



RSPCA welfare standards for

# PIGS



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# Introduction

The 'RSPCA welfare standards for pigs' are used to provide the only RSPCA-approved scheme for the rearing, handling, transport and slaughter/killing of pigs. They take account of legislation, government welfare codes, scientific research, veterinary advice, recommendations of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) and the practical experience of the farming industry.

The standards are based upon the 'Five Freedoms' as defined by FAWC (hence the name 'Freedom Food' – see page iv). Although these 'freedoms' define ideal states, they provide a comprehensive framework for the assessment of animal welfare on-farm, in transit and at the place of slaughter/killing, as well as representing an important element of farm assurance requirements.

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst**  
by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- **Freedom from discomfort**  
by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from pain, injury or disease**  
by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour**  
by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- **Freedom from fear and distress**  
by ensuring conditions and care which avoid mental suffering.

These freedoms will be better provided for if those who have care of livestock practise/provide:

- **caring and responsible planning and management**
- **skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockmanship**
- **appropriate environmental design**
- **considerate handling and transport**
- **humane slaughter.**

## Guide to the use of the RSPCA welfare standards

- (i) The numbered requirements are the standards, all of which must be complied with.
- (ii) Boxed sections (indicated by ⓘ) give additional information, including: providing the reasoning behind a standard, expanding on a standard, stating how a standard can/will be assessed and/or highlighting areas where the standards will be reviewed in the future.
- (iii) It is expected that all relevant UK legislation regarding farm animal husbandry and welfare on-farm, during transport, and at the abattoir, will be fully implemented in addition to the RSPCA welfare standards.
- (iv) **Farmers are required by law to have a thorough knowledge of the 'Defra Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs'.**



## RSPCA Farm Animals Department

The RSPCA's Farm Animals Department develops the RSPCA welfare standards for farm animals. These detailed documents are intended to represent 'best practice' in the care and welfare of farm animals.

The RSPCA works to continually develop and improve the welfare standards using a range of information, including the latest scientific research and practical farming experience. We regularly consult with other animal welfare and agricultural scientists, veterinary surgeons, and farming industry representatives. This helps to ensure that the RSPCA welfare standards continue to be at the forefront of farm animal care and welfare, and are also achievable on commercial farms.

The standards also take account of feedback from RSPCA Farm Livestock Officers, who carry out monitoring of the Freedom Food scheme, Freedom Food Assessors who audit scheme members, and the scheme members themselves.

We always value constructive feedback and ideas for improvement from those who are implementing the RSPCA welfare standards. Comments/feedback can be discussed with:

- a) RSPCA Farm Animals Department scientific staff, by contacting them on the below details:

**Address:** Farm Animals Department

RSPCA  
Wilberforce Way  
Southwater  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH13 9RS

**Telephone:** 0300 123 0183

**Email:** farm-animals@rspca.org.uk

- b) RSPCA Farm Livestock Officers, who can discuss any issues during farm visits and offer advice, and can provide feedback to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department scientific staff.

The RSPCA does not approve equipment, but sets standards to ensure any equipment permitted for use is managed appropriately to safeguard the welfare of animals.



## Freedom Food Ltd

Freedom Food is the RSPCA's farm assurance and food labelling scheme. Freedom Food assesses and approves farms, hauliers and abattoirs that meet all of the applicable RSPCA welfare standards. (Please note that Freedom Food does not approve equipment). Processors and packers must also apply for scheme membership for traceability and licence fee purposes.

Products from animals reared under the Freedom Food scheme can be labelled with the scheme's food label: 'RSPCA Assured'. Use of the RSPCA Assured name and mark are strictly subject to Freedom Food membership, traceability, licence fee and artwork approval. Membership of the scheme is subject to an annual fee and successful assessment, as well as monitoring visits by Farm Livestock Officers from the RSPCA's Farm Animals Department.

Freedom Food is a charity in its own right and not for profit. Any surplus income goes back into improving farm animal welfare.

**Any queries relating to the operation of the Freedom Food scheme (e.g. administration, assessments etc.) should be directed to the Freedom Food office (0300 123 0014; info@freedomfood.co.uk).**

# Food and water

**Livestock need to have ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and promote a positive state of well-being.**

## Food

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- FW 1.1** Pigs must be fed a wholesome diet which:
- is appropriate to their species
  - is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health
  - satisfies their nutritional needs
  - is accessible each day, except when required by the attending veterinary surgeon.
- FW 1.2** Producers must have an agreement with their feed compounder that they will supply information about constituents of compound feeds and feed supplements to the Freedom Food Assessor or RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer on request.
- FW 1.3** Where producers mix their own feed, a specification note or feed plan detailing the constituents of the feed must be made available to the Freedom Food Assessor or RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer on request.
- FW 1.4** No feedstuffs containing mammalian or avian derived protein are permitted, with the exception of:
- milk and milk products
  - unfertilised eggs.
- FW 1.5** Prior to unfertilised eggs being fed to pigs, a risk assessment must:
- be conducted in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission
  - include details as to the source of the eggs
  - be recorded in the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (VHWP).
- FW 1.6** As a general rule, no sow must, at any time, have a body condition score less than 2 and they must have a score of at least 3 by the 70<sup>th</sup> day of pregnancy.
- \*  **If experiencing problems with poor sow condition, producers should speak to their veterinary surgeon and/or nutritionist.**
- FW 1.7** Efforts must be made to avoid sudden changes in the type and quantity of food.
- FW 1.8** Foraging substrate must:
- be provided to all pigs
  - be topped up regularly (at least every 3 days), or feed pellets must be broadcast over the entire pen area at intervals of no greater than one week.
- FW 1.9** Pigs must be fed in ways that minimise bullying.

**FW 1.10** For ration feeding pigs in a trough, there must be enough feeding space (i.e. 1.1 times shoulder width) for all pigs to feed simultaneously.

**i** For sows, the use of electronic sow feeders (ESFs) can help to prevent bullying by offering protection during feeding. Studies also indicate that the use of ESFs can reduce aggression. However, care should be taken when using the equipment to ensure that procedures are in place in the event of a breakdown and/or loss of ear tag.

If a floor feeding system is adopted, the risk of bullying is greater and it is essential that feed is scattered over a wide area, to reduce the potential for bullying.

**FW 1.11** For ad lib feeding there must be a maximum of:

- a) 6 pigs per feed place – when using a dry feeder with no full head barriers between each feeding place
- b) 10 pigs per feed place – where there are full head barriers
- c) 14 pigs per feed place – where there is the opportunity to mix water with the feed (wet and dry feeders).

**i** A feed place is described as the space required by a single pig whilst eating.

**FW 1.12** If wet feeding of sows indoors is employed, head and shoulder barriers must be erected between each feeding place.

**i** Trial work on some circular reward-type feeders and practical experience of their use has indicated that providing 1 free-standing feeder for a maximum of 60 pigs works well in practice, and thus this figure is recommended (as a maximum) as guidance for Freedom Food producers using these types of feeder. However, when the feeder is not free-standing (e.g. if it is split by a dividing wall), or if meal is fed (as opposed to pellets), then it is recommended that the number of animals per feeder should be reduced to a maximum of 50.

**FW 1.13** Where pigs are not fed on the ground/floor, the feeders must be managed hygienically at all times.

**FW 1.14** To prevent the introduction and potential spread of disease, procedures must be in place to prevent the contamination of stored animal feeds.

**i** Procedures to satisfy FW 1.14 may include the use of lids on feed storage bins and food hoppers.

**FW 1.15** No piglets can be weaned from the sow before 28 days of age. The only exceptions are listed below:

- a) Under veterinary direction because the health or welfare of the sow or piglets would otherwise be adversely affected.
- b) The weaned piglets are to be moved into specialised housing which is completely emptied, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before the introduction of a new group, and which is separated from sow accommodation. In such cases, piglets may be weaned up to 7 days earlier (minimum of 21 days of age for any piglet) in order to maintain integrity of the batch management process and facilitate disease control.

**i** The earlier the weaning age of the piglets, the greater the chance of them suffering from welfare problems; therefore, a more careful system is required with respect to management and nutrition of the piglets.

The RSPCA is concerned about the routine use of ‘rescue decks’ in indoor systems, and does not consider their use acceptable to overcome issues associated with increasing litter sizes.

It is accepted that in an emergency situation in order to protect the welfare of weak or sick piglets, the use of ‘rescue decks’ or similar equipment may be necessary but this should not be routine.

**FW 1.16** Medicated feedstuffs must be clearly identified and labelled as such.

## **Water**

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**FW 2.1\*** All pigs over two weeks of age must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water.

**FW 2.2** One drinking place must be provided per 10 pigs.

**i** A drinking place is defined as the space required by a single pig whilst drinking. Drinking places should be spaced sufficiently to allow all places to be occupied at once without interference from pigs at the other drinking places.

**i** As a guide, a ‘minibowl’ and La Buvette-type drinker are both considered to be equivalent to a nipple drinker i.e. one drinking place.

Other, larger bowls provide a surface of water that has the potential to be used by more than one pig at a time. Therefore, they are considered to be equivalent to two drinker places.

**FW 2.3** Where water is provided in troughs, the following space allowances must be provided:

<b>Weight of pig (kg)</b>	<b>Maximum no. of pigs per m of trough</b>
< 25	100
25 to 40	84
> 40	67

**i** Troughs should be designed, constructed and maintained to ensure an even distribution of clean water within the trough. The water should fill the full length of the trough that is used in the calculation of the required trough length for the number of pigs present.

Pigs should be able to access the trough from all sides.

**FW 2.4** Where a wet and dry feeder system is used (the water and feed are in the same place), additional drinkers must be supplied in the pen at a rate of one drinker per 10 pigs.

**FW 2.4.1** Where a pipe line wet feed system is used, which keeps the trough topped up with water (i.e. ad lib feed), additional drinkers must be supplied in the pen at a rate of one drinker per 30 pigs.

**FW 2.5** Water troughs, bowls and nipples must be:

- a) kept thoroughly clean
- b) managed in a way that ensures they are capable of dispensing water at all times.

**FW 2.6** Drinkers must have flow rates of sufficient levels to meet the needs of each class of pig.

**i** Where used, nipple drinkers should provide the following flow rates:

<b>Class of pig</b>	<b>Flow rate (ml/min)</b>
Newly weaned	300
Up to 20kg	500 to 1000
20kg to 40kg	1000 to 1500
Finishing pigs up to 100kg	1000 to 1500
Sows and gilts – pre-service and in-pig	2000
Sows and gilts – in lactation	2000
Boars	2000

**FW 2.7** Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in case normal supplies fail, e.g. due to freezing, drought, etc.

**FW 2.8\*** The drinking quality of non-mains water must be:

- a) independently tested
- b) tested every 12 months
- c) tested at the source.

**FW 2.9\*** The water quality test records relating to FW 2.8 must:

- a) clearly indicate whether the water tested is considered an acceptable source of drinking water for livestock
- b) be kept for at least 2 years.

\*



**It is important to stress that water quality may change over time and therefore one should not rely on past analysis. Although water testing should be conducted routinely under normal circumstances, any unusual situation such as changes in water smell, clarity, taste, or changes in animals eating or drinking habits, loss of performance, or health problems should immediately trigger the need for re-testing.**

# Environment

**The environment in which livestock are kept needs to take into account their welfare needs and be designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear and distress, and allow them to perform their natural behaviour.**

- E 1.1** Where management systems, designs or layout of facilities not covered in the RSPCA welfare standards are being employed or considered, these must be referred to, and discussed with, the RSPCA Farm Animals Department before they can be considered for Freedom Food certification.
- E 1.2** Where changes are being made to existing buildings or new equipment installed that has not previously been assessed, managers must inform Freedom Food at the time the change is being made.
- E 1.3** There must be no features of the environment likely to cause injury or distress to the animal.

**i** Injury is defined as damage severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue and to an extent significantly greater than would be caused by accidental bumps and scratches.

## Buildings

- E 2.1** For all accommodation, the key points relating to welfare must be recorded on the farm site plan, and amended as necessary.
- E 2.2** If practical, records relating to E 2.1 must be readily available to all relevant staff for each building.
- E 2.3** Records relating to E 2.1 must include:
- total area
  - number of pigs in relation to age, weight, feeding and drinking, and bedding space.
- E 2.4** Except where preservatives with an insecticidal role are used, pigs must not come into contact with toxic fumes or surfaces, for example from paints, wood preservatives or disinfectants.
- E 2.5** All electrical installations at mains voltage must be:
- inaccessible to pigs
  - well insulated
  - safeguarded from rodents
  - properly earthed
  - tested at least once a year or each time the building is subjected to pressure washing, by a qualified or competent person
  - in good working order (for example, any faults identified during testing to be rectified).

**i** Electrical installations have to be tested every 3 years as part of the Periodic Inspection Report, in order to meet legal requirements relating to electrical safety. However, at least once a year, the 'trip switch' should be tested to ensure it is in correct working order.

- E 2.6** Internal surfaces of housing and pens must be made of materials that can be readily cleansed and disinfected or be easily replaced when necessary.

## Thermal environment and ventilation

- E 3.1** Efforts must be made to ensure that the thermal environment is not so hot or so cold as to significantly affect production or cause distress.

**i** For guidance, recommended temperatures for various groups of pigs, at pig height, are:

<b>Pregnant sow in group</b>	15 to 20°C
<b>Lactating sow</b>	15 to 20°C
<b>Suckling pig first 72 hours</b>	25 to 28°C
<b>Suckling pig after 72 hours</b>	20 to 22°C
<b>Weaner first stage</b>	28°C in week one, reducing by 2°C per week
<b>Weaner second stage</b>	20 to 22°C
<b>Finisher</b>	15 to 18°C

**Over-heating of sows pre-farrowing can pre-dispose them to mastitis and agalactia.**

**The appropriate temperature will also depend on other factors such as air quality, relative humidity and system of production. The behaviour of the pigs should always be used as the ultimate indicator of whether the temperature is appropriate.**

**Extra space may be required to allow pigs to lie apart in hot conditions, together with systems of ventilation or water misting.**

- E 3.2** Where stock-keepers have access to a copy of the Defra (formerly MAFF) booklet, '*Heat Stress in Pigs: Solving the Problem*' (PB 1316, 1993), they must:

- be familiar with its content
- adopt its recommendations where appropriate.

- E 3.3** Effective ventilation of buildings to avoid high humidity, condensation and draughts must be ensured.

**i** **Properly designed ventilation will permit the free circulation of air above pig height and avoid draughts at pig level. Effective ventilation is necessary, as pigs can be susceptible to respiratory diseases.**

- E 3.4** Provisions must be made to ensure that, when pigs are housed, aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.

**i** **Inhalable dust should not exceed 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> and ammonia levels should not exceed 20ppm.**

## Lying area/floors

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- E 4.1** Pigs must be kept on, or have access at all times to, a lying area (see E 5.1):
- of solid construction (i.e. not perforated)
  - bedded to a sufficient extent to avoid discomfort
  - either sloped to provide drainage or bedded to a sufficient extent to provide a dry lying area.

- E 4.2** Bedding material must:
- be comfortable
  - be absorbent
  - provide thermal comfort
  - not compromise the health or welfare of the pigs.

\*

**i** Suitable material includes straw, sawdust and shredded paper, as long as the requirements of E 4.2 are met. It should not contain any harmful materials, such as metal or metal waste.

Waste plasterboard and/or waste gypsum should not be used as bedding material. The use of waste plasterboard and waste gypsum as animal bedding without an environmental permit is an offence. For more information, please contact the UK Environment Agency. Anaerobic digestion residues (digestates), and compost produced at plants under the Animal By-Product Regulations are not allowed to be used. Recycled rubber, glossy paper, woodchip from wood treated with glue or chemical preservative and used poultry litter are also not permitted to be used, neither is fine sawdust due to the potential for dust to compromise the health of the pigs and stock-keepers.

Bedding material may also be used as the first/under layer for straw (see E 7.1).

- E 4.3** In service pens, the whole floor area must be kept dry or sufficient bedding provided to give an adequate grip during service.

## Space allowances

**E 5.1** The minimum space allowances for growing pigs are as follows:

Live weight (kg)	Bedded lying area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
10	0.10	0.15
20	0.15	0.225
30	0.20	0.30
40	0.26	0.40
50	0.31	0.47
60	0.36	0.55
70	0.41	0.61
80	0.45	0.675
90	0.475	0.715
100	0.50	0.75
110	0.53	0.80

\*

**i** The RSPCA is reviewing the minimum space requirements in E 5.1.

**E 5.1.1** Pigs kept at the minimum space allowances in E 5.1 must:

- a) be mucked out at least twice a week, and
- b) the area mucked out must be a minimum of one third of the total area.

