

QASP – Local Facility Induction

Queensland Animal Science Precinct (QASP) is a unique world-class research facility that accommodates training, teaching, validation and commercialisation of animal research focusing on the research and development requirements of state, national, and international animal industries.

Completion of this induction is compulsory in order to obtain permission to undertake any activity within QASP.

This induction must be completed **every two years**.



QASP General Site Rules & Requirements



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- Do not bring visitors or family into the QASP facility without prior permission from QASP Management.
- Permission must be granted by a QASP supervisor to access any building/area within the QASP site.
- Return any swipe cards or keys immediately upon completion of your work in QASP.
- All visitor vehicles must remain outside the QASP facility. Contractors will be directed to specific sites for parking.
- **The use of earbuds or headphones is not allowed within QASP.** The danger of machinery, livestock interaction and airborne pathogens makes this an extremely hazardous practice,
- It is prohibited to climb and/or sit on fences within and around the QASP facility.
- Snakes may be present at QASP, particularly during the summer months. Precautions should be taken at all times.
- The UQ Gatton Campus is a smoke free campus.

Basic Biosecurity Protocols



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Regardless of whether you are accessing a contained or non-contained area within QASP, basic biosecurity protocols must be adhered to:

- [Wear Clean Clothes and Shoes](#)
- [Use the decontamination foot bath prior to entry](#)
- Please follow all instructions throughout the facility as per signage.
- If you have visited a Foot and Mouth Disease infected country, you must not have direct contact with any cloven-hoofed animals for 7 days.
- Designated boots and overalls must be worn in animal research spaces



Research



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Many projects are conducted at the QASP Facility at any one time. The specific details of each project are confidential and must not be disclosed to others.

All animals on site are under trial conditions and as such it is **prohibited to touch** any animals, as this creates a high risk of disease transference and/or compromise to a project's protocol.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



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Persons not wearing covered shoes and suitable clothing will not be permitted onto the QASP site. Steel capped boots are the recommended footwear within QASP.

The use of sunscreen and a hat for outdoor work is recommended at all times. Work areas are equipped with a range of PPE such as safety glasses, hearing protection, disposable coverings to be used as dictated by the work situation.



PPE stations are located in the following buildings:

- 8360 (Eastern corridor in the main QASP building)
- 8361 (Metabolism shed)
- 8379 (Tool Shed)



Amenities & after-hours access



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There is a tea room and access to toilets and showers located inside building 8360 (QASP main building) that is accessible during working hours 7am – 3pm, Monday - Friday.

Storage or consumption of any food or drinks in or around laboratories or animal units is not permitted. The designated area to consume food and drinks is the lunch room in main building 8360.

Standard QASP working hours are 7am-3pm Monday to Friday. If you require to work in the QASP facilities outside of these hours, you **must agree this with QASP management.**












Directions provided by QASP Staff
must be abided by at all times.

Risk Management & Potential Hazards at QASP

Risk Assessments (RA) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are in place within this facility. It is compulsory to familiarise yourself with existing risk assessments and SOPs before commencing any work. All RA and SOP can be obtained from the main office (building 8360) at QASP.

All incidents and identified hazards, including near misses, must be reported to the QASP Manager. Faulty and/or broken equipment must be brought to the attention of the QASP Manager or a QASP staff member immediately.

The following hazards may be present within the QASP Facility:

Hazards Present in this facility			
	Class 2.1 flammable gases		
	Class 3 flammable liquid		
	Class 6 Toxic and infectious eg. Biohazard, toxins		
	Class 8 Corrosive substances		
	Class 9 Miscellaneous goods		
	Sharps		Animals
	Forklifts		Mechanical equipment

Electrical Safety



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QASP has been wired to conform to the latest electrical safety requirements. This includes Earth Leakage Protection (ELP) systems and Circuit Breakers throughout.

Take extra caution where water and electricity have the potential to come into contact. As daily hosing is often required in conjunction with the electronic provision of heating and cooling to animal areas, precautions must be taken. Please familiarise yourself with UQ's Policy regarding [Electrical Safety 2.20.05](#)

Test and Tag

All leads and power tools in QASP need to be tested and tagged. You must ensure you check the 'test and tag' expiry date before using electrical equipment.



