

BioCOSHH Risk Assessment concerning *Coxeilla burnetii*

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The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) is an approach to assess risks and select appropriate safeguards to protect people, animals, plants and other aspects of the environment against risks from work activities with biological agents and hazards. BioCOSHH risk assessments must address the routine and non-routine aspects of the work and there must be emergencies procedures. All workers including staff members must be properly informed, trained and supervised to enable them to safely and competently perform the work..The information identified by risk assessment will provide a guide for the selection of appropriate biosafety levels and microbiological practices, safety equipment, and facility safeguards that can prevent LAIs, also may support the need to include additional facility safeguards in the construction of new or renovation of the old facilities. Q fever is a commonly reported laboratory associated infection and often causes multiple infections in the same laboratory. Many reports originate from animal research facilities, especially facilities involved with research on sheep, which are often asymptomatic carriers of the agent, or facilities which propagate *C. burnetii*. Most likely sources of infection of laboratory workers are exposure to infectious aerosols and parenteral inoculation. *C. burnetii* is found in nearly all specimens obtained from infected humans or animals. The form was designed include a six-steps approach and summarized as follow: Firstly, identify agent hazards and perform an initial assessment of risk., Second: identify laboratory procedure hazards, Third: make a final determination of the appropriate biosafety level and select additional precautions indicated by the risk assessment, Fourth: evaluate the proficiencies of staff regarding safe practices and the integrity of safety equipment, Fifth: Emergency Procedures, Six: review the risk assessment with a biosafety professional, subject matter expert.

Assessments conducted by laboratory director and biosafety professional for the use of emergent agents and understanding of the risks these endeavors may present. Those risk assessments will likely mirror progress in diagnosis and serve as the basis for future revisions.