

Biosecurity



proAction Biosecurity Fact Sheet

As part of the proAction process, validators visit dairy farms. In order to reduce the risk of carrying infectious disease onto a farm, validators are required to adopt biosecurity practices. Biosecurity guidelines are included in the Validator Training Manual.

The accompanying document, “Illustrated Biosecurity Guide for Routine Entry and Exit from Livestock Premises”, is published by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It is a useful source for details of biosecurity practices. Validators should become familiar with the procedures outlined in the document.

Some parts of the manual relate to the handling of cattle and the collection of samples that are not directly applicable to the work performed by proAction validators (for example, pictures 7-9, 16, 17, and 20). Validators should focus on the following points:

- Pictures 1-5 illustrate the concept of “clean” and “dirty” areas in the validator’s vehicle. It is important to identify “clean” and “dirty” areas and to prevent cross contamination between these areas.
- Picture 10 illustrates that the disinfectant used must be efficacious and must be properly prepared. The disinfectant should be a sanitizing detergent with demonstrated efficacy against bacteria, viruses and fungi commonly found on dairy farms, and it must have a contact time practical for farm use situations. Virkon is an example of an acceptable disinfectant.
- Pictures 12 and 36 illustrate the principle that the validator’s vehicle must be driven and parked in a manner to reduce the risk of contamination of the vehicle and its tires.
- Pictures 15, 18, 19 illustrate the importance of properly preparing disinfectant solutions and sanitizing boots *before* starting the validation visit.
- Picture 22 illustrates the importance of personal hygiene. Even though validators will not be required to handle cattle, it is important to wash hands and arms as part of the cleaning process following a validation visit.
- Pictures 21, 24, 29 and 30 illustrate the recommended process for cleaning boots *after* the visit. Remove as much organic matter as possible before disinfecting your boots.
- Pictures 30-32 illustrate the importance of respecting the “dirty” and “clean” areas of your vehicle at the end of the visit.
- Pictures 33-34 illustrate the importance that all outerwear, including **hats** and winter wear, must be clean at the start of each validation visit and/or worn under coveralls.
- Pictures 37-44 illustrate that the vehicle used for visits under the proAction program should be cleaned and washed as needed based on its degree of contamination.