**E 5.1.2** There must be a visual indication in the pen of the area which is mucked out.

**i** Such visual indications may include a clear mark of the pen sides, a physical barrier (e.g. wall, step etc.) separating this area etc.

**E 5.2.0\*** Where pigs are to be taken to a liveweight of 110kg or more, they must be reared in split-sex groups.

\*

**i** The RSPCA has concerns about the welfare implications of raising heavier boars. Split sex groups may help to ameliorate some of these concerns.

There are benefits to split sex rearing for younger pigs and, as such, the RSPCA will review this requirement in relation to other ages/weights of pig in the future.

**E 5.2.1** Growing/finishing pigs in groups in straw yards must be provided with at least the following space allowances:

Weight (kg)	Total minimum space (m <sup>2</sup> ) required if mucked out at least monthly.	Total minimum space (m <sup>2</sup> ) required if bedding topped up regularly but not mucked out.
Weaners to 35	0.45	0.5
36 – 50	1.17	1.3
51 – 75	1.35	1.5
76 – 95	1.50	1.67
96 – 110	1.54	1.72

**i** A straw yard is a deep litter system that is mucked out less frequently than once a week.

**E 5.2.2** For dry sows:

- a) sows must be given a minimum total floor space of 3.5m<sup>2</sup>/sow for mature adults, and 2.5m<sup>2</sup>/gilt for first and second parity animals
- b) the lying area must be a minimum of 1.5m<sup>2</sup>/sow for mature adults, and 1m<sup>2</sup>/gilt for first and second parity animals.

\* **i** At present the '*RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*' do not contain any specific requirements for the size of farrowing huts/arcs on outdoor breeding units beyond those specified for dry sows in E 5.2.2. However, when selecting arcs, producers should be aware of the different size requirements of gilts and sows (including height requirements), and the importance of ensuring that the ventilation and insulation provided is appropriate.

The RSPCA is currently reviewing the need for and nature of more guidance on this topic with a view to including further provisions in the standards in the future.

**E 5.3** Adult boar pens must:

- a) be of such dimensions so as to enable animals to turn round easily and lie fully stretched
- b) have a total minimum lying area of 7.5m<sup>2</sup>.

**E 5.4** Service pens must be at least 10.5m<sup>2</sup> in area, in order to be large enough to allow courtship and mating.

**E 5.5\*** Pigs must not be closely confined except in the following circumstances, and even then only for the shortest period of time necessary and never more than four hours:

- a) for the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, treatment or operation carried out for veterinary purposes
- b) while they are being fed on any particular occasion
- c) for the purpose of marking, washing or weighing
- d) while accommodation is being cleaned
- e) during the procedure of artificial insemination
- f) while they are awaiting loading for transportation.

**E 5.6** Pigs must be kept in stable groups with as little mixing as possible, but subdivision is permitted as pigs grow.

**E 5.7** Particular care must be taken to prevent bullying amongst sows and gilts kept in groups.

- E 5.8** If pigs have fought to the extent that injury has resulted:
- a plan must be devised and implemented to change environmental and/or management factors in order to prevent injury
  - the plan must be written in the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (see H 1.1).

**i** Environmental enrichment, reducing stocking density or changing the feeding regime may help to reduce fighting and consequent injury. Research also indicates that pen shape can affect aggression, with post mixing aggression being lower in square and rectangular pens than in circular pens. For pregnant sows, factors related to competition for food are considered to be of major importance for the level of aggression.

Aggression may also be increased by removal of the heaviest pigs from the group for earlier slaughter, as the remaining pigs attempt to re-establish their dominance hierarchy. Producers are encouraged to monitor levels of aggression during such periods and to establish and enact plans to address any increase in aggression should this be observed and avoid any further problems.

## Farrowing systems

- E 6.1** The movement of sows into different types of farrowing accommodation on a litter by litter basis must not be routine, but only occur in exceptional circumstances which must be recorded for each sow in the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (see H 1.1).

**i** The RSPCA is aware of instances where sows are moved into different types of farrowing accommodation (e.g. loose indoor system/outdoor system to a crate system and vice versa) on a litter by litter basis. Whilst the piglets from sows in these crate systems are not Freedom Food approved, the RSPCA is concerned about this practice due to the negative impact on the welfare of the sow.

It is acknowledged that there may be occasions, such as when converting to a new housing system using a step-wise approach, when such practices are unavoidable. Producers wishing to do so are strongly advised to contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department ([farm-animals@rspca.org.uk](mailto:farm-animals@rspca.org.uk)) prior to installation of the new housing.

- E 6.2** In all farrowing systems, sows must be settled into clean, comfortable farrowing quarters a minimum of five days prior to their expected farrowing date.
- E 6.3** In all farrowing systems clean, suitable bedding and enrichment material, such as dry straw which is well shaken up, must at all times:
- be provided in sufficient quantity
  - be evenly distributed, for the sows' comfort
  - topped up as required, including in order to maintain hygiene
  - allow the expression of natural behaviours such as rooting.
- E 6.4** Shredded paper must not be used as bedding or enrichment material.

- E 6.5** At least 2kg of straw must be provided per sow 48 hours prior to the expected farrowing date in order to satisfy nest building behaviour.

**i** 2kg of straw roughly equates to two leaves of a small bale.

In order to satisfy nest building behaviour the straw provided needs to be of sufficient length to enable the sow to pick it up, manipulate it etc.

In some cases giving greater amounts of straw may reduce stillbirths, increase weaning weights and offer protection for piglets.

The RSPCA will continue to review the requirement regarding appropriate quantities of nesting material in light of any further research or developments in this area.

- E 6.6** Farrowing accommodation must allow sows to turn around easily at all times, without any hindrance from fixtures and fittings present in the farrowing pen.

- E 6.7** Farrowing quarters must be designed to offer some form of protection for piglets from crushing.

\* **i** In indoor loose farrowing systems, support features such as mushroom/ball shaped flexible plastic installations in the floor, and horizontal or bowed rails, can provide piglets with an escape zone, thus helping to reduce crushing of the piglets by the sow. Sows prefer solid sloped or vertical walls rather than farrowing rails to lie down against (see E 6.7).

In outdoor systems, farrowing arcs should be sited on level ground to reduce the risk of overlying. Fenders should be used to prevent very young piglets from straying.

## Indoor farrowing

**i** An indoor farrowing system/pen is defined as one that is on hard standing. This includes systems with an open area e.g. farrowing arcs on concrete.

- E 6.8** In addition to standards E 6.1 - E 6.7 the following standards must be followed for indoor farrowing.

- E 6.9** A bedded lying area/nest area that measures at least 2.8m<sup>2</sup> must be provided.

**i** The minimum bedded lying area/nest area is measured at floor level and excludes any separate creep.

- E 6.10** The minimum total pen size, including the lying area/nest area, must be at least 5m<sup>2</sup>.

**i** Any feeding stall provided is in addition to the minimum total pen size stated in E 6.10, i.e. it cannot be counted as part of the 5m<sup>2</sup> minimum pen size.

- E 6.11** In systems that do not use farrowing arcs, in addition to the total minimum area in E 6.10, a separate creep area measuring at least 0.70m<sup>2</sup> must be provided in order to accommodate all piglets comfortably during the nest occupation period.

**i** A creep of 1m<sup>2</sup> is sufficient to allow all young piglets up to the age of weaning at 4 weeks of age to lie down simultaneously and thus keep warm. A larger creep area allows for additional space inaccessible to the sow if any supplementary milk or creep feed is to be provided.

Farrowing rails are recommended for use in front of the creep. Corner or side creeps are recommended as opposed to front creeps. For more detailed information on creep design recommendation please see [www.freefarrowing.org/](http://www.freefarrowing.org/)

- E 6.12** In addition to the minimum creep size stated in E 6.11, an area measuring at least 0.30m<sup>2</sup> must be available to the piglets but inaccessible to the sow.

**i** For example, the area under sloped walls can be included in the overall calculation of space available exclusively to piglets.

- E 6.13** The flooring in the creep area (where applicable, see E 6.11) and lying area/nest area must be solid.

**i** The solid lying area/nest area may be concrete or solid plastic tiles with evenly distributed occasional perforations (up to 1%) to help with the drainage. Any solid (without perforations), undrained floor should have a drainage slope of 2-3% towards the dunging area and additional bedding supplied at the time of farrowing to absorb birth fluids.

As well as creating hygiene issues, poor drainage can increase the risk of injuries such as slips and splay legs.

- E 6.14** Where non-solid floors are used in other areas of the pen, the maximum width of the openings must be 11mm.

- E 6.15** The use of voluntary feeding stalls is permitted, but equipment that has the potential to confine the sow for farrowing must not be present.

- E 6.16** Where necessary, a temperature suitable for piglets must be maintained by the provision of supplementary heating (e.g. heat lamps or heat mats).

**i** A thin layer of substrate (shavings/sawdust) is recommended in the creep. A deep layer of material is not recommended where heat mats are used as it will reduce its efficiency. For more detailed information and advice on design recommendations for supplementary heat and creep areas please see [www.freefarrowing.org/](http://www.freefarrowing.org/)

- E 6.17** A drinking system similar to that provided in the dry sow house must be provided in the farrowing accommodation.

**i** A familiar drinking system can help ensure adequate water intake, especially in gilts. For more detailed information and advice on design recommendations, including on feeder and drinker design and placement, please see [www.freefarrowing.org/](http://www.freefarrowing.org/)

- E 6.18** A separate piglet drinker must be provided.

**i** It is a legal requirement that all pigs over two weeks of age are provided with permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water (see Standard FW 2.1).

## Environmental enrichment

- E 7.1** Pigs must, at all times, have access to effective environmental enrichment materials in sufficient quantities to allow and encourage proper expression of rooting, pawing and chewing behaviours.

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**i** Suitable materials, which should be free from contaminants, include high quality straw, peat and silages.

Where straw is provided, long straw is preferable to chopped straw as it is more manipulable.

More information on suitable enrichment materials, including desirable properties, can be found on the EUWelNet project website: <http://euwelnet.hwnn001.topshare.com/>

**i** Particular attention should be paid to provision and on-going maintenance at all times of effective enrichment, particularly those at 40kg in outdoor systems (see E 9.3.2).

- E 7.2** If any problems associated with insufficient or ineffective environmental enrichment are observed, such as stereotyped behaviour or abnormal behaviours that injure other pigs (e.g. tail, flank, ear or vulva biting), additional effective enrichment, or a change of material, must be provided.

**i** Additional enrichment may take the form of additional straw, straw bales, 'toys' such as footballs etc.

The on-going maintenance of effective additional enrichment is very important in order to ensure it sustains the pigs' interest.

- E 7.3** When incidents of stereotyped behaviour occur, the stock-keeper must:

- a) investigate the cause
- b) seek ways of avoiding/eliminating the problem.

- E 7.4** Each incident of stereotyped behaviour must be recorded, together with the preventative action taken.

**E 7.5** If abnormal behaviours develop repeatedly in any particular pen a programme of modification and enrichment must be:

- a) agreed with the veterinary surgeon and the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer
- b) implemented promptly
- c) pursued and re-amended until the problem is overcome.

**i** Avoidance/reduction of stereotypic or abnormal behaviour may be aided by topping up foraging substrate daily, by scattering feed pellets not less than twice weekly, or by otherwise sustaining foraging behaviour in order to channel the animals' motivations away from abnormal behaviour.

## **Lighting**

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**E 8.1** In all pig housing, adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable, must be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

**E 8.2** In each period of 24 hours, housed pigs must have access to an area that provides:

- a) a period of at least 8 hours continuous light with a minimum intensity of 50 lux, except that this may be lowered to correspond with the duration of the natural daylight period at the time if this is shorter
- b) a period of continuous darkness of at least 6 hours, except that this may be lowered to correspond with the duration of the natural darkness period at the time if this is shorter.

**i** 50 lux is bright enough to allow a person of normal eyesight to read standard newsprint without difficulty.

**i** Recent research has indicated some benefits to providing pigs with a longer light period, where artificial light is used, and the switching on/off of artificial light in a stepped or gradual process.

The RSPCA is looking into the benefits of providing natural light.

**E 8.3** Records must be kept of lighting regimes.

## Outdoor and free-range production

**i** The following definitions describe the different types of outdoor production systems and were developed for the Code of Practice for the Labelling of Pork and Pork Products:

**Outdoor bred** – Pigs are born outside, in fields where they are kept until weaning.

**Outdoor reared** – Pigs are born outside in fields, and stay outside in fields/open air pens for approximately half their life (defined as at least 30kg).

**Free-range** – Pigs are born outside, in fields where they remain outside until they are sent for processing.

For all three, breeding sows are kept outside, in fields on soil with huts/tents/other accommodation available for protection from weather, for their productive life

For more detailed information on these definitions please refer to the Code of Practice for the Labelling of Pork and Pork Products: [www.porkprovenance.co.uk](http://www.porkprovenance.co.uk).

**E 9.1** Producers must demonstrate that due regard has been given to the soil and site suitability prior to occupying a site.

**i** Ways to achieve E 9.1 might include consulting soil scientists, agronomists, experienced pig veterinarians and/or soil/geological data.

**E 9.2** A follow-on site/location must be identifiable.

**E 9.3** For any system of outdoor production (including free-range):

- a) the lying area (shelters) must be a minimum of:
  - (i) 1.5m<sup>2</sup>/sow for mature adults, and
  - (ii) 1m<sup>2</sup>/gilt for first and second parity animals
- b) breeding animals must be stocked at no more than 30 adult animals per hectare (i.e. paddock space).

**E 9.3.1** In relation to E 9.3, lower stocking densities must be employed if site conditions deem this necessary.

**i** Stocking density should allow pigs sufficient space for exercise, exploration and social behaviour, and maintenance of satisfactory conditions underfoot.

**E 9.3.2** The minimum space allowances for growing pigs in outdoor systems are as follows:

Live weight (kg)	Bedded lying area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
10	0.10	0.5
20	0.15	0.5
30	0.20	0.5
35	0.23	0.5
40	0.26	0.73
50	0.31	1.3
60	0.36	1.5
70	0.41	1.5
75	0.43	1.5
80	0.45	1.67
90	0.475	1.67
95	0.49	1.67
100	0.50	1.72
110	0.53	1.72

**E 9.3.3** For producers wishing to label their product as ‘free-range’, growing pigs must be provided with:

- a) a minimum total space (i.e. paddock space) of at least 12m<sup>2</sup>/pig where accommodation is moved to new paddocks after each batch.
- b) a minimum total space (i.e. paddock space) of at least 40m<sup>2</sup>/pig where accommodation is not moved to new paddocks after each batch
- c) a minimum lying area in shelters as stated in E 5.1.

**i** It is permitted to reduce the total area in E 9.3.3 (but not the lying area) for growing pigs immediately after weaning for the purpose of enabling the pigs to become accustomed to their new paddocks.

**i** It is permitted to move finished pigs into huts/tents/barns/other accommodation for sorting for no longer than 48 hours prior to dispatch to the abattoir. In such cases the space allowances in E 5.1 will apply.

**E 9.3.4** Where the total area in E 9.3.3 is reduced, this must be for no longer than 3 weeks post weaning.

**E 9.4** Sites must not be used for farrowing paddocks for more than 2 years.

**E 9.4.1** Land used for farrowing paddocks must not be used again for farrowing sows for at least 6 months.

**E 9.4.2\*** The only exception to E 9.4.1 is for single parity herds, which may be kept on the same site for up to two and a half years.

\* **i** A single parity herd is defined as a herd that is established with a single age cohort of gilts (no more than 5-6 month age spread). Once established there will be no further external gilts entering the herd which is totally depopulated when the initial cohort of breeding sows weans the 6<sup>th</sup> parity.

**E 9.5** For farrowing arcs and tents, kennels and associated enclosed runs for growing pigs, after each batch/cycle:

- a) accommodation must be moved to fresh ground
- b) remaining bedding must be burnt or removed from the site.

**E 9.6** All pigs must have access to a covered shelter which:

- a) is windproof and waterproof
- b) provides sufficient space to allow all pigs to lie down comfortably at the same time (see E 9.3.2).

**i** In some situations, for example newly mixed groups of dry sows/gilts, it may be necessary to provide more than one shelter to ensure that no pigs are forced to lie outside (e.g. due to reluctance to join the main group in one shelter).

