

3. Risk Assessment

The risks levels for activities involved in preparing mammals and birds for museum collection or taxidermy. Activities that present higher risks should be avoided if sufficient control measures such as immunisation, laboratory facilities and processes are implemented.

Extremely High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Risk of contracting infectious disease is likely	The risk of contracting an infectious disease is significant	The risk is present but manageable	The risk of biological infection is extremely low

Risk level	Situation	Example
High Risk	Biological specimen outside of the organisation, prior to collection.	A kangaroo that has been died naturally in a wildlife sanctuary and has been offered for collection.
High Risk	Transporting a biological specimen to the laboratory.	Placing the specimen inside two layers of plastic and a container for transport.
High Risk	Storage of a specimen in a cold room, fridge or freezer.	Specimens are collected and kept cold or frozen storage to await processing and preparation.
Extremely High Risk	Dissection of a biological specimen.	Removing parts of a biological specimen, using scalpels and tools to prepare the specimen for preservation.
Extremely High Risk	Skinning Specimens.	Removing the skin of a specimen using scalpels and tools.
Extremely high Risk	Skeletonising specimens.	Removing remaining flesh from bones using boiling or insects.
High Risk	Waste disposal.	Disposing of or double bagging biologically contaminated equipment or sharps.
High Risk	Laundrying lab coats.	Placing contaminated laboratory coats into a washing machine.
High Risk	Chemically treating a specimen to preserve it.	Applying chemical to a specimen to destroy any biologically active bacteria or viruses
High Risk	Cleaning the laboratory.	Removing blood and material and treatment with anti-viral and anti-bacterial chemicals.
Medium Risk	Moving contained or double bagged biological material.	Moving biological waste that is double bagged in a waste receptacle for collection by qualified contractor.
Low Risk	Transporting or working with preserved specimens.	Moving specimens that have been chemically preserved and analysing the biological material that is treated.
Low Risk	Contractors performing equipment maintenance.	Contractor entering a clean laboratory to maintain equipment such as a plumber or electrician.
Low Risk	Emergency response.	Wardens entering the laboratory in an emergency to ensure all personnel are clear of the workplace.
Medium Risk	Visit by auditors or other inspection.	External auditor or inspector entering the laboratory to conduct inspection and assurance activities.