

Section 8.7

Fomites

(Pharmaceuticals and Medical
Equipment; Tools and Other
Farm Supplies)

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FOMITES (PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT; TOOLS AND OTHER FARM SUPPLIES)

Definition of fomites: objects or material that could carry pathogens

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The following measures should be implemented before introducing fomites to the barn:
 - a. Cleaning of incoming fomites prior to entry into the restricted access zone (RAZ)
 - i. The Sanitation SOP (SOP2.2.1) should be used
 - b. Regular cleaning and disinfection of fomites already in the restricted access zone (RAZ).

If service providers are used for on-farm services, appropriate equipment should be provided to them, or all equipment being brought into the RAZ should be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering the restricted access zone (RAZ).

3. Moving and/or exchanging object and equipment (e.g., pharmaceuticals packaging, medical equipment, other farm inputs, tools) between two barns/sites (RAZ) should be avoided or cleaned prior to introduction.
4. Equipment for storage, mixing and distribution of feed should be regularly cleaned.

RATIONALE

- a. One gram of contaminated feces can be enough to infect thousands of pigs with diseases like porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) and swine dysentery.
- b. Tools can introduce pathogens into your barn that may be of concern from a food-safety perspective. They may also transfer other disease-causing organisms that could have a negative impact on your herd.
- c. Pathogens can be spread to the herd by carriers entering the farm through clothes, boots, tools and farm equipment.
- d. Medical supplies (antibiotics, vaccines, etc.) and medical equipment (syringes, needles, etc.) are of particular concern, since they are often introduced to the farm on a regular and routine basis. Failure to properly disinfect, store or use incoming pharmaceutical products or medical equipment can lead to potential contamination of products and further transmit disease to the herd.
- e. Equipment used for the storage, mixing and distribution of feed ingredients that is properly cleaned and maintained minimizes the risk of cross-contamination with pathogenic micro-organisms, molds and fungi.

GUIDANCE

Fomites include but are not limited to the following:

- a. pharmaceuticals packaging (e.g., antimicrobials bottle, antibiotics bottle, vaccines bottle, vitamins bottle)
- b. medical equipment (e.g., syringes, needles and equipment used for castration, tail docking and teeth clipping)
- c. other farm inputs (e.g., cellphone, footwear, clothing, lunch kit, identification devices, disinfectants, detergents, tattoo inks, tattoo hammers, bedding, baits, enrichment devices and artificial insemination equipment.
- d. tools (e.g., shovels, scrapers, hammers, hoses, pails, buckets).

It is recommended that the preventive measures below be followed:

- a. Only use dedicated materials and equipment for the barn restricted access zone (RAZ).
- b. For farms without a fumigation room, implement a sanitation protocol (cleaning/washing, disinfection and drying) for everything introduced into the building. If a fumigation room is available, make sure that all materials and surfaces are exposed to the disinfectant. Having an adequate quarantine period for incoming equipment (kept in a warm, dry area), can also be an effective method for alternative sanitation.
- c. Establish a sequence for introducing equipment or material into the RAZ based on the health status of the herd at different sites.
- d. Do not introduce open bottles of medication to a site from another building or another farm. For the same reason, never use needles that have been used in another room/area of the barn or used at another site.
- e. Medical supplies and pharmaceuticals should be purchased from a recognized manufacturer or an authorized retailer.
- f. New supplies should be inspected to ensure they are received in their original, intact and sealed packaging.
- g. When transporting pharmaceuticals, protect them from extreme temperatures and follow the label directions.
- h. Limit sharing equipment between farms, because it is difficult to adequately clean.
- i. Barn clothing should always remain within the barn. Used clothing should be laundered within the barn and not moved to other barns or places to be laundered. Barns should be equipped with laundry equipment to handle barn clothing. Laundry machines should be set to a high temperature to help kill pathogens on the clothing; "Eco" modes on dryers often do not reach temperatures high enough to kill some pathogens, such as porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED).
- j. Incoming equipment should be cleaned and disinfected when coming from another agricultural operation.
- k. The vehicles of farm personnel and visitors that travel from farm to farm should stay outside the controlled access zone. Use signs, perimeter fences and barriers to redirect them.
- l. Store chemical according to provincial regulations, if applicable.
- m. Proper cleaning and disinfection of equipment, boots, clothes and tools which were in contact with manure.

? BIOSECURITY QUESTIONS

Q#	Importance	Biosecurity Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Q8.7.1	Highly recommended	Are the following measures implemented before introducing fomites to the barn:				
		a. Cleaning of incoming fomites prior to entry into the restricted access zone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Regular cleaning and disinfection of fomites already in the restricted access zone.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Q8.7.2		If service providers are used for on-farm services, do you provide them with your own equipment or verify that all equipment brought on-farm is cleaned and disinfected prior to entry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Q8.7.3		Do you avoid moving or exchanging objects or equipment between two barns or sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Q8.7.4	Do you regularly clean the equipment used for the storage, mixing and distribution of feed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

N/A = not applicable; SOP = standard operating procedure