**E 9.7** During summer conditions, facilities must be provided to minimise the risk of sunburn.

**i** Ways in which sunburn and heat stress can be managed include:

- i) provision of well-managed mud wallows
- ii) provision of cool, spacious, well-ventilated shaded areas which have sufficient space to allow all pigs to lie down simultaneously and to lie apart from each other if they wish to
- iii) provision of showers/sprinklers, although these only cool the animals and do not offer protection from the sun.

**E 9.8** When electric fencing is used, pigs must be introduced to it for a minimum of 48 hours in a purpose-built training enclosure.

## **Climate change and animal welfare**

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**i** The issues relating to climate change have the potential to significantly affect the welfare of farm animals. The RSPCA believes that it is now appropriate to react to, think ahead, and consider what can reasonably be done to mitigate any negative effects that adverse weather conditions may have/be having on the welfare of farm animals now, and in the future.

Examples of important considerations include:

- There may be reduced water availability for drinking, so ensuring that drinking water systems are working efficiently will be even more important.
- Ensuring that wallows are designed so that they remain fit for purpose during dry periods, and there is a sufficient quantity of them, will help to keep pigs cool.
- Ensuring that ventilation systems are working efficiently will be even more important.
- The need to ensure that the farm buildings can withstand more severe weather conditions will become more necessary.

# Management

**A high degree of caring and responsible management and stockmanship is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers and stock-keepers need to be thoroughly trained, skilled and competent in animal husbandry and welfare, and have a good working knowledge of their system and the livestock under their care.**

- M 1.0** All records and other documentation that the '*RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*' require the producer to keep and maintain, must be made available to the Freedom Food Assessor and RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer.

## Managers

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- M 1.1** Personnel with responsibility for the management of approved establishments must be named and recorded.

- M 1.2** Managers must ensure that all stock-keepers:

- a) have access to a copy of the current version of the '*RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*'
- b) are familiar with its content
- c) understand and apply its content.

**i** If managers and/or stock-keepers are in any doubt as to the meaning or intention of a standard or require clarification on any standard they are strongly advised to contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department for advice.

- M 1.3** Managers must:

- a) develop and implement a suitable training programme for stock-keepers with regular updates and opportunities for continuing professional development and keep records of such training within the VHWP (see H 1.1)
- b) ensure that the VHWP is implemented and regularly updated, and that the required data is recorded appropriately
- c) maintain records of production data and use of medication – these records must include documentation on all incoming and outgoing stock on the farm as well as types and quantities of medicines used. It is a legal requirement to record all medicines that are administered
- d) develop and implement a transport plan to Freedom Food approved abattoirs which includes a method of identification of animals and minimises waiting time for the pigs
- e) ensure that all staff are aware of water sources for use by the fire brigade, and access to them is available at all times.

- M 1.4\*** Managers must:

- a) develop and implement plans and precautions to cope with emergencies such as fire, flood or interruption of supplies, and
- b) provide an emergency action board sited in a prominent position that is visible to all farm staff and the emergency services, which must include:
  - i. the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency e.g. fire, flood, power failure
  - ii. the location of water sources for use by the fire services
  - iii. a map grid reference, GPS co-ordinates and postcode for the location of the unit.

- M 1.5** Should an emergency require the removal of livestock to unregistered premises, Freedom Food Ltd and the RSPCA Farm Animals Department must be informed immediately.

## Stock-keepers

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- M 2.1** Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of livestock, stock-keepers must be given appropriate training for their specific area of responsibility.
- M 2.2** All stock-keepers must:
- understand the times and circumstances in which pigs are prone to welfare problems on their own unit
  - be able to demonstrate their competence in recognising and dealing with problems relating to (a)
  - have appropriate knowledge and understanding, specific to their area of work
  - be able to recognise signs of normal behaviour, abnormal behaviour and fear
  - be able to recognise signs of common diseases and understand their prevention and control, and to know when to seek veterinary help.

- i** Examples of specific areas of knowledge include:
- body condition scoring in accordance with the Defra (formerly MAFF) booklet '*Condition Scoring of Pigs*'
  - the normal gait of a pig, and foot care and treatment
  - farrowing and the care of the newborn piglet
  - humane methods of handling and loading, as detailed in the section on handling.

- M 2.3** Stock-keepers must have knowledge of, be able to demonstrate, and at all times practise:
- handling animals in a positive and compassionate manner
  - proficiency in procedures that have the potential to cause suffering.

## Handling

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- M 3.1** Pigs must be handled quietly and firmly, with care to avoid unnecessary pain or distress.
- M 3.2** Pigs must not be pulled or dragged by the tail, ears, limbs or any other part of the body.
- M 3.3\*** The presence and use of the following to move pigs is prohibited:
- electric goads
  - sticks.

## Identification

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- M 4.1** Where it is necessary to mark pigs for permanent identification there must not be any method used other than:
- ear tagging
  - slap marking
  - tattooing
  - ear notching of piglets, only as an alternative to ear tagging.
- M 4.1.1** Operations relating to M 4.1 must be carried out by a trained, competent stock-keeper, using properly maintained instruments.

**M 4.1.2** Only one ear may be notched and there must not be more than one notch made in the ear.

**i** The use of short-term analgesia, such as topical ice sprays, is recommended to reduce acute pain when carrying out ear notching and/or ear tagging.

**M 4.1.3** Slapmarking must only be used to identify pigs with their herdmark.

**i** It is accepted that there may be exceptional circumstances, such as farm trials, where a small number of animals may be slapmarked with additional information in order to aid identification.

**M 4.2** Justification for slapmarking for farm trial purposes or similar must be given to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department in writing.

## Equipment

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**M 5.1** When equipment is installed which affects animal welfare, stock-keepers must be able to:

- a) demonstrate an ability to operate the equipment
- b) demonstrate the ability to carry out routine maintenance
- c) recognise common signs of malfunction
- d) demonstrate knowledge of action to be carried out in event of a failure.

**M 5.2** Stock-keepers must inspect the equipment, including the automatic equipment upon which pigs depend, at least twice daily to check that there is no defect in it.

**M 5.3** Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time):

- a) the defect shall be rectified immediately, or
- b) if this is impractical, such measures must immediately be taken and shall be maintained until the defect is rectified, as are required to safeguard the pigs from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect.

**M 5.4** Where the automatic equipment includes a ventilation system, the system must contain:

- a) an alarm which will give adequate warning of the failure of that system to function properly
- b) an alarm which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed
- c) additional equipment or means of ventilation (whether automatic or not) which, in the event of such a failure of the ventilation system, will provide adequate ventilation so as to prevent the livestock from suffering unnecessary distress as a result of the failure.

## Inspection

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**M 6.1** Stock-keepers must inspect their livestock at least twice daily.

**M 6.2** Following inspections, stock-keepers must:

- a) record observations
- b) deal with any welfare problems appropriately and without delay
- c) record any action taken.

**i** Welfare problems of sufficient severity that they should have been noticed on previous inspections and dealt with, shall be taken by the Freedom Food Assessor or RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer as evidence of negligence of duties by the stock-keeper.

## Protection from other animals

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**M 7.1** A written Wild Animal Control Plan must be in place (see Appendix 2).

**i** The RSPCA is opposed to the use of poisons that cause animal suffering.

The RSPCA is concerned about the welfare of all animals that have the capacity to suffer, and therefore consideration and use of alternatives to baiting as a method of wild animal control is strongly encouraged.

**M 7.2** When developing and implementing Wild Animal Control Plans, physical exclusion methods, and the removal of elements in the vicinity of livestock that might encourage the presence of wild animals (see information box below), must be included.

**i** Methods of physical exclusion and discouragement of wild animals include:

- construction/maintenance of fencing appropriate for excluding the wild animals in question
- removal of shelter/cover (e.g. weeds, heaps of rubble, broken equipment etc.) in the area surrounding livestock buildings
- removal/protection of obvious food sources
- maintenance/proofing of buildings against wild animals
- maintenance of drains.

**M 7.3** The Wild Animal Control Plan must include provisions that specifically exclude the snaring or gassing of animals.

## Trial work

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**M 8.1** All Freedom Food units undertaking trial work must:

- a) ensure that they are still able to meet all relevant RSPCA welfare standards.
- b) contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department if in any doubt as to whether or not they conform.

**M 8.2** Trial work that involves procedures with the potential to cause unnecessary pain, discomfort or distress must not be carried out.

- M 8.3** Trial work that involves an invasive procedure must not be carried out.
- M 8.4** The taking of blood samples is not permitted except where this is used as a diagnostic tool for the benefit of the individual pig or for monitoring of the disease status of the pigs on the unit.
- M 8.5** If there is any doubt as to whether procedures relating to M 8.3 are 'invasive' or have the potential to cause unnecessary pain, discomfort or distress, the RSPCA Farm Animals Department must be contacted.

## **Sourcing of livestock**

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- M 9.1** All pigs presented for slaughter must have spent their entire lives on Freedom Food approved farms.

 **Producers are encouraged, where possible, to send all cull sows and boars to Freedom Food approved abattoirs using Freedom Food approved hauliers.**

## **Preparation for transport**

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- M 10.1** Pigs must have access to water up to the point of transport.
- M 10.2** Restrict-fed pigs must not be given a meal for at least 4 hours prior to loading onto the vehicle, but fasting must not exceed 18 hours for any pigs prior to slaughter.

 **Pre-transport fasting is recommended to prevent vomiting during transit.**

## **\* Agricultural shows**

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- M 11.1\*** Producers wishing to show pigs must seek permission, annually, from the RSPCA Farm Animals Department. Requests for permission to show pigs must include details of how welfare will be ensured whilst at the showground, including:
- a) procedures for ensuring thermal comfort
  - b) details of water and food provision
  - c) space allowance
  - d) method of handling
  - e) distances to be travelled to and from the showground
  - f) biosecurity measures to be employed
  - g) shows to be visited.

**\*  The RSPCA welfare standards for pigs do not permit the use of sticks to move pigs (see standard M 3.3).**

**The environment in which livestock are housed needs to be conducive to good health.**

## Health and welfare planning

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**H 1.1\*** All pig units must have a written Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (VHWP), drawn up and updated annually in conjunction with the attending veterinary surgeon.

**H 1.2** All pig units must receive regular veterinary visits, at least quarterly, resulting in a farm specific report.

\*  **The quarterly veterinary visits should be conducted as near as is practical to three-monthly intervals. More complex or specialist units may require more frequent visits.**

\*  **The VHWP (see H 1.1) forms a vitally important part of the RSPCA welfare standards with regard to maintaining health and welfare of livestock on farm.**

**See Appendix 4 for an example VHWP. Should your veterinary surgeon require assistance with the formulation of your VHWP, please talk to an RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer, or contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department.**

**H 1.3** All plans, policies, procedures and records relating to the VHWP for the individual farm in question, as set out in the standards in the Health and welfare planning section, must be available on farm as a single document.

 **The information contained within the VHWP may come from a number of sources, for example batch sheets, farm diary etc. It is not intended for the VHWP to duplicate such information but to be a tool to ensure that such information is available in one location, such as a loose-leaf folder etc.**

**H 1.4** The individual farm VHWP must:

- a) identify and list all the health and welfare conditions currently affecting and likely to affect the herd (see H 1.6)
- b) document (i) how, (ii) when and (iii) how often each condition will be monitored
- c) record the type of pig affected (i.e. age, stage of production etc)
- d) record the level of each condition for the herd
- e) monitor the level of each condition for the farm
- f) for each condition, develop and implement a plan designed to prevent any increase in, and/or reduce the average level of that condition for the farm (a prevention plan), including the method of control to be used
- g) ensure a treatment plan is developed for the health and welfare conditions listed in H 1.6.

**H 1.5** Standard H 1.4 must be developed in consultation with, and approved by, a veterinary surgeon.

**H 1.6** The following health and welfare conditions, where applicable to the unit, must be listed in the VHWP (see H 1.4 a):

- a) pre-weaning mortality levels
- b) post weaning mortality
- c) pigs humanely killed as unfit
- d) body condition of sows
- e) incidence of tail biting on the unit
- f) incidence and type of lameness
- g) injuries
- \* h) the main disease problems affecting or likely to affect the farm.

\* **i** It may be beneficial to also include the following in the VHWP:

- a) sores/lesions on shoulder and head
- b) vulva lesions
- c) capped knees and hock bursitis
- d) urine scalding
- e) evidence of excessive fighting
- f) flank biting
- g) problems at farrowing
- h) number of ill-thrift pigs

It is important that these health and welfare conditions are considered but it is understood that they will not be applicable to all farms and may be addressed in the quarterly veterinary visit report instead of directly in the VHWP.

**i** In addition to reviewing the environment, management and veterinary care of pigs when health and welfare problems arise, consideration should be given as to whether genetics may be a contributory factor, and hence whether changes in the unit's/company's policy on genetics in the herd would be beneficial. Producers are encouraged to provide feedback on this issue to breeding companies.

**H 1.7** Documents relating to H 1.4 must be up-to-date and in line with the protocol set out in H 1.4 b).

**H 1.8** Stock-keepers responsible for undertaking health and welfare monitoring (refer to H 1.6) must be trained and competent to implement plans identified as required by the VHWP.

**H 1.9** Prevention Plans must have review dates to be agreed with a veterinary surgeon at the time of development/review.

**H 1.10** The following documentation for the herd is required:

- a) an infectious disease and vaccination plan with details of any vaccines required to be used, target animals and boosters required
- b) a parasite control plan that specifies strategies and worming programmes, including target animals and medicines to be used
- c) a biosecurity and infectious disease control policy for controlling the spread of infectious disease between stock, which must include disease investigation and surveillance, incoming stock and isolation of stock with infectious disease
- d) procedures for the management of casualty animals including responsibilities and methods for humane emergency slaughter
- e) an effective procedure for identifying animals that are undergoing/have undergone treatment, which is known to all farm staff
- f) procedures for the safe disposal of pharmaceutical waste, needles and other sharps, in accordance with the relevant waste disposal regulations
- \* g) a contingency plan for a notifiable disease outbreak
- \* h) a written hygiene policy.

\* **i** **Good hygiene reduces worm burdens and endoparasites, which are not usually a problem on well-run pig units. All farms should have a routine parasite control programme (see H 1.10); uncontrolled, internal parasites can cause serious disease. A worming plan can be developed in discussion with the farm veterinary surgeon.**

\* **i** **It is recommended that producers sign up to AHDB Pork's Significant Diseases Charter (England and Wales), or to the Quality Meat Scotland's Scottish Pig Health Charter.**

**The Significant Diseases Charter has been set up to help the reporting of non-notifiable disease and is free to join.**

**H 1.11** Plans, policies and procedures relating to H 1.10 must be:

- a) approved by a veterinary surgeon
- b) practically implemented on the farm
- c) adhered to by all staff.

**H 1.12\*** Records must:

- a) be kept of all visitors to the unit (see Appendix 1) and,
- b) include the following visitor details
  - i. name of visitor
  - ii. organisation they are from
  - iii. date and time of arrival and departure
  - iv. date of last pig contact.

\* **i** **Control of visitors is an important part of good biosecurity. Visitors should be kept to a minimum. The producer in conjunction with the herd veterinary surgeon should decide, and record in the VHWP, the period of time required since last coming into contact with pigs.**

- H 1.13** During the quarterly veterinary visit the following must be recorded:
- a) the medicines permitted on a unit and their basic use
  - b) permitted in-feed medication
  - c) permitted in-water medication
  - d) permitted routine injectable or oral doser medication
  - \* e) permitted vaccines used, which animals are to be treated, dose rating, timing of vaccine and the frequency and reason for use
  - f) assessment of basic welfare
  - g) assessment and justification of any potentially injurious husbandry procedures
  - h) training courses attended or required
  - \* i) assessment of the data from the Collection and Communication of Inspection Results (CCIR) or equivalent
- H 1.14** The manager must ensure that during the quarterly veterinary visits, the veterinary surgeon is satisfied that the overall welfare on the unit is satisfactory in accordance with those areas of housing and husbandry assessed in the annual audit.

## Casualty animals

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- H 2.1** Each farm must have provisions for the humane killing, without delay, of casualty pigs.

\* **i** Consideration should be given in the VHWP to situations where mass culling may be required for emergency reasons such as a major disease outbreak. In such situations, prompt identification and action can prevent considerable suffering, and producers should outline measures to ensure this is achieved as part of an Emergency Procedures Action Plan. Due attention should be paid to welfare in such circumstances as advised by the attending veterinary surgeon.

