

**TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS
COMMISSION - SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT**

USA Comments

CHAPTER 8.1 - ANTHRAX

Article 8.1.14.

Procedures for the disinfection of surfaces in animal houses, buildings contaminated with *B. anthracis*

In situations in which surfaces in animal houses, stables, *vehicles*, etc. may be contaminated with *B. anthracis* spores, the following three-step approach is recommended:

...

3. a final *disinfection* step should be carried out using one of the following disinfectants applied at a rate of 0.4 L/m³ for 2 hours;
 - a) ~~10% formaldehyde (approximately 30% formalin), repeated after one hour;~~ 5-10% sodium hypochlorite solution, or

Comment/rationale: With regard to the final disinfection step, formaldehyde generates problems with the Safety and Health authorities of many countries. If the room has already been disinfected once and washed down, then the final disinfection need not have formaldehyde. A 5% - 10% sodium hypochlorite solution (bleach) is more than adequate as an option for this final disinfection procedure. The United States, therefore, recommends adding the option of using sodium hypochlorite *in lieu* of formaldehyde for this final disinfection procedure.

Useful references:

1. "The ecology of *Bacillus anthracis*" <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mam.2009.08.003>
2. "Historical distribution & molecular diversity of *B. anthracis* in Kazakhstan" <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/16/5/789.htm>

- b) 4% glutaraldehyde (pH 8.0 – 8.5), repeated after one hour; or
- c) 3% hydrogen peroxide; or
- d) 1% peracetic acid, repeated after one hour.

[Note: Formaldehyde and glutaraldehyde should not be used at temperatures below 10°C. Hydrogen peroxide and peracetic acid are not suitable in the presence of blood.]