

AAALAC POSITION STATEMENTS

Occupational Health & Safety Program

An occupational health and safety program must be part of the overall animal care and use program. The basic elements of a program include hazard identification and risk assessment, personnel training and protection, written procedures and policies regarding hazard use and monitoring, and medical evaluation and preventive medicine.

The extent and level of participation of personnel in the program should be based on the hazards posed by the animals and materials used and the activities performed; on the exposure intensity, duration, and frequency; on the susceptibility of the personnel; and on the history of occupational illness and injury in the workplace. A health history evaluation for individual employees by a medical professional may be advisable before work assignment to assess potential risks. Periodic medical evaluations with appropriate immunizations or titer surveillance may also be advisable for some risk categories.

In accordance with AAALAC's Standards, organizations must assure that all personnel (including external contractors) at risk are appropriately considered under the occupational health and safety program.