- H 2.2** Stock-keepers must:
- a) have access to a copy of the latest version of the Pig Veterinary Society booklet '*The Casualty Pig*'
  - b) be familiar with its content
  - c) adopt its recommendations where appropriate.
- H 2.3** Casualty killing must be carried out by either:
- a) a named, trained, competent member of staff, or
  - b) a licensed slaughterman, or
  - c) a veterinary surgeon.
- H 2.4** With regard to a casualty animal, if there is any doubt as to how to proceed, the veterinary surgeon must be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible or whether humane killing is required to prevent suffering.

**H 2.5** If an animal is in severe pain that is uncontrollable, then the animal must be promptly humanely killed.

\*

**i** It is not illegal to euthanase an animal to prevent further severe suffering if a method of humane killing is available on the premises and there is someone competent to undertake the procedure. However, for non-emergency casualty killing, a slaughterman's licence is required if a captive bolt pistol is used.

**H 2.6** All carcasses must be:

- \* a) stored in bins that are locked when the site is not attended and always at the end of each working day
- b) disposed of strictly according to current legislation.

**H 2.7** A record must be kept of how and where all such carcasses are disposed of.

\* **Biosecurity**

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**H 3.1\*** Each unit must have a written hygiene policy, which includes:

- a) use of foot dips
- b) methods and frequency of pen cleaning
- c) disinfectants used, the product concentration and how often they are changed
- d) muck and slurry disposal.

**H 3.2\*** Clean or dedicated overalls and footwear must be worn by visitors when entering the farm.

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**i** Protective clothing and footwear should be removed and either cleaned and disinfected, laundered or disposed of after use. Separate boots and overalls should be considered for use in farrowing houses.

\*

**i** When cleaning accommodation, disinfectants are only effective after thorough (pressure) washing has removed all faecal matter and detritus. Floors and walls should be dry before pigs are introduced. Washing should include feeders and drinkers etc.

**H 3.3\*** Farms must display signs detailing where vehicles are permitted.

**H 3.4** Replacement animals brought in from other sources must be quarantined and/or appropriately treated in accordance with the VHWP (see H 1.10) before integration.

\* **i** Changing sources of stock should be avoided unless for pressing reasons and the decision should be based on a full veterinary investigation before restocking. The number of sources of stock should be kept to a minimum.

\* **i** The exact procedure for isolation on each farm should be discussed with the farm veterinary surgeon. Efforts should be made to reduce cross contamination, e.g. by avoiding common airspaces and dung passages etc. Separate equipment should be used for isolated stock and they should be handled last. The main stock buildings should not be re-entered after dealing with isolated stock until clean overalls and boots have been put on.

Due consideration should given to the location of isolation paddocks or buildings to ensure reduced cross contamination.

### \* **Medicines**

**H 4.1** Disease issues must be dealt with through appropriate management and husbandry, and the use of medicinal products (excluding vaccines) must be minimised.

**H 4.2** Medicines must be clearly labelled, used and stored in accordance with the label instructions, or under the directions of the attending veterinary surgeon.

**H 4.3\*** Medicines must be:

- a) kept in
  - i. an appropriate secure and lockable store
  - ii. accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- b) disposed of safely and appropriately.

**H 4.4** The medicine store must be separate from food producing areas.

**H 4.5** A nominated person must:

- a) be responsible for the control and management of the medicine store
- b) keep appropriate records for stock control purposes.

**i** It is recommended that producers obtain, read and where appropriate apply the advice contained within the latest version of:

- '*Guidelines on responsible use of antimicrobials in pig production*', issued by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) alliance
- '*Code of practice on the responsible use of animal medicines on the farm*', issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.
- '*Veterinary Medicines: safe use by farmers and other handlers*', issued by the Health and Safety Executive.

**H 4.6** Any medicines used must be licensed for use in the UK, and applied in accordance with UK and EU legislation.

**H 4.7\*** On-farm vaccine use must be listed, stating:

- a) dose rates
- b) timing of vaccination
- c) frequency of use
- d) the reason for use
- e) animal(s) treated.

\*  **It is recommended the electronic Medicine Book for Pigs is used to record antibiotic use. It can be found at – <https://emb-pigs.ahdb.org.uk>**

**H 4.8\*** All clinical waste, such as used and broken needles and syringes, must be disposed of appropriately.

### \* **Segregation pens**

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**H 5.1** Any injured, ailing or distressed pig must:

- a) be segregated if necessary (see H 5.3)
- b) be treated without delay
- c) if necessary, veterinary advice must be sought when needed
- d) if necessary, such animals must be humanely killed.

 **An ailing or distressed pig may need to be segregated if remaining with other animals may lead to additional welfare problems e.g. if the pig is unable to compete for food.**

**H 5.2** All units must have a suitable number of segregation pens to ensure coverage for the number of pigs on the unit.

**H 5.3** Segregation pens must:

- a) be emptied between occupancies, cleaned and disinfected according to the cleaning plan (Appendix 1)
- b) be appropriately sited according to reasons for segregation.

\*  **In practice, it is difficult to have an all-in all-out policy for segregation pens. However, each pen should have an empty period for cleaning, disinfection and drying. The VHWP should indicate reasonable end points for pigs not responding to treatment, or whose condition is considered untreatable. Such pigs are required to be humanely euthanized (see standard H 2.5).**

**For further information on humane end points and euthanasia, refer to the Pig Veterinary Society casualty pig booklet, found at [www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/resources/pvs-documents](http://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/resources/pvs-documents)**

- H 5.4\*** If an infectious enteric disease is present, urine and dung from segregation pens must:
- not come into contact with other animals
  - be disposed of in a way that ensures that the risk of exposure to other animals is minimised.

- H 5.5** Pens must be constructed to facilitate:
- effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces
  - possible removal of a carcass from the box.

\* **Foot and Leg Health**

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- H 6.1** Close attention must be given to the condition of the feet, which must be regularly inspected for signs of abnormal wear, excessive growth or infection.

\*  **Depressed performance and welfare problems such as hoof and joint diseases can occur in overweight sows (condition score 5) (see FW 1.6).**

- H 6.2** Where stock-keepers have access to a copy of the Defra (formerly MAFF) booklet '*Lameness in Pigs*' (PB 1148, 1992), they must:
- be familiar with its content
  - adopt its recommendations where appropriate.

**\* Mutilations**

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**H 7.1** Potentially injurious procedures must not be carried out, with the exception of:

- a) those done for therapeutic reasons by a veterinary surgeon
- b) those outlined in H 7.2 to H 7.13, under the circumstances specified and according to the standards laid down.

**H 7.2** With regards to teeth clipping:

- a) The removal of the points of needle teeth of newborn pigs must not be carried out routinely. Requests for permission to undertake this procedure, together with **welfare-related reasons**, must be submitted in writing to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department, who will consider the information and, if necessary, may visit the unit. This must include the number of instances of:
  - i. facial scarring
  - ii. udder damageincluding number of pigs affected.
- b) If the procedure is permitted, the points of the needle teeth of newborn pigs may only be removed as early as possible within the first 48 hours of life, or in the case of weak or sick piglets, within 3 days of birth. The procedure must leave an intact smooth surface to the teeth.

**i** Research indicates that tooth grinding leads to less damage to the mouth and teeth of piglets than teeth clipping. Grinding is also the method recommended by the EU Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare in its report on the welfare of pigs. The use of teeth grinding as an alternative to clipping is therefore strongly encouraged, but only if carried out by those who are appropriately trained and competent. The RSPCA is currently investigating this method further with a view to gathering information on all aspects of its use. This will be subject to ongoing review with consideration being given to allowing only teeth grinding within the standards in the future.

- H 7.3** Nose rings are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances. Requests for permission to nose ring, together with **welfare-related reasons**, must be submitted in writing to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department who will consider the information, type of ring permitted etc., and may visit the unit.

In cases where nose ringing is permitted, the following stipulations must be applied:

- a) only animals of at least 100kg weight may be ringed
- b) animals must be ringed once
- c) if the ring falls out it must not be replaced
- d) those carrying out the ringing must have received specific veterinary instruction on the most appropriate method.

**i** **Research into methods that might facilitate avoidance of nose ringing has indicated that general pasture damage by unringed sows can be slowed/reduced by providing sows with bulky feeds to improve satiety and by encouraging them to direct their rooting behaviour towards a sacrifice area in the paddock in which they might find food such as root crops.**

**Other research has concluded that rooting is performed to create a cool lying area and that offering a cool lying place and wallowing opportunities in a designated area can reduce pasture damage.**

**Producers should consider employing methods of this kind when aiming to overcome the need to nose-ring.**

- H 7.4** Tail docking is not permitted except in exceptional circumstances, and even then, only the minimum amount of tail necessary may be removed. Requests for permission to tail dock must be submitted in writing to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department by the producer in conjunction with the unit's veterinary surgeon. This must include:

- a) the reasons for the request being made
- b) an indication of the severity (numbers involved, frequency of outbreaks) of tail biting on the unit
- c) the proposed method of docking (including equipment to be used)
- d) information on the other action taken to alleviate the problem through means other than docking, including the date the action was taken
- e) an indication of the amount of tail to be left intact and reasons for this (see H 7.7).

**i** **Failure to provide all the information listed in H 7.4 may result in permission not being granted and/or a delay in a decision being made.**

**The RSPCA will consider the information presented and may visit the unit.**

- H 7.5** If tail biting does occur:

- a) immediate action must be taken to alleviate the problem through means other than docking, including consideration of the issues outlined in the information box below H 7.6
- b) the VHWP (see H 1.1) must also be modified at this time to identify action intended to alleviate tail, flank or ear biting
- c) these actions must be regularly reviewed with the intention of eliminating the need to continue tail docking.

- i** Other measures that should be considered if an outbreak of tail biting occurs include:
- removal of the biter(s) if these can be identified
  - removal and treatment of the bitten pig(s) see H 5.1
  - the addition of chewable objects
  - the addition of more enrichment material, more frequently.

Such action may help to stop the cycle of behaviour and stop the outbreak.

**H 7.6** Producers must be able to demonstrate to Freedom Food Assessors and RSPCA Farm Livestock Officers the actions they have taken with respect to H 7.4 and H 7.5.

**i** Tail docking is against the principles of the RSPCA welfare standards. However, at the present time it is accepted that in a few exceptional cases it may be necessary to reduce the pain and suffering caused by a serious tail biting problem on an individual unit. Recent on-farm investigation of the risk factors associated with outbreaks of tail biting has indicated that the following are areas of particular importance, and should be considered on all units experiencing tail biting problems:

- use of straw – frequent (preferably daily) addition of fresh clean straw (not damp, fouled or dusty) can reduce tail biting. Pigs that have previously been housed on straw and then moved to non-straw systems, also have an increased risk of biting. It is important that bedding is kept dry and wet bedding removed. Gale breaker screens can help to stop rain drifting in onto pigs or bedding.
- feed space – increasing the available feeding space per pig can reduce tail biting. Efforts should be made to position feeders so that resting pigs don't lie in front of them. Consideration should be given to using feeders with head/shoulder partitions.
- space allowance – reducing stocking densities can help to reduce the risk of tail biting.
- stock-keepers – reducing the number of pens that each stock-keeper has to look after can help to reduce the risk of tail biting problems.
- genetic make-up – the genetics of the pigs on a unit can affect the likelihood of tail biting occurring.
- disease – a disease outbreak can increase the risk of tail biting occurring, so extra vigilance is required at such times.
- split sex rearing – research indicates that rearing pigs in single sex groups may help to reduce tail biting on units where tail biting is a problem.
- draughts – draughts, particularly in the lying area have been shown to increase the risk of tail biting.
- temperature – extremes of temperature have been shown to increase the risk of tail biting, so adding ventilation, shades, sprinklers or misters can help to cool pigs, whilst the addition of extra bedding, gale breaker blinds to direct cold air flow and extra attention to draught proofing can help to warm pigs that may be too cold.
- fouled drinkers – the presence of dirty, fouled drinkers has been linked to an increased risk of tail biting (see FW 2.1 and FW 2.5). Placing drinkers in the lying area should be avoided.
- docking – avoiding mixing pigs docked by different people or from different sources can help to minimise the risk of having pigs with varying tail lengths in the same pen.

**H 7.7** Where permission to tail dock is granted and docking is undertaken:

- a) a minimum of 6cm of tail must be left at the time of docking
- b) if a tail is 6cm or less, then the tip must be removed
- c) variation in tail length must be avoided.

**i** **Variation in tail length has been shown to increase the risk of tail biting within a pen. It is important to ensure that when docking, the tails of all pigs within any one group are docked wherever possible.**

**H 7.8\*** Tail docking is not permitted for free-range pigs (including outdoor/free range sows/gilts).

**i** **Replacement gilts brought onto a Freedom Food approved outdoor breeding unit may already be tail docked. Ideally, these animals should not be tail docked as Freedom Food members rearing their own replacement gilts are not permitted to tail dock.**

**Whilst acknowledging this inconsistency, at the present time the RSPCA appreciates the practical difficulties associated with sourcing non-docked replacement gilts. The RSPCA will consider the need for more guidance and/or standards on this issue in the future.**

**H 7.9** The trimming of tusks in boars may be undertaken by the attending veterinary surgeon, or other competent person, in order to ensure the safeguarding of other animals and stock-keepers from injury.

**H 7.10** Requests for permission to tail dock, teeth clip and/or nose ring must be submitted annually.

**H 7.11** All of the practices referred to in H 7.1 to H 7.9 must only be performed:

- a) in a way that minimises suffering
- b) by trained and competent stock-keepers
- c) using separate, hygienic, appropriately sharp and well-maintained equipment appropriate to the procedure in question.

**H 7.12** Equipment must be appropriately sanitised between each use or, in the case of tail docking or teeth clipping, between each litter.

**H 7.13** Where tail docking, teeth clipping/grinding and/or nose ringing are undertaken, the need for such must be reviewed quarterly by the management and the veterinary surgeon and the outcome recorded.

**i** **Cauterisation equipment (gas or electric) which minimises bleeding is an acceptable alternative to the use of conventional cutting tools where justifiable docking is carried out.**

**H 7.14** Surgical castration of pigs is not permitted.

**H 7.15** If Improvac<sup>®</sup> is used on male pigs, justification, including welfare-related reasons, must be given to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department in writing and the Department's written response must be made available to Freedom Food assessors and RSPCA Farm Livestock Officers.

- H 7.16** The application of Improvac<sup>®</sup> must only be performed:
- a) in a way that minimises any suffering and stress
  - b) by trained and competent personnel
  - c) using appropriate and well-maintained equipment
  - d) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



**The RSPCA Farm Animals Department will review the use of Improvac<sup>®</sup> on units that are approved under the Freedom Food scheme in light of any further scientific and practical information regarding the welfare of pigs, and may amend the standards accordingly.**

# Welfare Outcome Assessment

**Welfare standards for farm animals are primarily based on ‘inputs’, i.e. they describe what must be provided to the animals in terms of certain resources, such as housing, space, feed, veterinary care and management practices. However, it is important to know what effect these inputs are having on the welfare of the animals and therefore look at the ‘outcomes’ of these inputs, i.e. the impact of these inputs on the health, physical condition and behaviour of the animals themselves. This practice is known as ‘Welfare Outcome Assessment’.**

**i** RSPCA Welfare Outcome Assessment<sup>1</sup> has been developed for pigs and offers a practical and scientifically informed method to provide a more objective, animal-focused picture of the level of welfare being achieved on-farm for certain key welfare measures. The welfare measures selected for assessment are listed in Appendix 6.

<sup>1</sup> RSPCA Welfare Outcome Assessments are informed by AssureWel, a collaborative project led by the RSPCA, Soil Association and University of Bristol with a primary aim of developing farm animal welfare outcome assessments for use within farm assurance schemes.

**i** The following information is applicable to Freedom Food Scheme members only:

**Members of the RSPCA Assured Freedom Food scheme will receive a Welfare Outcome Assessment as part of their Freedom Food farm assessment visits. Additional Welfare Outcome Assessments may also be undertaken by RSPCA staff, such as Farm Livestock Officers.**

**WA 1.1** It must be ensured that a Welfare Outcome Assessment is conducted:

- a) according to the protocol in Appendix 6;
- b) using the assessment form in Appendix 6 or in the case of Freedom Food scheme members, the scheme’s equivalent current Welfare Outcome Assessment form must be used;
- c) on a regular basis or, for Freedom Food scheme members, during each scheme assessment visit;
- d)
  - i. by a suitably competent person that is independent from the direct management of the farm and,
  - ii. in the case of Freedom Food scheme members, by the relevant scheme personnel.

