



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: SLAUGHTER OF BRUCELLOSIS POSITIVE OR CATTLE OF UNKNOWN BRUCELLOSIS STATUS**

#### **CONTENTS**

1. ACRONYMS
2. DEFINITIONS
3. INTRODUCTION
4. PURPOSE
5. SCOPE OF APPLICATION
6. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK
7. ABATTOIR PROCEDURE TO SLAUGHTER BRUCELLOSIS POSITIVE OR CATTLE OF UNKNOWN BRUCELLOSIS STATUS
8. REFERENCES

.....  
**Dr Mphane Molefe**

**National Executive Officer: Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)**

**Date: 11 May 2023**.....

## 1. ACRONYMS

<b>PEO</b>	Provincial Executive Officer
<b>PPC/PPE</b>	Personal Protective Clothing/ Personal Protective Equipment
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>HRWS</b>	High Risk Work Station

## 2. DEFINITIONS

<b>Act</b>	means the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)
<b>Abattoir</b>	means a slaughter facility in respect of which a registration certificate has been issued in terms of section 8(1) of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 and in respect of which a grading has been determined in terms of section 8(2)
<b>Clean herd</b>	means a cattle herd which has tested negative for brucellosis and has been declared brucellosis free in terms of the brucellosis scheme
<b>Owner</b>	means the person in whom the ownership in respect of an animal is vested, including the person having the management, custody or control of such animal
<b>Personal Protective Clothing / Personal Protective Equipment</b>	means protective equipment that protects personnel from contamination, infection and contact with risk products. These include safety hats, overalls, rubber/plastic aprons, gloves, long sleeve arm covers, gumboots and eye protector (goggles/face shields).
<b>Risk</b>	means the likelihood of a hazard to cause an adverse effect
<b>Registered inspector</b>	means a person contemplated in section 11(1) (d) of the Act who is registered by the Provincial Executive officer to do meat inspection in a particular abattoir
<b>Slaughterer</b>	means a worker in an abattoir who performs the slaughtering of an animal
<b>Unknown herd status</b>	means a cattle herd whose brucellosis infection status is unknown because no samples therefrom have been tested

#### **4. PURPOSE**

The SOP serves to:

- 4.1. outline procedures to reduce the risk of Brucellosis to abattoir personnel;
- 4.2. recommend the appropriate Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) / Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn by abattoir personnel in line with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993) and ISO 45001; and
- 4.3. provide for handling and disposal of infectious material in line with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)

#### **5. SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

The SOP is applicable to all abattoirs in the country.

#### **6. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

- Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)
- Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993)(OHSA)
- National Health Act, 2003 (Act No. 61 of 2003)
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)

#### **7. ABATTOIR PROCEDURE TO SLAUGHTER BRUCELLOSIS POSITIVE OR CATTLE OF UNKNOWN BRUCELLOSIS STATUS**

- 7.1. Cattle brought to the abattoir for slaughter must be accompanied by the declaration of health and origin completed and signed by the owner. No abattoir must allow animals without a declaration of health and origin to be offloaded onto the abattoir premises. A declaration of health and origin must contain the latest and correct health information known and expected to be known by the owner of the animals.
- 7.2. Cattle brought to the abattoir from a brucellosis clean herd must be accompanied by a brucellosis declaration of health (BR3 declaration) from the state vet office of the area.
- 7.3. Positive brucellosis cattle brought to the abattoir must be accompanied by a Red Cross Permit and such animals must be "C" Branded on the right side of the neck. In an event where animals are immediately taken to an abattoir prior to the branding, an addendum letter to the Red Cross Permit from the local SV office confirming that the correct animals were loaded must accompany the cattle.

- 7.4. Cattle of unknown brucellosis status that are under 18 months of age (no permanent incisors have started erupting) are exempted from this SOP
- 7.5. Abattoir personnel working at high risk areas, and those handling brucellosis positive cattle and those of unknown brucellosis status must be issued with appropriate PPC/PPE and the after-birth must be handled as infectious waste.
- 7.6. Slaughtering of cattle with positive or unknown brucellosis status should take place at the end of the slaughter shift, after slaughter of cattle from clean herds has been completed.
- 7.7. The management of the abattoir must ensure that PPC/PPE is readily available and in good condition. This includes safety hats, overalls, rubber/plastic aprons, gloves, long sleeve arm covers, boots and eye protector (goggles/face shields).
- 7.8. During pre-operation slaughter checks the registered inspector must ensure that proper PPC/PPE are worn by all slaughterers at high risk workstation.
- 7.9. The table below indicates the high risk workstations.

