

Managing Zoonoses Risks in Abattoirs

Zoonoses are disease of animals that can cause serious illness or death in people. Abattoirs are only one type of workplace potentially exposed to zoonoses. Leptospirosis and Q Fever are the most common zoonoses in WA. Brucellosis and anthrax are uncommon.

Zoonoses Safety Checklist			
Check	Yes	No	NA
People who may be exposed are provided with information and training* in relation to zoonotic diseases			
People who may be exposed to Q fever are tested (blood and skin test) for immunity and vaccinated if not immune			
Records of vaccination are available			
Good drainage is provided for biological fluids			
Disposal of effluent and contaminated litter is hygienic			
Benches and floors are cleaned regularly with detergent or disinfectant and a cleaning register kept			
Abrasions or cuts are disinfected and covered with waterproof dressing			
There are enough handwashing facilities for the number of staff, each with adequate washing and drying supplies			
High standards of personal hygiene are maintained for all people who may be exposed			
Laundry services are supplied for biologically contaminated clothing			
Ventilation systems are designed so that air intake is not contaminated by the air outlet			
Controls are in place to minimise worker exposure to biological mists or spray			
Local exhaust ventilation used in areas known to have airborne dust/mist			
Personal protective equipment is provided and used to reduce residual risks			
Procedures are in place to notify the WorkSafe Commissioner if a worker contracts Q fever, anthrax, leptospirosis or brucellosis			
Workers have been supplied with a card to alert their doctor to the risk of zoonoses if the worker presents with flu-like symptoms			
Systems are in place to manage zoonoses risks in contractors, labour hire workers and visitors as well as direct employees			

* There are WorkSafe information sheets available on Zoonoses in general and on Anthrax.

There is also a Department of Health Fact Sheet on Q Fever.