**i** With reference to WA 1.1 c), Welfare Outcome Assessments should ideally be carried out at least every 12 months.

**i** With reference to WA 1.1 d) i., a suitable person to conduct the assessment would be a qualified veterinary surgeon, an independent consultant with an adequate knowledge of pig welfare and production; a Farm Assurance Scheme Assessor; the farm’s company fieldsman, or a person with an equivalent role.

**WA 1.2** Copies of the completed Welfare Outcome Assessment forms (WA 1.1 b)) must be kept:

- a) on the farm where carried out.
- b) for a minimum of five years.

**WA 1.3** With regard to WA 1.2, the document must include the following information:

- a) the date of the audit
- b) the specific location of the pigs assessed e.g. site
- c) the name, job title and organisation of the person who carried out the assessment
- d) for finishing pigs the age and weight of the herd at the time of the assessment
- e) any responsive action to be taken
- f) the signature of the person undertaking the assessment.

**WA 1.4** Any health/welfare issue identified as an area of concern by the Welfare Outcome Assessment (WA 1.1) must be included within the VHWP (see H 1.1 to H 1.14 and H 3.1 to H 7.16).

**i** The Welfare Outcome Assessment will not always provide a definitive farm level prevalence of welfare for the measures assessed. The assessment has been designed to identify areas of welfare concern that are likely to be more wide-spread on the farm and therefore warrant further investigation and careful monitoring. Welfare Outcome Assessments can also indicate areas where welfare is being safeguarded.

# Transport

**Animal transport systems need to be designed and managed to ensure livestock are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport and handling of livestock needs to be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in transport need to be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.**

## Livestock markets

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**T 1.1** Pigs must not be presented for sale at livestock markets.

 **Pigs presented for sale at livestock markets will automatically lose their Freedom Food status.**

## Casualty animals

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**T 2.1** A sick or injured animal must not be transported unless it is being taken for veterinary treatment or it is being taken to the nearest available place for humane slaughter, and then only if the said animal is suitable for loading, travelling and unloading.

**T 2.2** Hauliers must:

- a) have access to a copy of the latest version of the Pig Veterinary Society booklet '*The Casualty Pig*'
- b) be familiar with its contents
- c) adopt its recommendations.

**T 2.3** Where hauliers have access to a copy of the Defra booklet '*Guidance on the Transport of Casualty Farm Animals*' (PB 1381, 1998), they must:

- a) be familiar with its contents
- b) adopt its recommendations.

## Training

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**T 3.0** Hauliers must:

- a) have access to a copy of the relevant sections of the current version of the '*RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*'
- b) be familiar with its content
- c) understand and apply its content.

**T 3.1** Personnel in charge of pig transporters must:

- a) have completed an approved training course, preferably validated
- b) be able to demonstrate their competence in handling pigs when loading, unloading and while in transit.

 **Drivers need to be aware of the effect of their driving style on the welfare of livestock onboard vehicles. In particular, they should make every effort to corner smoothly and pull away/stop as gently as possible.**

- T 3.1.1** Managers of livestock hauliers must utilise the Humane Slaughter Association's training video ' *The Road Ahead – livestock welfare in transit* ' as part of their staff training programme.
- T 3.2** Animal handlers must be trained to:
- understand the likely stress factors pigs may be subject to
  - appreciate how pigs react towards other pigs
  - appreciate how pigs react towards people
  - appreciate how pigs react to strange noises, sights, sounds and smells.
- T 3.3** Pigs have the following behaviour characteristics which must be taken into account when they are being moved:
- they have good all round vision but do not see well at a distance, and in certain breeds the ears will further restrict their vision
  - they are less inclined than other species to follow one another
  - pigs have a very good sense of smell
  - pigs have good hearing.

### **Handling/loading/unloading**

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- T 4.0** Boards must be:
- present during the handling operation
  - used as a handling aid when necessary.
- T 4.1** The presence and use of electric goads on any Freedom Food approved unit or vehicle is prohibited.
- T 4.2** Pigs must not be moved or loaded unless:
- the way forward is clear
  - there is adequate space available for them to move into.
- T 4.3** Where loading and unloading facilities provide a ramp, the incline/decline must be no more than 20 percent (11 degrees).
- T 4.4** Both loading ramps and tail boards must have some means of preventing the pigs from falling off or slipping.

 **Covering the loading ramp and tail board with litter/straw may help to prevent slipping in some cases.**

**T 4.5** All tail boards must be fitted with foot battens.

**i** Loading or unloading systems which eliminate the need for slopes have been developed and their use is strongly encouraged in order to reduce stress and risk of injury to the pigs and to facilitate easier handling for stock-keepers/hauliers.

For example, if a loading ramp is to be modified or newly installed, it is strongly advised that a reverse ramp be considered.

Where a reverse ramp is installed, it is the vehicle that negotiates the incline until the tail gate is level with the ground and animals walk straight onto or out of the vehicle on the level or slight gradient.

**T 4.6** All handling systems must be designed and operated so as to:

- a) not impede the movement of the pigs
- b) reduce the incidence of noise.

**i** Where reverse ramps are not installed, particular regard should be given to minimising the angle of the ramp, and the potential for pigs to fall or slip.

## **Transport**

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**T 5.1** Pigs must be slaughtered as close as possible to the point of rearing.

**T 5.2** Finishing pigs must be housed and managed to minimise mixing for transportation by remaining in their on-farm social groups (established at least 1 week prior to transport).

**T 5.3** Where mixing is unavoidable precautions must be taken to minimise aggression.

**T 5.4** The timing of transport must be planned between slaughterhouse, haulier and producer, to minimise travelling and waiting time for the pigs.

**T 5.5** Any interruption causing a delay of one hour or more to the scheduled arrival time must be notified to the receiving abattoir or farm.

**T 5.6** Pigs must be unloaded immediately at the slaughterhouse or farm.

**T 5.7** Pigs must not be transported for more than 8 hours – the time being calculated from first animal loaded to last unloaded.

**T 5.8** The floors of all vehicles must be solid and covered with sufficient bedding (such as sawdust, shavings, straw etc.) in order to:

- a) provide comfort
- b) provide thermal comfort
- c) reduce the likelihood of injury.

**i** In order to satisfy the requirement to provide comfort, including thermal comfort, bedding should be of a type, and present in adequate quantities, to allow the absorption of urine and faeces.

- T 5.9** All deaths and serious or widespread injuries in transit must:
- a) where appropriate, be reported to:
    - (i) the driver
    - (ii) the haulier
    - (iii) the slaughterhouse manager
    - (iv) the farm manager
  - b) be recorded on farm
  - c) be investigated and the results of the investigation recorded.
- T 5.9.1** Where causes of incidents in transit have been identified, prompt action must be taken to prevent further deaths and suffering occurring.
- T 5.10** Appropriate lighting, whether natural or artificial, must be available when loading and unloading pigs and to enable pigs to be thoroughly inspected at any time.
- T 5.11** The interior of any vehicle, including the floor, all internal surfaces to which pigs have access, loading ramps, tail boards and side rails must be designed, constructed, maintained and regularly inspected to ensure that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to the animal.
- T 5.12** Appropriate air quality and quantity must be maintained on vehicles.
- T 5.12.1** Ventilation must be capable of being adjusted, according to weather and travel conditions.
-  **Where possible, the vehicle should be kept moving in order to facilitate airflow/ventilation.**
- T 5.12.2** Vehicles used for road transport must be fitted with a light-coloured roof that is adequately insulated and ensures effective protection from the weather.
- T 5.13** Levels of transit mortality (in animals from any single source) above 1 in 1000 pigs in any 3-month period must be the subject of veterinary investigation.
- T 5.14** All transporters must have a livestock capacity document on board at all times, giving:
- a) data on the size of the transporter
  - b) the calculated carrying capacity for different livestock species under different climatic conditions.
- T 5.15** All hauliers must have a written standard operating and emergency procedure to implement during transportation (see Appendix 3 for example).

## Transport space allowance

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**T 6.1** Maximum stocking rates and minimum space allowances for pigs during transport are:

Weight of pig (kg)	Stocking rate (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Space allowance (m <sup>2</sup> /pig)
7-10	137	0.05
30	200	0.15
35	218	0.16
40	222	0.18
100	235	0.43
110	245	0.45
sows	316	0.79

**i** These figures may be adjusted by +/- 10 percent depending on the breed, size and physical condition of the pigs. More space should be given during hot weather conditions.

## Biosecurity

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- T 7.1** Vehicles delivering livestock to slaughterhouses or other farms must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after each load and within 24 hours of delivery using a Defra-approved disinfectant.
- T 7.2** Where vehicles make repeat journeys between the same two points in a single day, cleansing and disinfection before the first journey and within 24 hours of delivery of the last load must be carried out.
- T 7.3** Records of all undertakings to cleanse and disinfect must be kept and made available to Freedom Food Assessors and RSPCA Farm Livestock Officers on request.

# Slaughter/killing

**All slaughter/killing systems need to be designed and managed to ensure livestock are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The pre-slaughter handling of livestock needs to be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in the slaughter need to be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.**

**S 1.0\*** In the case of Freedom Food scheme members, all pigs presented for slaughter must have:

- a) spent their entire lives on Freedom Food approved farms
- b) been transported by a Freedom Food approved haulier.

\*  **Producers are strongly encouraged, where possible, to send all cull sows and boars to Freedom Food approved abattoirs using Freedom Food approved hauliers.**

## Management and training

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**S 1.1** Managers must develop and implement an animal welfare policy, which must include written procedures with regard to maintaining animal welfare in the abattoir, including the responsibilities and duties of staff for emergencies such as escaped, trapped or injured livestock.

**S 1.2** The animal welfare policy must be regularly reviewed and updated.

**S 1.3** Managers must appoint at least one trained Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), who is responsible for the implementation of the animal welfare policy.

**S 1.3.1** All AWOs must:

- a) hold a certificate of competence relating to all those operations listed in S 1.4, for which he/she is responsible
- b) have attended the Bristol University Animal Welfare Officer training programme, or other recognised, named, validated course on animal welfare at abattoirs
- c) keep a record of all action taken to improve animal welfare in the abattoir for which he/she is responsible.

**S 1.3.2** Records relating to S 1.3.1 c) must be kept for at least a year.

**S 1.4** Managers must:

- a) develop and implement a training programme for all staff handling and slaughtering animals
- b) ensure that the following operations are only carried out by persons holding a certificate of competence for such operations:
  - (i) handling and care of animals in the lairage
  - (ii) restraint of animals during stunning or killing
  - (iii) stunning of animals
  - (iv) assessment of effectiveness of stunning
  - (v) shackling or hoisting of live animals
  - (vi) bleeding of live animals.

- S 1.4.1** Certificates of competence must be attained through the completion of approved training programmes/courses.
- S 1.5** The Humane Slaughter Association has developed a training programme (Humane Slaughter – Taking Responsibility) for use in abattoirs. Managers must obtain a copy of this and utilise it as part of the staff training programme.
- S 1.5.1** Slaughterhouse managers/AWOs must:
- obtain a copy of the Humane Slaughter Association's '*Best Practice Guidelines for the Welfare of Pigs in Abattoirs*' (2004)
  - be familiar with its content
  - ensure that the recommendations are applied where appropriate.
- S 1.6\*** An AWO must:
- be present on the site at all times whilst slaughter is being carried out
  - ensure that reserve equipment is serviced according to the service schedule
  - make frequent and thorough checks throughout the day to ensure that animals are being effectively stunned and are insensible throughout the slaughter operation.
- S 1.7** Where it is found that animals are not being effectively stunned, the slaughter line must be stopped and immediate remedial action taken.
- S 1.8** The managers, AWOs and all slaughter staff must:
- have access to a copy of the current Defra codes of practice relating to slaughter
  - have access to a copy of the current version of the '*RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*'
  - be familiar with and implement the relevant content of both.
- S 1.9** The AWO must ensure that animal welfare during the slaughter process is not compromised by operator fatigue.
- S 1.10** In order to reduce the likelihood of operator fatigue, managers must ensure that rotation of staff is practised as necessary, and recorded, as a Standard Operating Procedure.

## Casualty animals

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- S 2.1** Pigs that are not able to walk must be killed without delay, except in exceptional circumstances where a delay can be justified (see information box below), to ensure avoidance of suffering, and without moving them i.e. the animals must be killed on the vehicle, in the lairage pen, or wherever they are situated, using emergency slaughter equipment and procedures.

 **Delay in killing a pig unable to walk can only be justified in exceptional circumstances, i.e. when the welfare of other pigs would otherwise be adversely affected.**

- S 2.2** Casualty animals must be killed in accordance with methods outlined in S 6.1 or, alternatively, injection of an overdose of a drug with anaesthetic properties which causes immediate loss of consciousness and then death, to be administered by a veterinary surgeon, may be used.

## Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

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**i** The use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in areas where live animals are present can assist those responsible for monitoring and enforcing animal welfare within the abattoir in ensuring that standards are maintained. It is strongly recommended that CCTV footage is also used for in-house training programmes and to provide an additional level of security at the abattoir.

- S(TV) 1.1** A functional CCTV system must be installed and operational to monitor animals undergoing the following processes at the abattoir (as applicable):
- a) unloading from vehicles into the lairage
  - b) lairaging, including the movement of animals out of the lairage towards the stun point
  - c) stunning, including animals approaching the stun area
  - d) shackling, including the shackling of animals following gas killing
  - e) sticking
  - f) entering a Controlled Atmosphere System (CAS).
- S(TV) 1.2** CCTV cameras must be positioned to ensure a clear view of the processes being monitored is achieved at all times.
- S(TV) 1.3** It must be possible to observe clearly the view from each camera at all times via one or more monitors.
- S(TV) 1.4** CCTV footage must be recorded at all times where animals are undergoing any of the processes listed under standard S(TV) 1.1.
- S(TV) 1.5** The recorded CCTV footage must be:
- a) retained by the abattoir for a period of at least three months, and
  - b) available for viewing on site by Freedom Food field staff and RSPCA Farm Animals Department staff on request.

**i** Where possible it may be useful for managers to retain CCTV footage for longer than the three months specified in standard S(TV) 1.5, for their own monitoring and security purposes.

## Lairage

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- S 3.1** Fasting must not exceed 18 hours for any pigs prior to slaughter (see M 10.2).
- S 3.2** Slaughterhouse managers must take steps to ascertain when animals last had access to food.
- S 3.3** Slaughterhouse managers must ensure that the premises are constructed and maintained so as to prevent any injury being caused to animals confined there.

**S 3.4** The slaughterhouse must provide a lairage facility which:

- a) is constructed so as to provide shelter from direct sunlight and adverse weather conditions
- b) provides animals with a dry lying area
- c) is of adequate size and construction for the number of animals confined there
- d) provides adequate draught-free ventilation
- e) is thermally comfortable for the pigs (i.e. the pigs are neither overheated nor chilled)
- f) is properly lit to permit animals to be inspected
- g) has drainage facilities for faeces and urine
- h) is able to be thoroughly cleaned between batches of animals
- i) has isolation pens in which sick or injured animals can be isolated and, if necessary, humanely killed, and such pens must be located close to the unloading area and within easy access of the stunning area
- j) provides easy access to adequate water, which must be available at all times, and to food, if necessary.

**i** If misting or spraying of pigs is undertaken, due consideration should be given to the temperature and the possibility of the pigs becoming too cold. Evidence suggests that spraying of pigs when the air temperature is below 5°C can lead to chilling of the animals and should therefore normally be avoided, unless the pigs are clearly overheated and require cooling.

**S 3.5** Pigs that are to be confined in lairage for less than three hours must have the following space allowances:

Live weight (kg)	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
80	0.49
90	0.53
100	0.57
110	0.61

**i** The minimum space allowances listed in S 3.5 will need to be increased if there is a risk of heat stress i.e. where ambient temperature is high and/or showers are unavailable. See information box below E 3.1 for more guidance on appropriate temperature ranges for pigs.

**S 3.5.1** Pigs that are to be confined in lairage for more than three hours must have the following space allowances:

Live weight (kg)	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
80	0.675
90	0.715
100	0.75
110	0.80

- S 3.5.2** Gilts and sows that are to be confined in lairage for less than three hours must have the following space allowances:

Live weight (kg)	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Up to 120	0.64
121 - 250	0.85
251+	1.06

**i** The minimum space allowances listed in S 3.5.2 will need to be increased if there is a risk of heat stress i.e. where ambient temperature is high and/or showers are unavailable. Likewise, stock-keepers should be mindful of differences in breed, temperament, ventilation and social group and should adjust space allowances accordingly to ensure that welfare is not adversely affected.