Confined Spaces



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You are not permitted to access any confined spaces in QASP. These areas include: silos, sewer pits, and water tanks. [If you require work to be undertaken in a confined space you must contact the QASP Manager.](#) The QASP Manager can contact P&F as this UQ division has trained personnel that are trained and certified to enter confined spaces.

Only contractors who have been formally approved via P&F to conduct work in confined spaces are allowed to enter these areas. For more information on how to acquire P&F approval please contact P&F.



Always ensure that you are familiar with relevant RAs and SOPs and are prepared with the correct permissions, equipment and PPE before commencing any work.

Emergency Procedures: Emergency Management

In all cases, contact Security on (07) 3365 3333 (internal 53333). The evacuation procedures are displayed on the outer door of all buildings.

QASP is fitted with a comprehensive emergency management system backed up by a loudspeaker system throughout each room. There are manual alarm points throughout QASP which can be triggered in the event of an emergency.

In the event of an emergency, alarms will be activated, and a recorded message will deliver an instruction. Please listen carefully and follow the instructions.

In case of emergency

Phone

UQ Security

336 53333

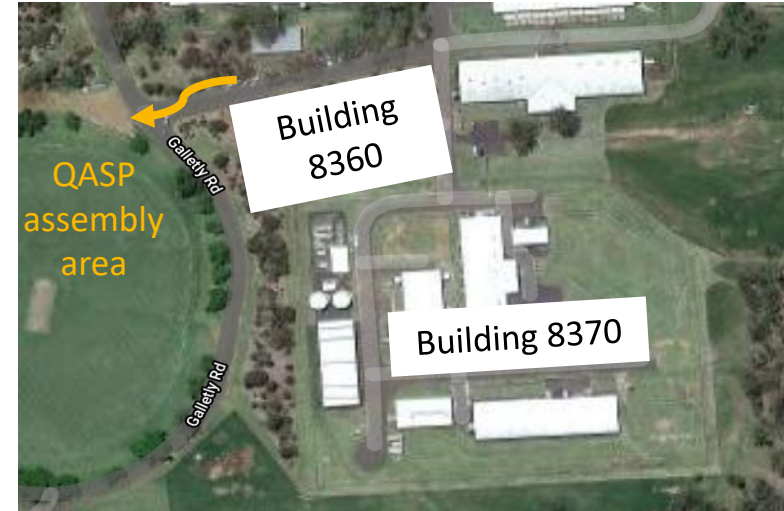
FOR CONFIRMED FIRES PHONE 000

Security will coordinate with Emergency Services

Emergency Procedures: Evacuation

Evacuation procedure is to leave the building calmly and move to the designated Assembly Area adjacent to the Tom Graham Oval.

When researchers are unable to leave the QASP complex from the main 8360 building, the main security gate (outside building 8360) can be triggered by pedestrians from the inside of the QASP facility by pressing the green button on the left side of the fence.



Green exit button

Inside view of the main QASP gates

Emergency Procedures: Fire



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In the event of a fire, the first response will be to secure yourself and others and to contact security. Fire fighting is a specialist activity, and it is UQ's Policy to not attempt to extinguish fires but to ensure your own safety and that of others.

NOTE: Fire Hose reels are linked to the alarm system. Do not use fire hose reels for any purpose other than fighting fires as they will trigger an emergency response.

A photograph of a herd of cows in a green field, with some cows in the foreground and others in the background. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

An emergency contact list is located outside each designated hazardous space. Take note of this and the emergency numbers before commencing any work

Chemical Management



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Permission and approval from the QASP Manager is required before bringing any chemical or animal medicine/drug onto the QASP site. This to ensure:

- The item is recorded in the UQ/QASP Chemical manifest - Chemwatch
- That QASP can provide appropriate storage for this chemical

SDS for all chemicals are accessible via Chemwatch. The owner/user of a chemical is required to ensure a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is available (and when applicable a chemical risk assessment in place) for all chemicals brought onto and/or used at the QASP Facility.

