

BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES FOR VISITS TO POULTRY AND SWINE ESTABLISHMENTS

2024 Version

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the growing number of cases of Avian Influenza (AI) and African Swine Fever (ASF) around the world – diseases that require mandatory and immediate notification to the WOH (World Organization for Animal Health) and generate major economic and social impacts, and which Brazil is free of –, the Brazilian Animal Protein Association (ABPA) advises that biosecurity measures should be applied to all links in the production chain.

To this end, in order to provide technical support and standardize internal biosecurity procedures (which should be developed by all companies and followed as a routine for the establishment), the ABPA also reinforces biosecurity **procedures for visits to poultry and swine production units** through this instructional manual, available in Portuguese, English, and Spanish.

This document contains guidelines and instructions that we strongly recommend be shared widely for various purposes, such as in processes related to onsite visits and audits, as well as for service providers and other professionals who carry out periodic visits, etc. It contains information relating to general biosecurity recommendations, the movement of people, procedures to be carried out prior to visits and audits, and a template for a visitor control sheet, plus an instructional card for the use of transit clothes.

2. GENERAL BIOSECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Biosecurity consists of various measures aimed at preventing the entry and spread of diseases among flocks and herds, and is an essential tool to ensure animal health, the well-being of workers, and public health. Among these measures, one of the main ones is the **strict control of the flow of people visiting production processes at poultry and swine establishments**.

Therefore, the ABPA **recommends a total ban** on visits to any production unit that requires biosecurity care by persons extraneous to the production process, from any country (including Brazil), even when the quarantine periods recommended in our biosecurity protocol have been fulfilled.

When strictly necessary, visits must be limited to administrative areas and those surrounding the production units. To verify internal areas, companies may provide photos, videos and/or real-time transmissions, made by internal teams from the production sector.

The procedures described herein must be adopted and may be supplemented according to the category to be visited. In this regard, it is important that certain general biosecurity recommendations be respected, namely:

- 1) Authorization of visits:** Only authorize visits according to the procedures recommended in this manual.
- 2) Clothing and equipment:** Before accessing any production unit, every visitor must bathe in their hotel room, and then wear transit clothes and shoes provided by the unit to be audited/visited.

This is a procedure intended especially for visitors/auditors who have been **in Brazil for less than 10 days**. The objective is to prevent items with a potential risk of contamination, such as personal clothing and footwear, from entering the production units to be visited.

The unit that will receive the visitors is responsible for providing transit clothes (**Figure 1**), according to the sizes informed on the biosecurity forms previously sent to these teams. Such clothes must be sent to the hotel where the visitors will be staying, properly packed in individual plastic bags, and identified with the names of the respective visitors.




Figure 1. Set of clothes and footwear - must be provided according to the visitor's size informed prior to the visit.

The labels on the packages of clothes and footwear must individually contain information as shown in the example below.

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. These clothes must be returned after the visit.</p> <p>Thank you for helping us to preserve our biosecurity!</p>

It is recommended that a leaflet be delivered together with the transit clothes, with **specific instructions** for visitors, before they go to the production units:

NOTICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ <u>Prior to entering the plant, please remove: watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, or the like;</u>✓ <u>The protective clothing provided must be used within the production unit;</u>✓ <u>If you have a 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 artificial nails, you must wear the gloves provided by the company.</u> <p>Name:</p> <p>Date:</p> 

IMPORTANT REMARKS

- Although the use of transit clothes aims to prevent people from other countries from entering the facilities with belongings that could be sources of contamination, we recommend that those accompanying the audit, e.g., interpreters, federal agricultural inspectors (AFFAs) and other people who are staying and traveling with the audit team also wear transit clothes, in order to avoid special treatment and questioning or discomfort to the foreign visitors. Additionally, the need for the use of transit clothes by other people who visit establishments on other occasions should be assessed, considering their history of transit between risk areas.

For visits to farms or other high biosecurity facilities: Only local routine personnel must access the interior of facilities with live animals to capture images, which will be transmitted in real time or recorded for presentation to auditors, who shall remain in the farm office.

- It is recommended that visitors, even if limited to administrative areas and surrounding areas, be provided with disposable plastic boots to be worn over the transit shoes and subsequently discarded. If it is of interest to the company, complete clothing for field visits (**Figure 2**) may be offered.

For visits to slaughterhouses: Upon arriving at the production unit, visitors will receive a new change of clothes and shoes (clothes for internal visits), as well as ear protectors, masks and gloves, if necessary.



Figure 2: Non-woven clothing and disposable plastic boots commonly used on field visits.

At the end of the visit, it is recommended that visitors **return to the hotel to change out of their transit clothes**. To do so, visitors should arrange for a **late checkout** at the same hotel, or arrange for another suitable place to change clothes. Transit clothes must be sent to a specialized laundry service for cleaning, and new clothes and shoes will be provided by the unit's team for a visit on the next day, if any.

It is recommended that **no accessories and/or adornments be used**. However, when necessary, they should preferably be transported in first-time-use, disposable and harmless bags, provided by the company. **Likewise, the use of any objects and equipment that have not been provided by the company, or previously disinfected, must be avoided.**

Other types of establishment - According to the specific procedures of each company, at certain establishments, the visitor may be asked to bathe again. Persons whose entry into the unit is permitted must undergo an appropriate disinfection process.

Other types of visitors - On occasions when technicians are needed to install or maintain equipment at establishments, such persons must comply with the provisions of the items above, and all equipment and machinery used by these technicians must be cleaned and disinfected. Special attention should be given to uniforms and safety shoes that are used by such persons.

3) Vehicles: Prohibit the entry of vehicles that do not pertain to the process. When strictly necessary, vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected before entering the establishment and after leaving it. Vehicles transporting visitors must have their interior disinfected after the end of the visit.

4) Records: Keep records of all visits made to the property, using the template in Annex 1 or a standard template already adopted by the company.

5) Contact with animals: direct contact with animals in any situation must be **prohibited**.

3. QUARANTINE

Permission for visits to farms, hatcheries, feed factories, slaughterhouses, laboratories, or other high biosecurity units may be granted in exceptional cases, and shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis and **only after appropriate proof of the need** for such visits. To this end, it is recommended that it be approved by the company's senior management and be carried out only by adopting the quarantine procedure set out below.

Quarantine procedures consist of one of the disease control and prevention processes, through prior clinical observation of the visitor and absence of contact with live animals, as well as also with other production systems of the same species or different species, for a certain period of time.

The quarantine must be applied to any person, whether or not residing in Brazil. It is recommended that the same rule apply to company employees, third-party contractors and outsourced workers, 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 the facilities.

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

BRAZILIAN OR FOREIGN VISITORS	QUARANTINE PERIOD TO BE FOLLOWED IN BRAZIL
People who declare that they have had no contact with live animals (swine or poultry) in the 15 days prior to the visit	72 hours without any contact with live animals (swine or poultry) or establishments containing such animals prior to the visit
People who declare that they have had contact with live animals (swine or poultry) in the 15 days prior to the visit	7 days without any contact with animals (swine or poultry) or establishments that contain such animals prior to the visit

Annex 1 - Visitor Control Sheet

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 Last farm, slaughterhouse or laboratory that works with infectious agents Visited, Place, and Date	
Quando e onde foi o último contato com aves /suínos vivos? When and where was the last contact with live poultry/swine?	
Próxima granja a Ser Visitada, Local e Data Next farm to be visited, Place, and Date	

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