- S 3.5.3** Gilts and sows that are to be confined in lairage for more than three hours must have the following space allowances:

Animal type	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Mature sow	3.5
Gilt (first & second parity)	2.5

- S 3.6** Pigs which, because of their sex, age or origin, are likely to be aggressive must be separated from each other at lairage and must stay in on-farm groups (or sub-divided).
- S 3.7** Pigs in lairage pens must not be exposed to bright artificial light or direct sunlight except during antemortem inspection, which must be carried out in a minimum of 220 lux illumination.

## Pre-slaughter handling

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- S 4.1** Pigs must be handled calmly, quietly and firmly, with care to avoid unnecessary excitement or distress.
- S 4.2** Race design and construction must encourage pigs to move forward, with:
- as few right angled bends as possible
  - no projections and obstructions in the races and passageways
  - appropriate lighting.
- S 4.3** Flooring must be non-slip in races and passageways.
- S 4.4\*** The presence and use of electric goads and sticks in any abattoir is prohibited.
- S 4.5** Pigs must not be moved unless the way forward is clear, and there is adequate space available for them to move into.
- S 4.6** All pens, passageways and races must be designed and constructed to allow pigs to walk side by side, except in the case of races leading to the restraining equipment.

## Slaughter equipment

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- S 5.1** The equipment used for the stunning and killing of animals, including the stunning pen and/or restraint devices, must be designed, manufactured and maintained to ensure rapid and effective stunning or killing.

**i** Current legislation requires that any electrical equipment used for stunning an animal in the slaughterhouse is fitted with a failsafe device that will prevent it from delivering current below that which it has been set to deliver, in order to ensure an effective stun. However, to date, it has not proved possible to develop an effective device of this kind. At present, therefore, the difficulty of achieving full compliance with this legislative requirement is appreciated.

- S 5.2** All slaughter equipment must be thoroughly and appropriately cleaned after use.
- S 5.3** Slaughter equipment must be checked at least once daily by an AWO to ensure it is in working order and in a good state of repair.
- S 5.4** A record of the check on slaughter equipment must be made.
- S 5.5\*** Reserve equipment for the stunning and killing of animals must be readily available for use in an emergency.
- S 5.6** Reserve equipment must be checked at least once weekly by an AWO to ensure it is in working order and a good state of repair.
- S 5.7** A record must be made of the check on reserve equipment.

## Slaughter/killing methods

**S 6.1** Pigs must only be slaughtered/killed using one of the following methods, which must render pigs instantaneously insensible and insensitive to pain:

- a) electrocution
- b)
  - (i) free bullet
  - (ii) penetrative captive bolt
  - (iii) electronarcosis
  - (iv) exposure to carbon dioxide until death ensues

followed by bleeding

- c) carbon dioxide associated with inert gases
- d) inert gases.

**i** Captive bolt stunning is not 100 percent effective in mature sows or boars, and thus is not generally an appropriate method of stunning these animals and should normally only be used as a back up method of stunning in an emergency.

**i** From 1st January 2013 legislation has permitted the use of inert gases and carbon dioxide with inert gases as a method of stunning pigs.

The RSPCA will continue to monitor the situation with a view to producing more detailed standards for processors wishing to use these alternative gases in light of any further information, technical developments and recommendations from scientific research.

In the meantime, those standards relating to gas killing (S 9.1 to S 9.25) shall apply to use of carbon dioxide only.

**S 6.1.1** In the case of electronarcosis, the minimum current level during stunning must be:

- a) no less than 1.3 amps
- b) attained within 1 second
- c) maintained for at least 3 seconds.

**S 6.1.2** In the case of electrocution, the minimum current level during each stage (i.e. electrodes spanning the brain, and when spanning the brain and heart) must be:

- a) no less than 1.3 amps
- b) attained within 1 second
- c) maintained for at least 3 seconds.

**S 6.1.3** In the case of electronarcosis/electrocution:

- a) equipment must be fitted with a device which displays and records the details of the electrical key parameters for each animal stunned
- b) equipment referred to in a) must be clearly visible and give a clearly visible and audible warning if any of the parameters fall below the required level
- c) the current must be checked at the start of the killing process for each batch of animals using a tester which can simulate the resistance offered by the pig and can check the current and amperage output at the tongs
- d) the outcome of each check referred to in (c) must be recorded
- e) records relating to (a) and (d) must be kept for at least a year.

- S 6.2** If killing is carried out by a veterinary surgeon, this must be done by any method deemed appropriate by them.

## Stunning

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- S 7.1** Pigs must be stunned prior to slaughter by means of a stunning system that renders them instantaneously unconscious and insensitive to pain and maintains that state until the point of death.
- S 7.1.1** The effectiveness of stunning, in terms of ensuring immediate unconsciousness in all animals which remains until death, must be monitored at the start of slaughter and at least every 2 hours after that, and the outcome recorded.
- S 7.1.2** At least 10 animals must be checked on each occasion when assessing the effectiveness of stunning (see S 7.1.1).
- S 7.1.3** The records of checks on the effectiveness of stunning must include:
- a) the name of the person undertaking the stunning
  - b) the name of the person undertaking the checks
  - c) the number of pigs checked each time
  - d) the indicators used to verify the effectiveness of stunning
  - e) the frequency of checks
  - f) the number of non-compliant pigs
  - g) the action taken to correct ineffective stunning
  - \* h) procedures to review the effectiveness of the corrective action.
- S 7.2** Pigs must only be stunned when they can be stuck immediately afterwards with a stun-stick interval of no more than 15 seconds.

- i** a) **Signs of effective captive bolt stunning:**
- animal collapses
  - no rhythmic breathing
  - fixed, fully dilated pupil
  - no corneal reflex (i.e. no blink reaction when the surface of the eyeball is lightly touched)
  - relaxed jaw
  - tongue hanging out
- b) **Signs of effective head-only electrical stunning:**
- i) **Tonic phase**
    - animal collapses and becomes rigid
    - no rhythmic breathing
    - head is raised
    - forelegs extended and hind legs flexed into the body
  - ii) **Clonic phase**
    - gradual relaxation of muscles
    - paddling or involuntary kicking (can be severe)
    - downward movement of eyeballs
    - urination and/or defecation

**Deviation from the signs outlined in (a) or (b) above may be an indication that the stun has been ineffective or that animals are beginning to recover from the stun.**

- S 7.2.1** If there is any indication that a stun has not been completely effective, or that animals are displaying signs of recovery from a stun, re-stunning must take place immediately.
- S 7.3** Techniques that lower the resistance of the pig to electrical current must be used.

**i** Resistance to current flow may vary, depending on the condition of the electrodes, the site of contact with the pig's head, and how tightly the electrodes are pressed onto the head. The efficiency of current flow can be improved by regular decarbonising and cleaning of electrodes (when dry) with a wire brush.

## **Sticking**

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- S 8.1** Pigs must be stuck using a sharp knife that is a minimum of 5" (12cm) long.
- S 8.1.1** Two knives must be present at the point of sticking at all times whilst the process is in operation.
- S 8.2** A chest stick (thoracic bleeding) must always be used.

**i** A chest stick (i.e. thoracic bleeding method) is the best method for ensuring rapid, profuse and complete blood loss.

- S 8.3** The knife must be inserted in the midline of the neck at the depression in front of the breastbone and the skin raised with the knife point using light pressure and a lifting movement.
- S 8.4** When penetration has been made, the knife handle must be lowered so that the blade is in a near vertical position, and pushed upward to sever the major blood vessels.
- S 8.5** Both carotid arteries or the major blood vessels near the heart from which they arise must always be severed during sticking.
- S 8.6** Blood loss from the pig must be rapid, profuse and sufficient to ensure the animal is dead.
- S 8.7** After incision of the blood vessels, there must be no further dressing procedure on the animal for at least 20 seconds, and in any case until all brainstem reflexes have ceased.
- S 8.8** Where one person is responsible for the stunning, shackling, hoisting and bleeding of pigs, they must complete all these operations on each individual pig in turn.

## **Gas killing**

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- S 9.1** Daily checks must always be undertaken to ensure that prior to the commencement of the process there is a sufficient supply of gas to kill all pigs to be received.
- S 9.2** Gas monitoring/sensing devices must be calibrated daily according to manufacturer's advice and using certified calibration gases, to ensure that the correct concentrations are maintained at all times.
- S 9.3** A verifiable record of calibration must be made available during inspection.

**S 9.4** Pigs must not be loaded into the crates unless and until the crates can immediately be lowered into the gas.

**i** In group systems, whilst it should be routine practice not to load pigs into the crate until they can immediately be lowered into the gas, it is accepted that pigs may, on occasion, be held in the crate for a short period of time prior to being lowered. The removal of pigs and subsequent re-loading may be more detrimental to welfare than allowing them to remain in the crate for a short period of time.

**S 9.5** Adequate lighting, appropriate for the system, must be provided in the conveying mechanism and the chamber to allow pigs to see other pigs and their surroundings and to encourage the movement of pigs into the chamber.

**S 9.5.1** The entrance to the chamber must be of adequate size and construction so as not to impede movement into the chamber.

**S 9.6** The gas chamber must be fitted with devices which:

- a) maintain the required concentration by volume of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the gas mixture in the chamber
- b) measure, continuously display and record:
  - (i) the concentration by volume of CO<sub>2</sub> in the gas mixture at the point of maximum exposure
  - (ii) the time of exposure.
- c) give clearly visible and audible warning signs if the concentration by volume of CO<sub>2</sub> falls below 85 percent
- d) records relating to (b) must be kept for at least one year.

**S 9.6.1** Pigs must be loaded into the crates in numbers that allow all individuals to lie down simultaneously, without being stacked on each other.

**S 9.7** In systems where crates stop in increasing concentrations of gas prior to reaching the maximum concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>, the maximum concentration must be measured at floor level within the crate.

**S 9.8** In systems where pigs are lowered immediately into the maximum concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>, the concentration of gas must be measured at the height in the chamber equivalent to pig nose height.

**S 9.9** Upon activation of the alarm, pigs must not be allowed to enter the chamber until the defect has been identified and rectified, and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has returned to at least the minimum permitted concentration.

**S 9.10** The manager of the slaughterhouse shall ensure that every person engaged in the stunning/killing is properly instructed as to:

- a) the method of operation of the chamber
- b) the procedures for any necessary flushing of the chamber with atmospheric air
- c) the procedures for any necessary evacuation of pigs from the chamber.

**S 9.11** There must be a means of visually monitoring pigs that are in the chamber.

**i** Methods of viewing the pigs inside the chamber could include:

- a) CCTV
- b) the provision of a window in the chamber/chamber door.

Additional lighting may be required in order to facilitate viewing.

- S 9.12** Once a pig enters the chamber, it must be conveyed to the point in the chamber of maximum concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> within 30 seconds, or within 20 seconds if a dip-lift system is in use.
- S 9.13** Pigs must not be lowered into the chamber until the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is at least 85 percent at the point of maximum concentration.
- S 9.13.1** The average minimum CO<sub>2</sub> concentration for the batch must be 90 percent.
- S 9.13.2** Pigs must remain at the point of maximum concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> for long enough to ensure that there is no possibility of any pigs displaying signs of recovery prior to bleed-out being completed.

**i** The Humane Slaughter Association's guidelines state that death is usually achieved within 90 seconds of exposure at 90 percent CO<sub>2</sub>, provided that the pigs reach the maximum concentration within 30 seconds (Humane Slaughter Association (2004) '*Best Practice Guidelines for the Welfare of Pigs in Abattoirs*').

- S 9.14** The gas must be mixed following breaks in the line in excess of 10 minutes, in order to ensure good gas distribution within the chamber.
- S 9.15** The effectiveness of the stun/kill must be monitored at the start of each session and at least every 2 hours after that, and the outcome recorded.
- S 9.16** At least 10 animals must be checked on each occasion when assessing the effectiveness of the stun/kill (see S 9.15).

**i** In addition to these formal checks, the shackling personnel should be aware of their responsibilities in continually monitoring pigs for any signs of recovery.

**i** Signs of an effective CO<sub>2</sub> stun/kill:

- dilated pupils
- absence of rhythmic breathing
- absence of response to nose prick
- cessation of heart beat.

A corneal reflex may be present briefly in low frequency (1 out of every 100 pigs), but may not be significant provided that other reflexes are absent; however, ideally no pigs should be displaying a corneal reflex.

- S 9.17** The records of checks on the effectiveness of exposure to the gas mixture must include:
- a) the name of the person undertaking the checks
  - b) the number of pigs checked each time
  - c) the frequency of checks
  - d) the number of pigs showing signs of recovery
  - e) the action taken to correct the ineffective stun/kill.

- S 9.18** If there is any indication that the stun/kill has not been effective, or that animals are displaying signs of recovery, re-stunning/killing must take place immediately, using an approved back-up method (see information box below), and the action recorded.

**i** a) **Methods of re-stunning:**

- captive bolt
- **electronarcosis – the minimum current should be no less than 1.3amp, which should be attained within 200 ms and maintained for at least 3 seconds.**

b) **Methods of killing:**

- **electrocution – the minimum current level during each stage (i.e. electrodes spanning the brain and when spanning the heart) should be no less than 1.3amp. This should be attained within 200 ms and maintained for at least 3 seconds.**

**For practical purposes, captive bolt is recommended as the preferred option for re-stunning.**

- S 9.19** Where captive bolt or electronarcosis are used as methods of re-stunning, they must be followed by bleeding within 15 seconds.
- S 9.20** Emergency equipment for re-stunning/killing must be easily and immediately available and accessible.
- S 9.21** If any pig shows signs of recovery, the slaughter line must be stopped and no animals admitted into the chamber until all concentrations and dwell times have been checked.
- S 9.22** Records relating to S 9.21 must be kept.
- S 9.23** Emergency procedures must be in place, and followed, in the event of a failure of the gas system, including procedures for the removal and killing of pigs already in the chamber.
- S 9.24** In the event of an emergency, operators must be able to demonstrate that pigs can be bled swiftly when normal facilities cannot be used.
- S 9.25** The time from removal from the chamber to sticking must be sufficiently short to ensure that there is no possibility of any pigs displaying signs of recovery prior to bleed-out being completed.

**i** **The European Food Safety Authority guidelines (Welfare Aspects of Animal Stunning and Killing Methods 2004) relating to new CO<sub>2</sub> group stunning equipment, with a minimum of 70 to 80 percent CO<sub>2</sub> in air at the first stop position of the gondolas, and 90 percent CO<sub>2</sub> at the bottom position, are as follows:**

Total time of exposure (sec)	Sticking within (sec)
120	30
130	45
140	60
150	75
160	90

**This table is only intended as a guideline as commercial systems vary widely with respect to the position of gondolas in the equipment, CO<sub>2</sub> gradients, and exposure times.**

## Herd biosecurity policy

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All farms must have, and must follow, an appropriate herd biosecurity policy to limit the introduction and/or spread of disease on to and within the production unit.

### **Cleaning and disinfection**

Approved producers must have a written policy for cleaning and disinfection, specifying the approved dilutions (see below) at which they are to be used and ensure full implementation. All disinfectants used on the approved premises must be on the list of Defra approved substances for the purposes of The Diseases of Animals (approved disinfectants) (amendment) (England) Order 2007, or its equivalent in Wales and Scotland. Available from:

[http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList\\_SI](http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList_SI)

Any exceptions must only be under veterinary direction. Cleaning and disinfection routines, including chemicals used to assist in the reduction of transmission of infectious agents, must be set out in the cleaning plan. This plan will be an integral part of the biosecurity policy and must consider:

- i) buildings and equipment
- ii) livestock, people, wild animals, pets and movable equipment
- iii) feed and water.

The plan will cover:

- a) preparation for cleaning – removal of stock, equipment, gross contamination
- b) cleaning
- c) disinfection
- d) 'resting' buildings
- e) foot dips
- f) personal hygiene of staff
- g) on-farm stock transporters
- h) 'clean to dirty' work routines
- i) livestock cleanliness
- j) drains
- k) water supplies and delivery systems
- l) feedbins, pipelines and troughs.

### Wild Animal Control Plan

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Levels of potentially harmful wild animals (e.g. rodents and birds) must be humanely managed to avoid the risk of disease spread to humans and animals, damage to buildings and services, contamination and spoilage of feed.

Methods of physical exclusion must be included whenever possible. If these are inadequate or unsuccessful, other approaches must be enacted.

Approved production units must be maintained in a clean and tidy condition to minimise risk of wild animals.

Domestic animals must not have access to the unit, other than farm dogs and cats, which must be in a healthy condition and regularly wormed (record to be kept in medicine record book).