Safety instructions contained in a Chemical Risk Assessment must be followed at all times.

Emergency Procedures: Chemical Spills

Chemical Splashes to the eye - Flood the eye for at least 20 minutes using the emergency eye wash station.

Chemical splashes to the skin - Flood the entire area for at least 20 minutes, including clothing, under the emergency shower provided.

In all cases have someone **contact Security (07) 3365 3333 (internal 53333)** and direct Security to the site.

It is extremely important to mention that you are currently on the Gatton Campus at the Queensland Animal Science Precinct, as the phone call will be directed to St Lucia Campus.

Delegate a bystander to obtain the Safety and Data Sheet (SDS) and provide a copy to the emergency services.

Follow first aid instructions in the SDS




Eyewash stations are located in Building 8360, 8361, 8370

Machinery & Equipment



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- The use of any machinery and/or hand tools without the appropriate training and/or induction is NOT permitted.
- All machinery within QASP is restricted to suitably licensed personnel who have been inducted into the machinery use and assessed on their capability for each machine.
- Possession of a plant operator's license does not authorise anyone to use QASP equipment.
- Forklifts, Tractors, COX TSV, Quad bike and Motorbikes all require competencies/licenses to operate.
- Workers are not allowed to bring in any privately owned equipment and/or electrical items to QASP e.g. power tools, welders etc., unless an agreement is in place with Properties and Facilities (UQ).



Before using any equipment, ensure that you read all relevant SOPs and risk assessments. If using non-UQ owned equipment and/or electrical items, permission must be granted by P&F

Waste Management



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Bins can be found in the area between buildings 8360 & 8361 on Containment Road. If you are unsure about which bin to use for your waste, please consult QASP staff. Please also advise if you use a bin, so that we can organise for its collection and appropriate destruction.

Organic Waste. Plastic Mega Bins.

Sharps. Yellow plastic receptacles marked “Sharps”

Clinical Waste. Yellow Bins. Used only for clinical waste including, gloves, plastic pipettes, used blood collection tubes.

Quarantine/Biosecurity Waste. Green bins with yellow lid. These bins are used only for biosecurity waste

General Waste. Dark Green Bins. These bins are the normal household type wheelie bins which are used for all general waste.



Livestock & Q-Fever



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All people working with and around animals are required to be tested for Q-fever and have a valid Q-fever card before commencing any work with livestock, as there is the potential of Q-fever exposure when working in this environment.

The QASP site can be considered relatively **high in Q-Fever exposure risk**, so anyone without a valid Q-Fever card **MUST notify QASP management** prior to commencement, so that arrangements can be made for additional appropriate PPE to be worn.

All animals on site are under trial conditions and as such it is **prohibited to touch** any animals, as this creates a high risk of disease transference and/or compromise to a project's protocol.

A photograph of a group of cattle, including several brown and white cows, standing in a grassy paddock enclosed by a metal fence. The background shows a building and more fencing.

Please notify QASP management if you do not have a valid Q-Fever vaccination card **PRIOR** to entering the site



QASP Biosecurity Induction for Containment Area

For contractors requiring gate access only.

The Containment area at QASP refers to all yards, area and buildings located behind the second sliding security gate at QASP.

The buildings in this area are those numbered 8370 and higher.

General Safety Rules – Biocontainment Area

1. Do not enter any part of the facility you are not authorised to enter

If entering a PC2 building, including Plant Rooms, always have a QASP staff member accompany you

2. Do not enter any area displaying a biohazard sign

3. Wear appropriate protective clothing and footwear

4. Eating and drinking within the facility is prohibited

This is particularly important as the pathogens could be transmissible via aerosols that could contaminate your food

Biohazards



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- Biological hazards (bio-hazards) are any biological or pathogenic agent, substance, or material (living or non-living) that may potentially pose a threat to the health and safety of the researcher, community, or environment
- Bio-hazardous material can include:
 - Clinical waste
 - Samples of a microorganism or toxin
 - Genetically modified material
 - Quarantine material
- The Biological Hazard Symbol is placed on doors, cultures, waste, and equipment to warn that the contents may contain biological hazardous material



Biohazard Risks at QASP



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Animals and animal products

- Live animals
- Feathers
- Hide
- Blood products
- Waste products
- Secretions
- Aerosols
- Equipment used with animals

Plants and plant products

- Dead or live plant material
- Soil
- Sand
- Seeds
- Wood
- Leaves
- Host to insects, pests, eggs

Human diseases/zoonoses

- E. coli
- Q-Fever
- Salmonella
- Ringworm
- Lice
- Tuberculosis
- Orf
- Listeria
- Leptospirosis
- Etc.

