



RAISED BY A CANADIAN FARMER ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

PHYSICAL BARRIER ADDENDUM

Note: This addendum replaces the text and requirements in Chapter 2, Section 2.2 in the 2021 On-Farm Food Safety Program manual (page 2.3) that discusses the type of barrier at the separation between the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) and the Restricted Area (RA). Specifically, this removes the allowance that the barrier between these two zones can be a “clearly identified line.”

2.2 SETTING UP THE RESTRICTED AREA INSIDE THE BARN

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Inside the barn workroom or entry, farmers are required to implement protocols to prevent contamination between the CAZ and the RA.

A physical barrier (e.g. bench or a step-over) must be used to maintain separation between the CAZ and the RA. This is commonly referred to as a “2-zone Danish entry” system. The physical barrier is to act as a visual reminder for biosecurity practices, to keep CAZ and RA footwear separate, and to prevent organic matter moving from one side to the other.

To be effective the physical barrier must:

- » Be flush to the floor to prevent cross contamination from one side to the other underneath the barrier;
- » Touch the wall on both sides to prevent people from walking around the barrier;
- » Allow enough room on the CAZ side for people to take off their outside gear (footwear, etc.) and enough room on the RA side for people to put on their RA gear (e.g. footwear, coveralls, etc.);
- » Be an appropriate height to 1) be a visual reminder of the need to perform biosecurity protocols, 2) require a step-over from one zone to the next and 3) prevent organic matter moving from one side to the other; and,
- » Not allow outdoor (CAZ) footwear to be worn inside the grow-out area. As such, the location of the physical barrier must not be inside the grow-out area.

Regardless of the physical barrier used, the change of footwear at the barrier between the CAZ and the RA must be done properly so as to prevent cross-contamination (e.g. by footwear, socks or feet) between the CAZ and the RA.

- » RA-specific footwear worn in the grow-out area must fully cover the foot/heel to minimize contamination risks.

The type of barrier and its use is to be described in the farms’ Standard Operating Procedures. Employees are to be given training on how to properly use the barrier.

When designing the barrier, be sure to consider the following points to allow egress in an emergency and to minimize trip and fall risks:

- » Ensure the physical barrier has visual warnings:
 - Barriers should have visual warnings (e.g. high visibility tape or paint) to call attention to the barrier.
 - Ensure there is proper lighting in the entrance room for everyday use.
 - Place signage on the outside of the door warning visitors that a physical barrier is present immediately inside the doorway.



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- » Ensure easy egress in an emergency:
 - The physical barrier should be easily moveable for ease of access in an emergency situation. Alternatively, a swing gate can be built into the physical barrier so as not to impede egress during an emergency.
 - There should be sufficient emergency lighting in the entrance room so that people can navigate the physical barrier safely in case of an emergency.
 - The type and location of the physical barrier should be included on the farm diagram so that farm workers, visitors and/or emergency personnel are aware of the barrier.
 - The barn is to continue meeting fire code requirements by having appropriate unimpeded egress exits on either side of the physical barrier (e.g. within 60m).
- » Limit the possibility of trips and falls:
 - A bench is the ideal option, as it is a better visual reminder to perform biosecurity measures and allows farm workers and visitors a place to sit and properly change their footwear to minimize the risk of cross-contamination.
 - A low barrier can be a tripping hazard. Ideally, the height of the barrier should be a minimum of 12-18" or higher to reduce this hazard.
 - The type of barrier used should be designed to account for accessibility issues and the mobility of farm workers.
- » Every entrance room is different. Consider how to best limit contamination in the CAZ area of the entrance room:
 - Outdoor footwear should be kept as far away as possible from the grow-out area. Ideally, the CAZ "dirty area" of the barn entrance should be as small an area as possible near the CAZ barn entrance door to limit the outside contamination in the entrance room and to allow for ease of cleaning on a regular basis.
 - If using a door threshold as the physical barrier, ensure that there are adequate separation measures in place (e.g. footwear location), that a step-over is required to prevent contamination between the two zones, and that it acts as a barrier to prevent organic matter moving from one side to the other.
 - As an added layer of protection, a specific set of entrance room footwear can be used when transitioning from outside (CAZ) footwear and prior to putting on RA-specific footwear; this will help to keep outside footwear farther away from the grow-out area.
 - The barrier should be built for ease of cleaning and disinfecting.

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When building a new barn or entrance room, the following are required to promote effective biosecurity protocols:

- » Design the entrance room to be large enough to allow enough room on the CAZ side for people to take off their outside gear (footwear, etc.) and enough room on the RA side for people to put on their RA gear (e.g. footwear, coveralls, etc.).
- » Design the entrance room with a bench as the physical barrier.

Prior to building or retrofitting a new entrance room, consider consulting your local building inspector.