
 - Require that all visitors accessing areas outside of broiler chicken, laying hen, turkey, quail, duck or other poultry aviaries or integrated pig farms - which have the same health status - change out of their transit apparel and into new apparel and equipment supplied by the company.
 - All teams accompanying the visitor must perform the same procedure applied to visitors, such as wearing transit apparel and footwear.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine procedures consist of a process to control and prevent illnesses through prior clinical observation of the visitor and the absence of visitor contact with live animals, as well as with other production systems for the same or different species, for a certain period of time.

The quarantine should be applied to anyone coming from abroad, whether or not they reside in Brazil.

It is recommended that the same rule apply to company employees, contractors and third parties, customers, private quality system auditors, maintenance technicians, rural producers, partners, etc. Table 1 specifies the recommended quarantine periods for visitors and other professionals before accessing facilities

Table 1) Quarantine procedures to be followed by visitors to agro-industrial establishments.

BRAZILIAN VISITORS OR FOREIGN VISITORS COMING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES	QUARANTINE PERIOD TO BE FULFILLED IN BRAZIL PRIOR TO VISIT
People who state that they have had no contact with live animals (pigs and poultry) in the 15 days prior to arriving in Brazil	72 hours in Brazilian territory with no contact with animals (poultry or pigs) or with establishments containing these animals prior to visiting the first establishment in Brazil
People who state that they have had contact with live animals (pigs and poultry) in the 15 days prior to arriving in Brazil	7 days in Brazilian territory with no contact with animals (poultry or pigs) or with establishments containing these animals prior to visiting the first establishment in Brazil

In order to verify the procedures to be used for foreign visitors or visitors coming from other countries, please consult the health status of the member countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) website: <https://wahis.woah.org/#/home>

PROCEDURES PRIOR TO VISITS

Before accessing any production unit, all visitors must **bathe at their hotel**, and afterward dress in **transit apparel** for the trip to the production unit (trousers, shift, socks, and shoes). This apparel must be provided by the unit that will receive the visit and should be

sent to the hotel where the visitors are staying, according to the sizes stated on the biosafety forms, appropriately placed in individual plastic bags and tagged with the names of the respective visitors.

It is recommended that a tag be delivered along with the transit apparel, containing **specific instructions** for visitors before they go to the production units. **Annex 2** contains an example of a tag that can be delivered along with transit apparel.

At the end of the day of the visit, clothes should be sent to a specialized laundry to be cleaned and new clothing and shoes will be provided by the unit team for the visit the next day.

It is recommended that **no adornments or accessories be worn**. However, when necessary, these items may be carried in bags that are preferably new, disposable and safe, provided by the company. Likewise, the use of objects and equipment not supplied by the company or previously disinfected should be avoided.

According to the specific procedures at each company, when arriving at the production unit, **the visitor may be asked to bathe again**. Visitors will have a new change of clothes and shoes (**internal visit apparel**), in addition to ear protection, masks, hats and gloves (if needed). Internal visit apparel can be delivered with an informational tag, as shown in the example in **Annex 3**.

Personal belongings that are allowed into the unit must undergo the appropriate disinfection process. At the end of the visit, visitors should **return to wearing their transit apparel for the return trip to the hotel**. When the visitor has been in Brazil for more than 10 days, the use of transit apparel will no longer be necessary.

At times when technicians from other countries need to install or maintain meatpacking plant equipment, they must comply with the provisions in the items above and all equipment and machinery used by these technicians must be clean and disinfected. Special attention should be paid to uniforms and safety footwear used by these technicians.

The procedures described above must be adopted by the poultry and pig farms to which visits are absolutely necessary, which should be **added to according to the category to be visited and the visitor's origin**.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO TRANSIT OF PEOPLE

It is recommended that any individual accessing poultry and pork agro-industrial facilities observe the biosafety procedures established by the company, as well as ABPA guidelines for transit of people external to production systems.

Visits to any production structure (farms) with live pigs and poultry should be avoided, **and any direct contact with animals by any visitor is strictly prohibited.** Other areas that have a direct relationship with the animals, such as feed factories, should be avoided as much as possible and may only occur when strictly necessary and justified.

Visits to distribution centers and meatpacking plants may be allowed, but for this and all of the situations mentioned above, it is recommended that the "quarantine" procedures described in Table 1 be followed.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Visitor Control Form

Nome / Name	Data / Date / /
Endereço Residencial / Private Address	
Nome da Empresa / Name of the Company	
Endereço Comercial / Business Address	
Telefone / Telephone:	e-mail:
Motivo da Visita / Reason for the visit	
Última granja, abatedouro, laboratório que trabalha com agentes infecciosos Visitado, Local e	
Quando e onde foi o último contato com aves /suínos vivos?	
Próxima granja a Ser Visitada, Local e Data	


VISITANTE APROVADO (A) / VISITANT OK? () Sim/Yes () Não/No		
Visitante / Visitant	Responsável pelo visitante / Responsible for the visitor	Responsável acompanhante da visita / Accompanying person responsible for the visit
Assinatura / Signature	Assinatura / Signature	Assinatura e carimbo/ Signature and stamp

Last farm, slaughterhouse, laboratory that works with infectious agents Visited, Location and Date

When and where was your last contact with live poultry / pigs?

Next farm to be Visited, Location and Date

Annex 2 - Template for Tag to be delivered along with Transit Apparel

TRANSIT CLOTHES
Name:
Date:
<p>All foreign visitors who have been in Brazil for less than 10 days, must take a shower at the hotel and wear these transit clothes before visiting the plants.</p> <p>These clothes must be returned after the visit.</p> <p>Thank you for helping us to preserve our biosecurity!</p> 

Annex 3 – Template of Instructional Card for Use of Transit Apparel

NOTICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ <u>Prior to entering the plant please remove: watches, rings, necklace, earrings or the like;</u>✓ <u>Full protective suit must be worn inside the plant (including scrub sets jacket and pants, head covers, boots), which will be washed daily;</u>✓ <u>If you are wearing beard or moustache, you must wear the mouth and nose cover mask provided by the company;</u>✓ <u>If you are wearing nail polish or long nails, you must wear the gloves provided by the company.</u> <p>Name:</p> <p>Date:</p> 