



For Internal Use Only

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS FOR RESEARCH FACILITIES

Animal Care's Risk Based Inspection System (RBIS)

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In response to concerns from inspectors about workload, to promote the consistency of our inspections for all research facilities, and to allow us to focus our inspection resources on facilities that present greater risks to animal welfare, in February 2019, we issued guidance that made it mandatory (rather than discretionary) for inspectors to perform focused inspection at AAALAC-accredited research facilities unless the research facility requested a full inspection.

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Since implementing this guidance, we have conducted 322 inspections at research facilities. Roughly 151 involved AAALAC-accredited facilities. Of those 151 inspections, initial review indicates 91 were focused inspections, 58 were full routine, and 2 were attempted inspections. We heard that some facilities requested a full inspection because they were concerned about the appearance of a "focused inspection" (since such inspections have historically occurred to follow up on complaints involving animal welfare or direct noncompliance). We also heard that facilities and inspectors appreciate the ability to focus the inspection, and inspectors remain confident with the animal welfare at the facilities.

Consistently performing focused inspections at AAALAC-accredited facilities will also provide inspectors with more time to inspect high-risk facilities and ensure a uniform approach to inspecting facilities in this category. We will continue to monitor this new process to identify any challenges, monitor effectiveness, and assess whether it is meeting the intended purposes.



FAQs

Does this affect other types of focused inspections at research facilities?

- > No. We will still do focused inspections for a complaint response and to follow up on a direct non-compliance.

How do I find the AAALAC Accreditation Status of the facility?

- > The accredited facility list is: at <https://www.aaalac.org/accreditedorgsdirectorysearch/aaalacdistall.cfm>, or ask at the facility

How will industry be notified of the focused inspections?

- > Members of Animal Care's leadership team will share information about the focused inspections with members of key industry and stakeholder groups. Animal Care leaders will also share this update during upcoming research meetings.

How will AC measure the effectiveness of the focused annual research inspections?

- > AC will track:
 - The number of focused and routine annual inspections since the roll out of the guidance
 - The results of inspections subsequent to the focused annual inspection and
 - The reason for conducting a routine annual inspection on a facility that is eligible for a focused inspection. Inspectors must notify their SACS and provide the reason for the routine:

Identified a concern
 Facility request or
 No regulated activity

With this information we will be able to determine whether we are using the tool consistently and AC resources effectively.

What should I tell my facilities if I am asked about the change?

- > You can tell them that we introduced focused inspections for certain research facilities because of their compliance history and record of animal care. This allows USDA to spend the appropriate amount of time at compliant facilities and concentrate our inspection resources on facilities that present greater risks to animal welfare.

Who should I refer customers to if they have questions about focused inspections for research facilities?

- > Please have them contact our office at:
 (970) 494-7478
acwest@aphis.usda.gov

HOW IT HELPS CUSTOMERS AND YOU



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EFFICIENT
 use of personnel resources
 for Animal Care and our
 customers



CONSISTENT
 method for conducting
 focused inspections for
 AAALAC-accredited faci



EFFECTIVE
 right sizes the annual
 inspection