



RSPCA welfare standards

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. The *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs* take account of UK legislation, government welfare codes, scientific research, veterinary advice, recommendations of the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) and the practical experience of the farming industry.

- **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.

The standards are based upon the 'Five Freedoms' as defined by FAWC (now known as AWC). 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, as well as representing an important element of farm assurance requirements.

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

- The numbered requirements are the standards, all of which must be complied with.
- Boxed sections (indicated by (i)) give additional information, including: providing the reasoning behind a standard, expand on a standard, state how a standard can/will be assessed and/or highlight areas where the standards will be reviewed in the future.
- It is expected that all relevant UK legislation regarding farm animal husbandry and welfare on-farm, during transport, and at the slaughterhouse, will be fully implemented in addition to the RSPCA welfare standards.
- Some standards have been labelled as shown below, which have the following meaning:
 - LEGAL** refers to a standard that is based on an England legal requirement.
 - REVISED** refers to a standard or information box that was in the previous edition of these standards but has been amended.
 - NEW** refers to a completely new standard or information box, which must now be adhered to.
- **Farmers are required by law to have a thorough knowledge of the Defra Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs.**

RSPCA. 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.

We always value constructive feedback and ideas for improvement from those who are implementing the RSPCA welfare standards. Comments/feedback can be discussed with RSPCA Farm Animals Department scientific staff, by contacting them on the below details:

Address: Farm Animals Department
RSPCA
4th Floor Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
West Sussex RH12 1GY

Phone: 0300 123 0183

Email: farm-animals@rspca.org.uk

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.

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

- FW 1.1** **LEGAL** 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 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 on request.
- FW 1.4** **LEGAL** 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 70th day of pregnancy.
- FW 1.6.1** **NEW** Producers must speak to their fieldsperson, veterinary surgeon or nutritionist if experiencing problems with poor sow condition.
- 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 **REVISED** A feed place is described as the lateral head space required by a single pig whilst eating.

FW 1.11.1 **REVISED** Feed places must have a minimum width of:

- a) 15cm for pigs weighing up to 35kg
- b) 20cm for pigs weighing 35kg and up to 50kg
- c) 30cm for pigs weighing 50kg and above.

i For circular feed spaces, calculations are to be based on the overall circumference of the feeder.

FW 1.11.2 **NEW** Where feeders have been installed prior to December 2020, a minimum feeder width of 25cm is permitted for pigs weighing 50kg and above, provided that additional feed places are provided at the ratio specified in standard FW 1.11.

i **NEW** The RSPCA will continue to review the minimum feeder space requirement set out in standard FW 1.11.2 and will be requiring all producers to meet the requirements of standard FW 1.11.1 c) in the future. As such, producers are strongly encouraged to install feeders that are compliant with standard FW 1.11.1 c) at the earliest opportunity.

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

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

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



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

FW 1.15 **LEGAL** 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.



REVISED 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.

FW 1.15.1 **NEW** The use of equipment that is designed to rear surplus piglets, such as rescue decks, is prohibited except in emergency situations to protect the welfare of sick piglets.

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

Water

FW 2.1 **LEGAL** 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.



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.



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:

Weight of pig (kg)	Maximum no. of pigs per m of trough
< 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:

- kept thoroughly clean
- managed in a way that ensures they are capable of dispensing water at all times
- situated at the correct height to allow all pigs to drink.

i **NEW** For drinkers pointing straight out from the wall this would be around pig shoulder height. If drinkers are pointed downward then the appropriate angle is 5cm above the back of the pig or 20% higher than shoulder height, so that pigs lift their heads slightly to drink.

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:

Class of pig	Flow rate (ml/min)
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 standard 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 certification by the assurance scheme assessing against these standards.
- E 1.2** Where changes are being made to existing buildings or new equipment installed that has not previously been assessed by the assurance scheme assessing against these standards, managers must inform the scheme at the time the change is being made.
- E 1.3** **LEGAL** There must be no features of the environment likely to cause injury or distress to the animal.



