



## Bedding

(See the Purchasing section of the Producer Manual.)

Bedding, such as straw, sawdust and wood shavings, may contain biological and chemical hazards, if not handled and stored properly.

**9a) If straw is used as bedding in your operation, does it come from a supplier known to guard against heavy contamination from the feces of other animals?**

N/A  Yes  No

The issue related to this question is the spread of *Salmonella* and other organisms responsible for foodborne illnesses, which may be found in the feces of both domestic and wild animals. It has been included to draw attention to your current purchasing practices and to encourage you to consider improvements that might be made to the process.

**9b) If wood shavings are used in your operation, have you checked with your supplier to ensure that they do not contain the wood preservative PCP and/or other hazardous chemicals such as chromated copper arsenate?**

N/A  Yes  No

Question #9b must be answered "Yes" to meet this program requirement. PCP (pentachlorophenol) is a fungicide used to preserve wood, which can create residues in meat. Producers should be aware of this problem and must purchase shavings that do not contain PCP. Please note that PCP is also a marker for other dangerous organ chlorides, and is monitored in pork as part of the federal monitoring program.

As a producer, you should consult with any suppliers of wood product bedding about the possible presence of PCP or other wood preservatives. You should also make a note of the date you contacted your supplier and the name of the person with whom you spoke. Ask if they would provide a letter stating that their product is free of wood preservatives, to retain for your records.

**9c) Is bedding changed between each production batch?**

N/A  Yes  No

Bedding can harbour bacteria and other microorganisms. These cause concerns about the transmission of foodborne pathogens and can pose other herd health concerns. If you are using bedding, consider removing wet and soiled bedding regularly if you have a continuous flow barn, and complete removal of bedding between batches if you operate an all-in-all-out production environment. CQA® program requirements related to bedding are described in question #25.