

<b>BARRIER FACILITY INSPECTION</b>	Animals housed in a barrier facility and/or Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) colony must be maintained in accordance with all Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards. [Policy #9]
<b>Criteria</b>	<p>The inspector must have access to inspect all regulated animals at a research facility's barrier facility to ensure compliance.</p> <p>If it is not possible for the inspector to enter the animal rooms in the barrier facility, due to the possibility of disease exposure and/or contamination of the inspector or the animals, the inspection may be conducted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• video viewing from outside the barrier room (see below)</li> <li>• visual inspection through an adequate viewing window (see below)</li> <li>• selecting random animals to be visually inspected, and</li> <li>• analyzing environmental records</li> </ul> <p><b>Entry into the barrier facility</b></p> <p>The inspector may enter the barrier facility, if he/she determines that entry is necessary to adequately complete the inspection and/or resolve a suspected problem.</p> <p>The inspector must follow the entry procedures normally used by the research facility's personnel. NOTE: The facility must supply a copy of its barrier entry procedures upon request.</p> <p>The research facility must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not require more stringent entry standards for the inspector</li> <li>• provide the protective clothing and supplies needed to complete the inspection, such as pen, paper, flashlight, etc.</li> </ul> <p>The research facility may ask the inspector to verify that he/she has not been in contact with, or exposed to, certain animals for a specified period of time, generally, this is 72 hours. This verification is acceptable.</p> <p><b>The inspector must NOT sign any statement in which he/she accepts responsibility for the health of the animals in the barrier facility.</b></p>

**Alternative Methods  
of Inspection**

**Video Camera Inspection**

If a video camera is to be used for inspecting the barrier facility, the following minimum guidelines should be met by the research facility:

- video camera must be portable enough to get into all parts of all the rooms that will require inspection, such as the animal rooms, food and bedding storage areas, medication storage areas, and cage washing/sanitizing areas
- video camera must have a high enough resolution so that the inspector can clearly see the animals in the cages and see subtle differences, such as being able to distinguish between bedding and feces in or beneath the cages
- there must be a communication system between the person operating the camera and the inspector so that the inspector can direct the person to view different areas or zoom in on an area
- the lighting in the room must be sufficient to allow for good visibility or the facility must have supplemental lighting available
- the monitor must be a color monitor so that color differences can be seen, for example, to distinguish blood from other fluids or see algae/scum growth in water
- if possible, the inspection should be recorded so the inspector and research facility representative can refer back to the tape to review an area if any questions arise after the facility inspection

**Through a Viewing Window**

If the inspection is to be conducted through a viewing window(s), the following minimum guidelines should be met:

- all parts of all the rooms that will require inspection, such as the animal rooms, food and bedding storage areas, medication storage areas, and cage washing/sanitizing areas, must be visible through the window(s)
- there must be a communication system between the person inside the room and the inspector so that the inspector can direct the person, such as to bring cages or animals to the window, or to open cabinets or containers

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**Refusal of Inspection**

- the lighting in the room must be sufficient to allow for good visibility or the facility must have supplemental lighting available

If a research facility representative refuses to allow the inspector to enter the barrier facility when all standard entry requirements have been met, and fails to provide an acceptable alternative method of inspection, this should be documented as a “Refusal of Inspection.”

The inspector must:

- inform the representative that this a violation of the Animal Welfare Act
- leave the facility
- complete an official inspection report
- designate this as a “Routine” inspection on the inspection report
- document the refusal in the inspection report narrative section
- be specific as to date, time, and the name of the person who refused to allow the inspection. An example citation is: SECT 2.38(b)-ACCESS TO PROPERTY AND RECORDS-On (*date*) at (*time*), (*name of person*) refused to allow an inspection of the barrier facility.
- send the research facility a copy of the inspection report by certified, return receipt mail

**NOTE:** If a designated research facility representative cannot be contacted and a non-designated person, such as an employee, refuses to allow the inspection, this should be documented as an “Attempted Inspection.”

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