Categories of organisms on site



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Organisms are classified into one of four (4) **Biosafety Risk Groups** (RG). Risk group 1 poses the lowest risk to individuals and the community, and risk group 4 poses the greatest risk

Each RG level requires a minimum set of research practices and facility containment. These levels are known as '**Physical Containment Levels**' (PC) and the 4 PC levels correspond to the 4 RG, such that PC1 is the lowest risk, PC4 is the highest risk

Similarly, organisms are also classified into one of four **Biosecurity Containment Levels** (BC)

There may be organisms of **RG1 / RG 2, PC1 / PC2, and/or BC1 or BC2 on the QASP site** in the Containment area

These organisms pose a risk to individuals and the community – they can cause human or animal disease

Biosecurity serves 3 main roles:

1. Protection of public health
2. Protection of the environment - Australia's environment is particularly fragile due to its isolation
3. Protection of agricultural industries - could result in loss of jobs, income, and a lack of fresh food



Breaches in Biosecurity can have devastating outcomes on the environment and food security.

PC2 & PC3 Facilities in QASP



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- The function of the PC2 & PC3 containment level is ***the containment of the microorganisms and/or GMO and their genetic material within the facility and the prevention of infection of all who enter the facility***
- Structural requirements of these facilities:
 - Negative air-flow and HEPA filtered air-conditioning
 - Self closing doors and sealed windows
 - Smooth surfaces that are impermeable to water, cleanable, and resistant to damage by cleaning agents
 - Open spaces between and under benches and equipment such that they are easily accessible for decontamination
- Behavioural requirements of staff working in these facilities:
 - Must have an elevated sense of good laboratory practice
 - Must follow all procedures in accordance with PC2 & PC3 guidelines
 - Conducting service requirements in accordance with QASP Management instruction



Your role and responsibility in managing risks



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By entering the Containment Area in QASP in any capacity you are taking on a high level of responsibility. By taking biosecurity seriously you are safeguarding your own health, job, and home and also the health and safety of all Australians, the economy, and the environment

Report any sightings of pests: insects, rodents, birds, etc. Secure pest if possible or prevent spread and report immediately

Report any damage to fittings, fixtures and structural components

Be aware that the most likely sources of things inadvertently being brought into and out of QASP are on vehicles, shoes, etc

See – secure – report

Risk reduction

Remember the acronym **SHIRT**:

S: Security

H: Hygiene

I: Isolation (isolate the risk to eliminate potential for cross contamination)

R: Records management

T: Treatment

Waste Management

- Do not pour any chemicals down the drain
- Do not transport any waste products offsite – use appropriate bins as provided
- All movement of waste is **ONLY** to be conducted by authorised and competent QASP staff.
- The yellow clinical waste bins are for biological waste – **do not touch these bins** – QASP staff will dispose of all waste appropriately



If in doubt about **ANYTHING...**
Seek **IMMEDIATE** clarification from QASP personnel before proceeding

In summary



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- **POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ORGANISMS** are active in the Containment area of QASP. These organisms could compromise your health and that of the people around you
- It is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** to enter any building within the Containment area without prior approval or being accompanied by a QASP staff member
- Due to the potentially serious consequences of a biosecurity breach, deviating from these rules will result in direct removal from the QASP site and the possibility of regulatory sanctions or fines



Agreement Clause



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By completing this induction, you agree that you have **read and understood** the information contained in this induction package, and

You agree to **adhere to the terms and conditions** as outlined by QASP Management, and

You understand that a breach of any of these regulations may result in **immediate removal of your access** into QASP.