

Position Statement: Pig transport & service vehicle biosecurity is essential to prevent the spread of disease agents between pig units.

Rationale: The introduction of PRRS virus and other infectious agents into herds occurs through several routes including infected pigs, semen, and non-porcine vectors such as people, aerosols, transport, feed, equipment, and insects. PRRSv is a stable virus, particularly in cold weather and research has shown that PRRSv-naïve pigs can be infected with PRRS virus through contact with the contaminated interior of pig transport vehicles. This makes inadequately cleaned pig transport vehicles a significant risk for transmission of PRRSv and other infectious agents.

Inappropriate vehicle design and economic considerations are the biggest obstacles to improving pig transport and service vehicle biosecurity. The cost and effectiveness of transport biosecurity protocols must be evaluated, but the failure to implement adequate biosecurity protocols can be catastrophic to the health and profitability of individual pig enterprises and possibly entire pig industries. Consequently, pig transport and service vehicle biosecurity must be an important part of disease control.

Vehicles with frequent farm contact such as transport and service vehicles should be separated into clean and dirty areas. Avoiding cross-contamination between clean and dirty areas can effectively reduce risks of disease transmission through these routes. Attention should be given to vehicle washing and dry times, vehicle supplies, laboratory samples, farm files and clothing and boots worn into farms.

Additional information on biosecurity can be found at www.swinehealthontario.ca/Biosecurity.

References

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Dee SA, Deen J and Pijoan C. Evaluation of disinfectants for the sanitation of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus-contaminated transport vehicles at cold temperatures. *Can J Vet Res* 2005; 69:64-70.

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