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** **NEW** Buildings must be designed and erected to be suitable for local weather conditions and be able to withstand expected seasonal extremes of weather.
- E 2.1.1** **NEW** The apron immediately surrounding the outside of the house must:
- be kept clean and tidy
 - not offer shelter to wild birds or rodents
 - be well-managed, with any vegetation kept short.
- E 2.1.2** **NEW** All buildings, equipment (including livestock fencing) and facilities that pigs may come into contact with must be:
- fit for purpose
 - well maintained.
- E 2.2** For all accommodation, the key points relating to welfare must be recorded on the farm site plan, and amended as necessary.
- E 2.3** If practical, records relating to standard E 2.2 must be readily available to all relevant staff for each building.
- E 2.4** Records relating to standard E 2.2 must include:
- total area
 - number of pigs in relation to age, weight, feeding and drinking, and bedding space.
- E 2.5** **LEGAL** 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 2.6** All electrical installations at mains voltage must be:
- a) inaccessible to pigs
 - b) well insulated
 - c) safeguarded from rodents
 - d) properly earthed
 - e) tested at least once a year or each time the building is subjected to pressure washing, by a qualified or competent person
 - f) in good working order (for example, any faults identified during testing to be rectified).

 **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 2.7** **LEGAL** 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.

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

Pregnant sow in group	15 to 20°C
Lactating sow	15 to 20°C
Suckling pig first 72 hours	25 to 28°C
Suckling pig after 72 hours	20 to 22°C
Weaner first stage	28°C in week one, reducing by 2°C per week
Weaner second stage	20 to 22°C
Finisher	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:
- a) be familiar with its content
 - b) 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/m³ and ammonia levels should not exceed 20ppm.

Lying area/floors

E 4.1 Pigs must be kept on, or have access at all times to, a lying area (see standard E 5.1):

- a) of solid construction (i.e. not perforated)
- b) bedded to a sufficient extent to avoid discomfort
- c) either sloped to provide drainage or bedded to a sufficient extent to provide a dry lying area.

E 4.2 Bedding material must:

- a) be comfortable
- b) be absorbent
- c) provide thermal comfort
- d) not compromise the health or welfare of the pigs.

i Suitable materials include straw and sawdust, as long as the requirements of standard E 4.2 are met. It should not contain any harmful materials, such as metal or metal waste.

Shredded paper, waste plasterboard and/or waste gypsum are not suitable for use 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 standard E 8.1).

i Where straw is used as bedding, consideration should be given to the type of straw used. Straw type can affect how the pigs will use it and the amount of management required. Dry, brittle or rough textured straw can serve as a stronger more absorbent base for a bed whereas softer straw will provide more comfort.

- 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 ²)	Total area (m ²)
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



REVISED The RSPCA is reviewing the minimum space requirements set out under standard E 5.1 and will be requiring more space for pigs in these systems in the next version of the standards.

Any producers that are looking to install such systems are strongly encouraged to contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department at the earliest opportunity.

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

- be mucked out at least twice a week
- 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.



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

- E 5.3** **NEW** From 3rd March 2026, pigs must be split sexed by the time they reach an average live weight of 50kg.



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

E 5.3.1 **NEW** In relation to standard E 5.2, where it is not possible to evenly split sex all the pigs whilst still meeting the space allowance requirements of these standards, then up to 5% of the herd can be put into mixed sex pens.



NEW For example, on a unit with 200 pigs, up to 10 pigs could be kept in a mixed sex pen.

We acknowledge that the sex ratio is rarely 50:50 and therefore the need for a 5% tolerance limit to allow the mixing of pigs under such circumstances.

E 5.3.2 **NEW** Any ‘smalls’ (smaller pigs that are less robust and need separating from other pigs in the main herd) can be put into mixed sex pens, but these must not make up more than 10% of the herd.



NEW The hospital pen can contain both sexes at the same time.

E 5.4 Growing/finishing pigs in groups in straw yards must be provided with at least the following space allowances:

Weight (kg)	Total minimum space (m ²) required if mucked out at least monthly	Total minimum space (m ²) required if bedding topped up regularly but not mucked out
Weaners to 35	0.45	0.50
36 – 50	1.17	1.30
51 – 75	1.35	1.50
76 – 95	1.50	1.67
96 – 110	1.54	1.72



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

E 5.4.1 For dry sows:

- sows must be given a minimum total floor space of 3.5m²/sow for mature adults, and 2.5m²/gilt for first and second parity animals
- the lying area must be a minimum of 1.5m²/sow for mature adults, and 1m²/gilt for first and second parity animals.