Domestic pets and wild animals (including birds) must not have access to carcasses.

Feed stores, offices, toilets etc, must be maintained in a clean, hygienic, tidy condition.

Pesticides must be covered by the farm COSHH assessment, if required to be in place.

## Appendix 3

### Transport – standard operating and emergency procedure

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#### Items to be included

1. RSPCA welfare standards relating to transport of pigs
2. Procedure for loading/unloading of pig delivery vehicles
3. Procedure for delivery of pigs to customer sites
4. Daily journey sheet
5. Pig delivery report
6. List of good hygiene measures, including procedure for cleaning of lorries prior to collection of pigs
7. Total quality management leaflet – if appropriate
8. Operating procedures for roadside checks
9. Accident procedure
10. Out of hours telephone numbers and emergency procedure
11. Mobile phones or other communication equipment (and procedures for use)
12. Fire extinguishers
13. Tyres – punctures – code of practice
14. FTA – The current version of '*The driver's handbook*' including tachograph regulations
15. Certificate of motor insurance
16. Guidelines on correct environmental conditions during the journey, depending on the length of the journey and ambient temperature
17. Defra booklet: '*Livestock transport vehicles – A guide to best practice for vehicle ventilation*' (PB 11260, 2011).

#### Where possible, the following items should be included

1. Defra booklet: '*Heat stress in pigs – solving the problem*' (PB 1316, 1993)
2. Defra booklet: '*Guidance on the transport of casualty farm animals*' (PB 1381, 1998).

# Appendix 4

## Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan example

### 1. General information

Company:	Unit/farm name:
Address:	Veterinarian Name and contact details:
Assurance Numbers:	Owner of pigs:
Period under review:	Producer:

### 2. Stock details

Type of production					
Breeding	Nursery/grower	Finishing	Indoors	Outdoors	
Breeding herd numbers			Finishing herd numbers		
Maiden gilts	In-pig gilts	Sows	Boars	<30kg	>30kg
Source of replacement breeding stock			Source of incoming weaners		
Farm name	Address	Type of gilt/boar	Name	Address	

### 3. Diseases known or suspected to be present on the unit

Disease	Status							
	Pos	Pres	Abs	Neg	No. & type pigs affected	Action/treatment/Control methods*	Change in status since last report	Prevention plan in place/updated?
PMWS								
PDNS								
PRRS								
EP								
APP								
Atrophic rhinitis								
Clostridia								
Strep. meningitis								
<i>Swine dysentery</i>								
<i>Ileitis/Lawsonia</i>								
Sarcoptic mange								
Worms								
Coccidiosis								
Other								

\*include method of control used

[**Positive (Pos)** = laboratory or abattoir evidence; **Present (Pres)** = clinical signs seen; **Absent (Abs)** = no clinical signs; **Negative (Neg)** = negative laboratory or abattoir results]

### 4. Feed or water medication – regular (R) or sporadic (S) risk

Pig type	F/W	Condition	Treatment (incl. Date)	Duration	Review

### 5. Other routine medication and vaccination

Pig type	Age	Condition	Treatment (incl. Date)	Review

## 6. Herd performance

Condition	Stage of production				
	Piglet/ 1 <sup>st</sup> stage weaner	2 <sup>nd</sup> stage weaner	Grower	Finisher	Sow
Born alive/litter					
Target					
Mortality					
Target					
Sudden deaths					
Target					
Humanely euthanased					
Method*					
Target					

\*Record method to be used for each stage of pig even if it has not been used in this period

## 7. Welfare on the unit

### a) Body condition

	Thin BCS <2	OK	Fat BCS >4	Action	Date
Weaned sows					
Lactating sows					
Dry sows					
Weaners					
Growers					
Finishers					

### b) Tail biting/Vulva biting (T, V)

	% bitten	Action	Date
Weaned sows			
Lactating sows			
Dry sows			
Weaners			
Growers			
Finishers			

**c) Flank biting**

	<b>% bitten</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Weaned sows			
Lactating sows			
Dry sows			
Weaners			
Growers			
Finishers			

**d) Lameness**

	<b>% lame</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Weaned sows			
Lactating sows			
Dry sows			
Weaners			
Growers			
Finishers			

**e) Injuries**

	<b>% injured</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Weaned sows			
Lactating sows			
Dry sows			
Weaners			
Growers			
Finishers			

**8. Environmental assessment**

For all ages and groups of pigs, please comment on the environment, indicating that environmental features (such as space allowances, feeding points, water provision) appear adequate and noting any views on interaction with the health and welfare of the pigs.

<b>Section of the unit</b>	<b>Satisfactory?</b>	<b>Areas of concern (where applicable)</b>

## 9. Farm Policies

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Review the farm policies and note if any action is required.

	In place	Action required
Parasite control policy		
Disposal of pharmaceutical waste, needles and other sharps		
Pest control		
Identification of animals undergoing/have undergone treatment		
Cleansing and disinfection		
Incoming stock and isolation of stock with infectious diseases		

## 10. Staff and training

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For the first report, record any relevant training that the staff member has undertaken in the areas listed below and the drugs they are authorised to administer. Also, identify any areas where training is required. For subsequent reports, record any staff changes and their training requirements.

Staff Name	Position	Pig welfare	Pig health	Medicines usage	Drug authorisation and competence

## 11. Feedback from the abattoir/post mortem results

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Area of concern	Abattoir or PM?	Action taken

**12. ZAP/Salmonella score (plus any action required)**

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### Documents required

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The following list details those codes or practices and guides required by producers to have access to **on-farm**:

- 'RSPCA welfare standards for pigs' (latest version)  
[www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs](http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs)
- Pig Veterinary Society 'The Casualty Pig' (latest version)

The following lists those codes or practices or guides which **stock-keepers** must be familiar with and adopt the recommendations, where they have access to a copy:

- Defra 'Heat Stress in Pigs: Solving the Problem' (PB 1316, 1993)  
<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=23344&id=23348>
- Defra 'Lameness in Pigs' (PB 1148, 1992)  
<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=20004&id=20005>
- Defra 'Guidance on the Transport of Casualty Farm Animals' (PB 1381, 1998)  
<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=20783&id=20784>

It is also recommended that **stock-keepers** obtain, read and where appropriate, apply the advice contained within the latest version of:

- Defra 'Condition Scoring of Pigs'  
<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=19477&id=19478>
- 'Guidelines on responsible use of antimicrobials in pig production', issued by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) alliance [www.ruma.org.uk/pigs.htm](http://www.ruma.org.uk/pigs.htm)
- 'Code of practice on the responsible use of animal medicines on the farm', issued by the Veterinary Medicine Directorate  
<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?id=000IL3890W.18B674J997OBXO>
- 'Veterinary Medicines: safe use by farmers and other handlers', issued by the Health and Safety Executive

The following list details those codes of practices and guides required by **hauliers** to have access to and/or be familiar with:

- 'RSPCA welfare standards for pigs' (latest version)  
[www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs](http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs)
- Pig Veterinary Society 'The Casualty Pig' (latest version)
- Humane Slaughter Association video 'The Road Ahead – livestock welfare in transit'  
[www.hsa.org.uk/shop/publications-1/product/the-road-ahead-livestock-welfare-in-transit](http://www.hsa.org.uk/shop/publications-1/product/the-road-ahead-livestock-welfare-in-transit)

Where **hauliers** have access to the following codes or practices and guides they must be familiar with the contents and adopt the recommendations:

- Defra 'Guidance on the Transport of Casualty Farm Animals' (PB 1381, 1998)  
<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?id=000IL3890W.18DLNNJA1BK2DQ>

The following lists those codes of practices and guides that are required at the **abattoir**:

- *'RSPCA welfare standards for pigs'* (latest version)  
[www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs](http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs)
- Humane Slaughter Association training programme *'Humane Slaughter – Taking Responsibility'*  
[www.hsa.org.uk/shop/publications-1/product/humane-slaughter--taking-responsibility](http://www.hsa.org.uk/shop/publications-1/product/humane-slaughter--taking-responsibility)
- Humane Slaughter Association *'Best Practice Guidelines for the Welfare of Pigs in Abattoirs'* (2004)  
[www.hsa.org.uk/shop/publications-1/product/pigs-in-abattoirs](http://www.hsa.org.uk/shop/publications-1/product/pigs-in-abattoirs)

## Appendix 6

### Welfare Outcome Assessment: Finishing pigs and dry sow protocols and assessment forms

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## Pigs: Finishing pigs Assessment Protocol

### Guidance on sampling

- Randomly select 5 pens which include animals from 50kg upwards.
- If no pigs of this weight are present, or an insufficient number are present to make up your total sample, then select those of (or make up the total with) 30kg upwards or the greatest weight present.
- **Please record the weight / weight range of the animals sampled.**
- Include at least one pen of the oldest finishing pigs on site.
- Avoid choosing hospital pens or pens in which pigs have been newly mixed (within 1 week) or treated (as a batch).

### Individual measures: Assess the required sample size\*

Randomly assess individual pigs from across each of the selected pens. If there are fewer than 4 pens, alter the sampling strategy accordingly to achieve the total number of sows required.

**3 or more sows are to be assessed jointly with the stockperson (record assessor's score only)**

\*Individual sample size, for units with:

- Less than 20 sows - assess all sows
- 20 - 60 sows - assess 20 sows
- More than 60 sows - assess 1/3 of total sow number (up to a maximum of 50 sows)

Pen measures: Assess all the sows in the pen.

**Joint assessment between the assessor and the producer is to be carried out on at least one pen.**

Enrichment use	Pen measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Observe and record the oral behaviour of standing and sitting pigs in the pen (ignore lying pigs). Assess quickly to avoid double counting pigs already assessed.</p>	
<p><b>Record, the number of standing and sitting pigs:</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Using enrichment</b> – Investigating a suitable manipulable substrate or object provided for enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Include if snout/mouth is manipulating clean straw, hay, wood (chip), sawdust, mushroom compost, peat (or other material that enables proper investigation and manipulation)</li> <li>– OR in contact with an object/toy such as a hanging object or ball.</li> <li>– Only include if these objects/substrates have been provided by the producer as enrichment.</li> <li>– In outdoor systems, include manipulation of turf or clean areas of ground (i.e. not contaminated with manure)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Manipulating other</b> – No. pigs manipulating other pigs, pen equipment / floor / muck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Include if the snout/mouth is in contact with any part of another pig. Include if the snout/mouth is in contact with muck or the floor, fixtures or fittings of the pen.</li> <li>– Pay attention at feeders or drinkers to discriminate between manipulation of pen furniture and eating/drinking.</li> <li>– In outdoor systems, include rooting in dunging area or manipulation of areas of ground contaminated with manure.</li> </ul>	

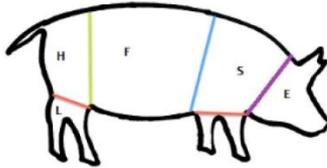
<b>Lameness</b>	<b>Pen measure</b>
<p><b>Observation:</b> Make the individual pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to rise). Ensure the sample is not just formed of pigs already standing.</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b> Number of lame pigs</p>	
<p>When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes, and/or</li> <li>– Walking with a shortened stride with minimum weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hindquarters (may still be able to trot and gallop) and/or</li> <li>– Severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’</li> <li>– Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait.</li> </ul>	

<b>Tail docking</b>	<b>Pen measure</b>
<p><b>Observation:</b> Look at the animals from the side or behind.</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Undocked</b> – None of the tail is docked  <b>Short docked</b> – 50% of the tail is docked  <b>Long docked</b> – 50% of the tail is docked</p>	
<p>Note if there are mixed tail lengths within the pen, i.e. (long docked / short docked and docked / undocked)</p>	

<b>Ear/Flank biting</b>	<b>Pen measure</b>
<p><b>Observation:</b> Assess all animals in pen</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b>       <b>If ear biting (EB) lesions are present, and</b>  <b>                          If flank biting (FB) lesions are present</b></p>	
<p>Typical fight or clambering/mounting lesions show parallel lines, while lesions from flank biting are generally round</p>	

<b>Pigs needing further care</b>	<b>Herd measure</b>
<p><b>Observation:</b> Observe all the pigs in herd, including those in hospital pens, to assess and record the number of any sick or injured pigs that would benefit from further intervention.</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b>       <b>Number of pigs seen that would benefit from further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.</b>  When identifying pigs requiring further care, please record reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Further interventions include further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.</li> <li>– This could include pigs who are sick, injured or lame and are unable to compete for resources, being bullied/tail bitten or would benefit from access to more comfortable bedding and space (to rest) than that available in the pen.</li> <li>– This assesses legislative compliance that ‘where necessary, any sick or injured pigs shall be temporarily isolated in suitable accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding’</li> <li>– The nature of the condition and the pen environment will affect this measure.</li> <li>– Do not include sick or injured pigs already receiving suitable care.</li> </ul>	

Hospital Pens	Pen measure
<b>Observation:</b>	Look at all sows in the hospital pens
<b>Record:</b>	<b>Record the number of sows in the hospital pens according to reason for hospitalisation</b>
	Lameness; Thin sows; Body Wounds; Skin Conditions; Shoulder lesions; Vulva lesions; Leg swellings; Other (please specify details, e.g. severe traumatic injuries, and number of pigs affected).

Body marks	Individual measure
<b>Observation:</b>	Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.
<b>Scoring:</b>	 <p>0. <b>None / Minimal</b> – No lesions or less than mild lesions as described below</p> <p>1. <b>Mild</b> – A linear lesion longer than 10cm Or 3 or more 3cm lesions Or a circular area larger than 1cm diameter but less than 5cm diameter Definition of lesion includes grazed/broken skin, fresh (i.e. bleeding) wounds and healing lesions (scabs) Scar tissue is not included.</p> <p>2. <b>Severe</b> – Circular Lesion or area of lesions <math>\geq</math> 5cm diameter Or lesion extends into deeper layers of skin Or the lesions cover a large percentage (<math>&gt;25\%</math>) of the skin</p>
<b>Body regions:</b>	<b>If <math>&gt;25\%</math> with marks, identify any noticeable pattern in the pen</b> Shoulder (S); Hindquarters (H); Legs (L); Flank (F); Ears and Head (E); General, if there is no obvious pattern (G)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Deep tissue injury may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’</li> <li>– Do not include vulva or shoulder lesions (typically shoulder lesions are round rather than scrape marks)</li> </ul>
	Record if too dirty to assess.

