## ACMINF3X04 Comply with infection prevention and control policies and procedures in animal care work

#### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to comply with biosecurity and infection prevention and control (IPC) principles and procedures in animal care workplaces and relevant field locations, where animal care workplaces may include veterinary practices, catteries/kennels/shelters, pet grooming and equine services.

This unit applies to animal care workers who have a duty of care to maintain biosecurity and infection prevention and control standards. They work under broad direction, take responsibility for their own work, solve routine problems and use discretion and judgement in the use of available resources.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication*.*

#### Pre-requisite unit

Nil

#### Unit sector

Infection control (INF)

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| **Elements** *Elements describe the essential outcomes.* | **Performance criteria**  *Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.* |
| 1. Follow biosecurity and IPC guidelines | 1.1 Apply standard precautions for biosecurity and IPC in all aspects of work  1.2 Apply additional, including transmission-based, precautions when standard precautions alone may not be sufficient to prevent transmission of infection  1.3 Follow workplace reporting and documentation requirements related to IPC procedures |
| 2. Recognise signs of abnormal health and disease in animals | 2.1 Identify signs of ill health or abnormal condition in animals that may indicate disease  2.2 Recognise signs of potential infectious diseases in animals  2.3 Maintain knowledge of main zoonoses and emerging contagious diseases relevant to animal care sector  2.4 Report signs of animal ill health, including potential infectious and/or zoonotic disease, to supervisor and/or seek veterinarian advice according to workplace procedures  2.5 Complete workplace records and follow procedures for reporting a notifiable disease to relevant personnel |
| 3. Identify and respond to infection risks | 3.1 Identify infection risks and report according to workplace procedures  3.2 Implement specific risk response according to workplace procedures  3.3 Follow workplace protocols for care following cuts, injury or exposure to bodily fluids and excrement  3.4 Remove biological spills following workplace procedures  3.5 Report IPC accidents/incidents and action risk control procedures |
| 4. Maintain personal protection | 4.1 Maintain personal vaccinations/immunisations according to workplace requirements  4.2 Maintain hand hygiene before and after animal contact and any activity likely to cause cross-contamination  4.3 Select, fit and use personal protective equipment and contamination prevention clothing according to workplace requirements |
| 5. Prevent spread of potential pathogens | 5.1 Demarcate and maintain clean and contaminated zones in all aspects of animal care work  5.2 Follow demarcation procedures involving the movement of animals within or between facilities  5.3 Isolate animals identified or suspected of presenting with a contagious or zoonotic disease and seek veterinary advice  5.4 Clean, disinfect and/or sterilise work surfaces, materials, equipment and instruments  5.5 Handle and process soiled laundry and protective clothing according to workplace procedures  5.6 Identify hazards to animal and human health from food sources and implement methods used to manage potential risks  5.7 Follow workplace rodent and vector control procedures  5.8 Handle and dispose of biological and general waste according to environmental and workplace requirements  5.9 Provide animal care facility clients/customers with information regarding biosecurity and IPC, including risks of zoonoses |
| 6. Contribute to incursion readiness processes | 6.1 Maintain infectious disease control kit for responding to infectious disease outbreaks and suspected outbreaks  6.2 Make contributions to the review and revision of the workplace biosecurity and IPC plan  6.3 Update and maintain biosecurity and IPC documentation according to workplace policies and procedures |

#### Foundation skills

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| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
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**Assessment Requirements**

**Performance evidence**

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has:

reviewed workplace biosecurity and infection prevention and control policy and procedures in an animal care environment to:

identify requirements relevant to an animal carer’s role

contribute at least two suggestions for improvements to organisation’s policies or procedures

recognised signs of at least four different infectious diseases (including at least two zoonotic diseases) in two different animal species

carried out infection prevention and control activities on at least three separate occasions to prevent the transfer of disease in the following situations:

animal to person

animal to animal.

**Knowledge evidence**

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

key principles of biosecurity and infection prevention and control for animals, including:

personal hygiene, vaccinations/immunisation and personal protective equipment (PPE)

prevention of disease and containment

ways of spreading infections and diseases including people, animals, environment and equipment

cleaning, disinfecting and/or sterilising equipment

appropriate reprocessing of reusable equipment

limiting movement of animals and contact with people

limiting environmental contamination including pests, vermin and vector

reporting incidents and contagious diseases

standard precautions for all animal care and treatment, regardless of an animal’s perceived or confirmed infectious status, including:

personal hygiene practices especially washing and drying hands, including before and after animal contact and respiratory hygiene

personal vaccination/immunisation requirements

safe handling and disposal of sharps and other clinical, related and general waste

surface cleaning and management of bodily fluid spills including blood, urine and excrement

disposal of biological waste

techniques to limit contamination

use of PPE

transmission-based precautions, when standard precautions are not sufficient, tailored to the specific infection agent involved and its mode of transmission, including:

additional use of PPE

dedicated equipment, to each animal or as appropriate to work function

isolation

restricted movement of animal, staff and visitors/customers

use of a special facility

aseptic techniques

basic microbiology, including:

bacteria and bacterial spores

fungi

viruses

microbial resistance and use of antibiotics

common viruses that affect animals

common zoonotic diseases and transmission

risks of acquisition

waste disposal methods compliant with environmental protection (waste management) legislation and regulations

immunisation/vaccination requirements for animal care workers where applicable

rodent and vector control procedures

overview of key requirements in relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to health and safety in the workplace, animal welfare, biosecurity procedures and waste disposal

safe animal handling techniques

terminology used to describe and document animal health and behavioural signs

the purpose and use of containment and isolation facilities

features of infectious disease control kit

workplace hygiene standards, disinfectants, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials

cleaning product labels and safety data sheets (SDS)

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a workplace or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Assessment must ensure access to:

a range of animals or suitable taxidermy specimens, veterinary simulators, anatomical models or images/video or a combination of these

equipment and resources typically available in an animal care facility

appropriate PPE and contamination prevention clothing

cleaning equipment and materials

cleaning product user instructions and/or safety data sheets

workplace policies and procedures for IPC and biosecurity

current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice for IPC and biosecurity.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

#### Unit mapping information

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| **Code and title current version** | **Code and title previous version** | **Equivalence status** | **Comments** |
| ACMINF3X04 Comply with infection prevention and control policies and procedures in animal care work | ACMINF301 Comply with infection control policies and procedures in animal care work | Equivalent | Re-templated to 2025 template  Title changed to reflect industry terminology  Change to foundation skills format.  Reword PC1.1 to use standard industry terminology  Remove PC4.3 as it duplicates 4.2  Reword ‘infection control’ throughout unit to ‘infection prevention and control (IPC)’  KE: minor change to wording from ‘standard precautions for the care and treatment of all animals, regardless of their perceived or confirmed infectious status for animal care’ to ‘standard precautions for all animal care and treatment, regardless of an animal’s perceived or confirmed infectious status’  ‘cleaning product labels and safety data sheets (SDS)’ added to KE (previously in FS)  Headings removed from format of Assessment Conditions |

### Overview information

#### Modification History

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| **Release** | **Comments** |
| 1 | This unit of competency was first released in ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Release 7.0. |

**Mandatory workplace requirements:**

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.