**TABLE 1: HIGH RISK WORKSTATIONS**

<b>High Risk WorkStation (HRWS)</b>	<b>Risk Products</b>	<b>PPE/ PPC Proposed</b>
HRWS 1: Removal of feet	Feet	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield)
HRWS 2: First opening lines	Udder, Testicles, Penis	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield)
HRWS 3: Evisceration	Peritoneal cavity contents	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield), long sleeve arm covers
HRWS 4: Uterus removal	Uterus	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield)
HRWS 5: Carcass Inspection	Superficial Inguinal lymph nodes. Supra-mammary lymph nodes. Internal/External Iliac lymph nodes.	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield)
HRWS 6: Offal inspection	Peritoneal cavity contents	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield)
HRWS 7: Condemns area	Condemned material	Gloves, eye protector (goggles/face shield)

- 7.10. The management of the abattoir must ensure that training is provided to all slaughterers on safe and hygienic working practices and such training should be on-going, especially for new staff.
- 7.11. The abattoir as an employer is obligated to comply with the prescripts of OHSA in as far as health and safety of employees is concerned.
- 7.12. The registered inspector must ensure that during slaughter the major lymph nodes, uterus and udder are removed unopened and condemned accordingly.
- 7.13. It is the responsibility of the slaughterer to notify the supervisor of any damage to the PPC/PPE or any exposure to potentially infectious material.
- 7.14. Any personnel with superficial injuries such as cuts or scratches should have the injury covered with a bandage or self-adhesive dressing.
- 7.15. Eye protection is particularly important as conjunctival contamination carries a high risk of infection. Should any infectious material enter the eye, it should be removed under clean or aseptic conditions away from the working area. The eye should be thoroughly rinsed with running water.
- 7.16. After slaughter all equipment's and re-usable PPC/PPE must be sufficiently cleaned and disinfected with an effective cleaning chemical to ensure that no viable Brucella organisms survive.
- 7.17. Disposable PPC/PPE and condemned material must be disposed-off in terms of the abattoir waste management procedure in line with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)
- 7.18. The registered inspector must monitor and ensure operational compliance to the SOP and report any non-compliances to the PEO of the respective province.
- 7.19. The PEO must monitor compliance to the SOP during routine abattoir inspections and HAS audits.
- 7.20. The hygiene management system (HMS) of the abattoir must identify brucellosis as a hazard and must also provide procedures to mitigate against it.

## **7. REFERENCES**

- WHO, FAO, OIE 2006, Brucellosis in humans and animals 2006. [ Online] Available from <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/Publications/Brucellosis.pdf>.
- OIE 2018 Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* Article 8.4.1, Chapter 8.4, Volume 2, Terrestrial Animal Code, Updated 2018, Accessed at [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_bovine\\_brucellosis.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_bovine_brucellosis.htm)
- OIE 2011, General disease information sheet 2011. [ Online] Available from <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D13938.PDF>.
- OIE 2016 Brucellosis: infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*. Terrestrial Animal Manual Chapter 3 Article 3.1.4 Version adopted in May 2016) Accessed at: [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahm/3.01.04\\_BRUCELOSIS.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/3.01.04_BRUCELOSIS.pdf)
- Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries 2016. Bovine Brucellosis Manual. Pretoria. Government Printers.
- National Waste Amendment Act 26 of 2014. Definition of Hazardous Waste: Section A.1. (a) 40 Hazardous waste from Agriculture. Available at <https://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Waste-Amendment-Act-2014.pdf>
- ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety management systems -- Requirements with guidance for use. Accessed at <https://www.iso.org/standard/63787.html>
- Agricultural research services. US Department of Agriculture, 2020. Infectious Bacterial Diseases Research: Ames,IA. [Online] available from: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/research/publications/publication/?seqNo115=116580>