Tail lesions	Individual measure
<b>Observation:</b>	Look at the animal from behind. Investigate carefully if the tail is swollen or shorter than normal and for scabs and lesions.
<b>Scoring:</b>	<p>0. <b>None</b> – The tail is unmarked or has circular lesions <math>&lt;0.5</math>cm diameter or linear lesions <math>&lt;1</math>cm in length</p> <p>1. <b>Mild</b> – The tail has a circular lesion <math>\geq 0.5</math>cm diameter or a 1cm linear scratch (including small scratches and scrapes, swelling, fresh blood or scabs visible on any part of the tail);</p> <p>2. <b>Severe</b> – The tail is more severely bitten – at least a proportion of the tail missing, tail swollen or held oddly, scab covering whole tip.</p>
	Record if too dirty to assess

Manure on the body	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only. This can be done from outside the pen if visibility is adequate.</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>Clean</b> – &lt;20% of the body is soiled</li> <li>1. <b>Dirty</b> – ≥20% and &lt;50% of the body is soiled with fresh/old slurry/urine/faeces</li> <li>2. <b>Very dirty</b> – ≥50% of the body is soiled with fresh/old slurry/urine/faeces</li> </ul>	

Leg swellings	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess the front and hind limbs, on one side only, for leg swellings</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None</b> – No evidence of swelling</li> <li>1. <b>Small</b> – Swelling present up to 5cm in diameter (walnut-sized)</li> <li>2. <b>Large</b> – Swelling present larger than 5cm diameter (walnut-sized) or any swelling that is eroded</li> </ul>	

Skin conditions	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only. This can be done from outside the pen if visibility is adequate. Assess the total amount of the body affected in relation to the rest of the body.</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None</b> – No evidence of skin inflammation or discoloration</li> <li>1. <b>Mild</b> – More than zero but less than 10% of the skin is inflamed, discoloured or spotted</li> <li>2. <b>Severe</b> – More than 10% of the skin has an abnormal colour or texture</li> </ul> <p>Record if too dirty to assess.</p>	

Mortality	Records
<p><b>Record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage mortality (died) on farm in the last 12 months (continuous herd) OR average of the last two batches (batch herds)</li> <li>- Percentage culls in the last 12 months months (continuous herd) OR average of the last two batches (batch herds)</li> </ul> <p>Record the predominant cause of mortality.</p>	

Pigs: Finishing

Welfare Outcome Assessment

FF Reg no	
Assessor name	
Date	

Total no. Pigs on farm	
Total no. Finishing pigs on farm	

Unit type (circle all that apply)	Breeding	Rearing	Finishing
	Batch		Continuous
	Sexed		Unsexed

Mortality	% Deaths (not actively culled)	Current Batch	Last 12 months (continuous) OR Av. last 2 batches (batch)
	% Culls		
	Predominant mortality causes: (if applicable)		

Batch start date	
Batch end date	
Batch start age (wks)	
Batch start weight (Kg)	
Batch end weight (kg)	

Unit type	Free range	Outdoor	Outdoor reared	Indoor
Pen design	Pen - solid floor	Pen - part slatted floor	Straw	Outdoor (arcs/tents) N/A Other:
Bedding type	Straw	Wood shavings	Woodchip	Shredded paper Other:

	pen 1	pen 2	pen 3	pen 4	pen 4
Weight of pigs (30-50kg / >50kg)					
Total number of pigs in pen					
No. Pigs assessed in pen					

No. Pigs below 30Kg	
No. Pens with pigs 30 - 50kg	
No. pigs pens 1-5	
No. Pigs assessed pens 1-5	

Pen enrichment:					
Substrate					
Object(s)					
No. of objects					
Object suspended (s) / floor (f)					

Average no. objects pen 1-5	Total
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Enrichment use:					
No. Pigs using substrate / objects provided as enrichment					
No. Pig manipulating other pigs / pen equipment / floor / muck					

No. Pigs manipulating enrichment	Total
No. Pigs manipulating other	

Tail docking (select all that apply)					
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Un-docked present?	Y	Docked present?	long
	N		short
			mixed
			All undocked

Ear biting (Y/N)					
Flank biting (Y/N)					

Ear biting? (Y / N)	
Flank biting? (Y / N)	

No. Pigs needing further care (whole herd, any pen)	
Reasons for further care (including pen ID)	

No. Pigs needing further care	Total
-------------------------------	-------

No. lame pigs					
---------------	--	--	--	--	--

No. lame pigs	
---------------	--

Hospital Pens (number of animals)							
Lameness		Body wounds		Traumatic injury		Rectal prolapse	
Skin conditions		Tail bitten		Umbilical hernia		Other - specify:	

Individual measures

		1	2	3	4	5	Total	
Body marks	0						No body marks	
	1						Mild body marks	
	2						Severe body marks	
	d						Too dirty to assess	
Predominant body region (if any)							Total	
Tail lesions	0						No tail lesions	
	1						Mild tail lesions	
	2						Severe tail lesions	
	d						Too dirty to assess	
Manure on body	0						Manure on body score 0	
	1						Manure on body score 1	
	2						Manure on body score 2	
	d						Too dirty to assess	
Leg swellings	0						Leg swelling score 0	
	1						Leg swelling score 1	
	2						Leg swelling score 2	
Skin conditions	0						Skin condition score 0	
	1						Skin condition score 1	
	2						Skin condition score 2	
	d						Too dirty to assess	

General comments	
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What changes to improve welfare (in resources, management or livestock) have you made in the last 12 months?	
What changes to improve welfare (in resources, management or livestock) do you intend to make in the next 12 months?	

Were any related non-compliances (standard number) issued:	Y / N	If yes please indicate the relevant standard number:
Is the producer interested in being contacted for advice about the results of any of these measures?	Y / N	Producer's preferred contact details:

Consent given for the information contained on this sheet to be used anonymously for purposes outside of membership certification:	Y / N	Producer's signature
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Please keep this sheet for your records. It will be required at future Freedom Food assessments and for RSPCA monitoring visits. The information on this sheet will be used for the purposes of RSPCA monitoring and development of RSPCA standards. If it were ever to be used more widely, data will be anonymised/pooled to ensure individual farm identification is not possible. To discuss any other matter relating to your certification contact Freedom

AssureWel\_RSPCA\_Finishing\_Pigs\_Scoresheet\_Version 11.07.2016

## Pigs: Dry sows Assessment Protocol

### Guidance on sampling

- Randomly select 5 pens of dry sows.
- Avoid choosing hospital pens or pens in which pigs have been newly mixed (within 1 week) or treated (as a group)

### Individual measures: Assess the required sample size\*

Randomly assess individual pigs from across each of the selected pens. If there are fewer than 4 pens, alter the sampling strategy accordingly to achieve the total number of sows required.

**3 or more sows are to be assessed jointly with the stockperson (record assessor's score only)**

\*Individual sample size, for units with:

- Less than 20 sows - assess all sows
- 20 - 60 sows - assess 20 sows
- More than 60 sows - assess 1/3 of total sow number (up to a maximum of 50 sows)

Pen measures: Assess all the sows in the pen.

**Joint assessment between the assessor and the producer is to be carried out on at least one pen.**

Enrichment use	Pen measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Observe and record the oral behaviour of standing and sitting pigs in the pen (ignore lying pigs). Assess quickly to avoid double counting pigs already assessed.</p>	
<p><b>Record, the number of standing and sitting pigs:</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Using enrichment</b> – Investigating a suitable manipulable substrate or object provided for enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Include if snout/mouth is manipulating clean straw, hay, wood (chip), sawdust, mushroom compost, peat (or other material that enables proper investigation and manipulation)</li> <li>– OR in contact with an object/toy such as a hanging object or ball.</li> <li>– Only include if these objects/substrates have been provided by the producer as enrichment.</li> <li>– In outdoor systems, include manipulation of turf or clean areas of ground (i.e. not contaminated with manure)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Manipulating other</b> – No. pigs manipulating other pigs, pen equipment / floor / muck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Include if the snout/mouth is in contact with any part of another pig. Include if the snout/mouth is in contact with muck or the floor, fixtures or fittings of the pen.</li> <li>– Pay attention at feeders or drinkers to discriminate between manipulation of pen furniture and eating/drinking.</li> <li>– In outdoor systems, include rooting in dunging area or manipulation of areas of ground contaminated with manure.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Stone chewing</b> – Manipulating a stone or stones with the snout or mouth – often audible.</p>	

Tail docking	Pen measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Look at the animals from the side or behind.</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Undocked</b> – None of the tail is docked  <b>Short docked</b> – 50% of the tail is docked  <b>Long docked</b> – 50% of the tail is docked</p>	
<p>Note if there are mixed tail lengths within the pen, i.e. (long docked / short docked and docked / undocked)</p>	

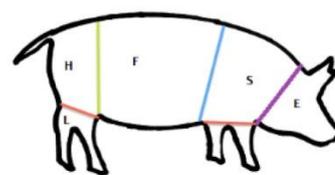
Ear/Flank biting	Pen measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Assess all animals in pen</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b>       <b>If ear biting (EB) lesions are present, and  If flank biting (FB) lesions are present</b></p>	
<p>Typical fight or clambering/mounting lesions show parallel lines, while lesions from flank biting are generally round</p>	

Nose ringing	Pen measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Observe and record if the animals are nose ringed or not</p>	

Pigs needing further care	Herd measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Observe all the pigs in herd, including those in hospital pens, to assess and record the number of any sick or injured pigs that would benefit from further intervention.</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b>       <b>Number of pigs seen that would benefit from further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Further interventions include further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.</li> <li>– This could include pigs who are sick, injured or lame and are unable to compete for resources, being bullied/tail bitten or would benefit from access to more comfortable bedding and space (to rest) than that available in the pen.</li> <li>– This assesses legislative compliance that ‘where necessary, any sick or injured pigs shall be temporarily isolated in suitable accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding’</li> <li>– The nature of the condition and the pen environment will affect this measure.</li> <li>– Do not include sick or injured pigs already receiving suitable care.</li> <li>– When identifying pigs requiring further care, please record reasons.</li> </ul>	

Hospital Pens	Pen measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Look at all sows in the hospital pens</p>	
<p><b>Record:</b>       <b>Record the number of sows in the hospital pens according to reason for hospitalisation</b></p>	
<p>Lameness; Thin sows; Body Wounds; Skin Conditions; Shoulder lesions; Vulva lesions; Leg swellings; Other (please specify details, e.g. severe traumatic injuries, and number of pigs affected).</p>	

Body marks	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.</p>	
<p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None / Minimal</b> – No lesions or less than mild lesions as described below</li> <li>1. <b>Mild</b> – A linear lesion longer than 10cm Or 3 or more 3cm lesions Or a circular area larger than 1cm diameter but less than 5cm diameter Definition of lesion includes grazed/broken skin, fresh (i.e. bleeding) wounds and healing lesions (scabs) Scar tissue is not included.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe</b> – Circular Lesion or area of lesions <math>\geq</math> 5cm diameter Or lesion extends into deeper layers of skin Or the lesions cover a large percentage (<math>&gt;25\%</math>) of the skin</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Body regions:</b> If <math>&gt;25\%</math> with marks, identify any noticeable pattern in the pen Shoulder (S); Hindquarters (H); Legs (L); Flank (F); Ears and Head (E); General, if there is no obvious pattern (G)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Deep tissue injury may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’</li> <li>– Do not include vulva or shoulder lesions (typically shoulder lesions are round rather than scrape marks)</li> </ul>	
<p>Record if too dirty to assess..</p>	



Shoulder lesions	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only for shoulder lesions. Typical shoulder lesions are round rather than scrape marks which are more indicative of fighting or treading.</p>	
<p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None</b> – No skin damage on the shoulder</li> <li>1. <b>Mild</b> – Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder</li> <li>2. <b>Severe</b> – Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder <math>&gt;5 \times 5</math>cm Or deep tissue injury – these may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’</li> </ol>	
<p>Record if too dirty to assess.</p>	

Vulva lesions	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Visually assess the vulva region.</p>	
<p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None</b> – No damage to the vulva</li> <li>1. <b>Mild</b> – Recent damage to the vulva including fresh or scabbed bite wounds but not including old scarring</li> <li>2. <b>Severe</b> – Vulva lesion <math>&gt;3</math>cm length or 1cm diameter Or deep tissue injury – these may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’</li> </ol>	

Manure on the body	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only. This can be done from outside the pen if visibility is adequate.</p>	
<p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>Clean</b> – <math>&lt;20\%</math> of the body is soiled</li> <li>1. <b>Dirty</b> – <math>\geq 20\%</math> and <math>&lt;50\%</math> of the body is soiled with fresh/old slurry/urine/faeces</li> <li>2. <b>Very dirty</b> – <math>\geq 50\%</math> of the body is soiled with fresh/old slurry/urine/faeces</li> </ol>	

Leg swellings	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess the front and hind limbs, on one side only, for leg swellings</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None</b> – No evidence of swelling</li> <li>1. <b>Small</b> – Swelling present up to 5cm in diameter (walnut-sized)</li> <li>2. <b>Large</b> – Swelling present larger than 5cm diameter (walnut-sized) or any swelling that is eroded</li> </ol>	
Skin conditions	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only. This can be done from outside the pen if visibility is adequate. Assess the total amount of the body affected in relation to the rest of the body.</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0. <b>None</b> – No evidence of skin inflammation or discoloration</li> <li>1. <b>Mild</b> – More than zero but less than 10% of the skin is inflamed, discoloured or spotted</li> <li>2. <b>Severe</b> – More than 10% of the skin has an abnormal colour or texture</li> </ol> <p>Record if too dirty to assess.</p>	
Lameness	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Make the individual pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to rise). Ensure the sample is not just formed of pigs already standing.</p> <p><b>Record:</b>       <b>Number of lame pigs</b></p> <p>When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes, and/or</li> <li>– Walking with a shortened stride with minimum weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hindquarters (may still be able to trot and gallop) and/or</li> <li>– Severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’</li> <li>– Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait.</li> </ul>	
Body condition	Individual measure
<p><b>Observation:</b> Visually assess from the side and behind. Manual assessment can help distinguish borderline scores.</p> <p><b>Scoring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thin</b> – Score 1 or 2: Ribs, backbone, ‘H’ bones and ‘pin’ bones obvious (or easily detected with pressure)</li> <li>• <b>Moderate</b> – Score 3: Ribs, backbone, ‘H’ bones and ‘pin’ bones barely visible (or barely felt with firm pressure)</li> <li>• <b>Fat</b> – Score 4 or 5: Ribs, backbone, ‘H’ bones and ‘pin’ bones cannot be seen (or felt even when pressure is applied) or fats deposits are clearly visible.</li> </ul>	
Mortality	Records
<p><b>Record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage mortality on farm in the last 12 months.</li> <li>- Percentage unplanned culls in the last 12 months.</li> </ul> <p>Record the predominant cause of mortality.</p>	

Pigs: Dry sows

Welfare Outcome Assessment

FF Reg no	
Assessor name	
Date	

Total no. Pigs on farm	
Total no. Dry sows on farm	

Mortality in last 12 Months	% Deaths (not actively culled)	
	% Culls (unplanned)	
	Predominant mortality causes: (if applicable)	

Unit type (circle all that apply)	Breeding	Rearing	Finishing		
	Indoor		Outdoor		
	Batch		Continuous		
Housing type	Outdoor (arcs and/or tents)	Indoor only	Outdoor farrowing / Indoor dry		
Bedding type	Straw	Wood shavings	Woodchip	Shredded paper	Other:

	pen 1	pen 2	pen 3	pen 4	pen 4
Total number of pigs in pen					
No. Pigs assessed in pen					

	Total
No. pigs pens 1-5	
No. Pigs assessed pens 1-5	

Pen enrichment:					
Substrate					
Object(s)					
No. of objects					
Object suspended (s) / floor (f)					

	Total
Average no. objects pen 1-5	

Enrichment use:					
No. Pigs manipulating enrichment					
No. Pigs manipulating other					
No. Pigs stone chewing					

	Total
No. Pigs manipulating enrichment	
No. Pigs manipulating other	
No. Pigs stone chewing	

Tail docking (select all that apply)					
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Un-docked present?	Y	Docked present?	long
	N		short
			mixed
			All undocked

Ear biting (Y/N)					
Flank biting (Y/N)					
Nose ringed (Y/N)					

Ear biting? (Y / N)	
Flank biting? (Y / N)	
Nose ringed? (Y / N)	

No. Pigs needing further care (excl hospital pen)	
Reasons for further care (including pig ID)	

	Total
No. Pigs needing further care	

Hospital Pens (number of animals)							
Lameness		Thin sows		Vulva lesions		Uterine / Vaginal prolapse	
Skin conditions		Shoulder lesions		Tail bitten		Rectal prolapse	
Leg swellings		Body wounds		Traumatic injury		Other - specify:	

**Individual measures**

		1	2	3	4	5
Body marks	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Predominant body region (if any)						
Shoulder lesions	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Vulva lesions	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Manure on body	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Leg swellings	0					
	1					
	2					
Skin conditions	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Lameness	Y					
	N					
Body condition	T					
	M					
	F					

	Total
No body marks	
Mild body marks	
Severe body marks	
Too dirty to assess	

	Total
No shoulder lesions	
Mild shoulder lesions	
Severe shoulder lesions	
Too dirty to assess	
No vulva lesions	
Mild vulva lesions	
Severe vulva lesions	
Too dirty to assess	
Manure on body score 0	
Manure on body score 1	
Manure on body score 2	
Too dirty to assess	
Leg swelling score 0	
Leg swelling score 1	
Leg swelling score 2	
Skin condition score 0	
Skin condition score 1	
Skin condition score 2	
Too dirty to assess	
Number of lame pigs	
Thin	
Moderate	
Fat	

<b>General comments</b>			
What changes to improve welfare (in resources, management or livestock) have you made in the last 12 months?			
What changes to improve welfare (in resources, management or livestock) do you intend to make in the next 12 months?			
Were any related non-compliances (standard number) issued:	Y / N	If yes please indicate the relevant standard number:	
Is the producer interested in being contacted for advice about the results of any of these measures?	Y / N	Producer's preferred contact details:	
Consent given for the information contained on this sheet to be used anonymously for purposes outside of membership certification:	Y / N	Producer's signature	

Please keep this sheet for your records. It will be required at future Freedom Food assessments and for RSPCA monitoring visits. The information on this sheet will be used for the purposes of RSPCA monitoring and development of RSPCA standards. If it were ever to be used more widely, data will be anonymised/pooled to ensure individual farm identification is not possible. To discuss any other matter relating to your certification contact Freedom

AssureWel\_RSPCA\_Dry\_Sows\_Scoresheet\_Version 11.07.2016



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**Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

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