

Frequency of Program Review and Facility Inspection

AAALAC International expects the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or Oversight Body (IACUC/OB) to regularly review the animal care and use program and inspect animal facilities. This includes centralized and satellite (not centrally managed or maintained) housing, support areas, and labs where animal procedures are done. Regular reviews and inspections are important for overall monitoring and oversight. The Guide recommends these reviews and inspections happen at least once a year, but other regulations may require increased frequencies. AAALAC International encourages the IACUC/OB to carefully consider how often they should evaluate to ensure quality animal care and science. In some cases, more frequent self-assessments may be wise.

AAALAC International expects these reviews and inspections should be frequent and thorough enough to identify and fix any issues in a timely manner. The IACUC/OB should show evidence of being actively involved in evaluating the program and facilities and ensuring corrective actions are timely. The findings from these reviews and inspections should be promptly communicated to the Institutional Official to support the institution's research, testing, and teaching goals.

The frequency of reviews should match the complexity of the program to ensure effective oversight. AAALAC's site visitors may discuss the frequency based on performance-based outcomes. For example, if many issues are found across several program areas, this may indicate poor oversight by the IACUC/OB. This performance-based approach can also be used to adjust the frequency of reviews for specific areas or facilities based on past concerns.