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 standard E 5.4.1. 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 5.5 Adult boar pens must:

- be of such dimensions so as to enable animals to turn around easily and lie fully stretched
- have a total minimum lying area of 7.5m².

- E 5.6** Service pens must be at least 10.5m² in area, in order to be large enough to allow courtship and mating.
- E 5.7** 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:
- for the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, treatment or operation carried out for veterinary purposes
 - while they are being fed on any particular occasion
 - for the purpose of marking, washing or weighing
 - while accommodation is being cleaned
 - during the procedure of artificial insemination
 - while they are awaiting loading for transportation.
- E 5.8** **LEGAL** Pigs must be kept in stable groups with as little mixing as possible, but subdivision is permitted as pigs grow.
- E 5.9** Particular care must be taken to prevent bullying amongst sows and gilts kept in groups.
- E 5.10** 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 standard H 1.1).

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 standard H 1.1).



REVISED 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, such as when converting to a new housing system using a step-wise approach. However, the RSPCA is concerned about this practice due to the negative impact on the welfare of the sow. Producers looking to convert away from farrowing crates to a loose farrowing system using this step-wise approach are strongly advised to contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department (farm-animals@rspca.org.uk).

Please note, for clarification, piglets from sows kept in crate systems are not approved by the assurance scheme assessing against these standards, as these standards do not permit the use of any system that confines the sow for farrowing or lactation (see standards E 6.6 & E 7.8).

- 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 standard 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 **NEW** The RSPCA is reviewing the following standards on indoor farrowing. Any producers that are looking to install such systems are therefore strongly encouraged to contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department at the earliest opportunity.

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 7.1 In addition to standards E 6.1 – E 6.7 the following standards must be followed for indoor farrowing.

E 7.2 A bedded lying area/nest area that measures at least 2.8m² must be provided.

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

E 7.3 The minimum total pen size, including the lying area/nest area, must be at least 5m².

i **Any feeding stall provided is in addition to the minimum total pen size stated in standard E 7.3, i.e. it cannot be counted as part of the 5m² minimum pen size.**

E 7.4 In systems that do not use farrowing arcs, in addition to the total minimum area in standard E 7.3, a separate creep area measuring at least 0.70m² must be provided in order to accommodate all piglets comfortably during the nest occupation period.

i **A creep of 1m² 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 <http://www.freefarrowing.org/>

E 7.5 In addition to the minimum creep size stated in standard E 7.4, an area measuring at least 0.30m² 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 7.6 The flooring in the creep area (where applicable, see standard E 7.4) 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 7.7 Where non-solid floors are used in other areas of the pen, the maximum width of the openings must be 11mm.

- E 7.8** 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 7.9** 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 <http://www.freefarrowing.org/>

- E 7.10** 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 <http://www.freefarrowing.org/>

- E 7.11** 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 8.1** **LEGAL** To allow and encourage proper expression of rooting, pawing and chewing behaviours, pigs must have access to environmental enrichment materials that are:
- effective
 - provided at all times
 - provided in sufficient quantities.

i Suitable environmental enrichment materials, which are free from contaminants, include high quality straw and silages.

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

Consideration should also be given to the type of straw used. Different types of straw are better suited to different purposes: Dry, brittle or rough textured straw will make a better enrichment material than it would bedding (but can serve as a stronger more absorbent base for a bed) whereas softer straw may not be as manipulable for enrichment, but provides more comfort as bedding.

More information on suitable enrichment materials, including desirable properties, can be found on the EUWeINet project website: <https://www.euwelnet.eu/en-us/home/>

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 standard E 10.3.2).

- E 8.2** 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 8.3** When incidents of stereotyped behaviour occur, the stock-keeper must:

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

- E 8.4** Each incident of stereotyped behaviour must be recorded, together with the preventative action taken.

- E 8.5** If abnormal behaviours develop repeatedly in any particular pen, a programme of modification and enrichment must be:

- a) agreed with the veterinary surgeon
- 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

- E 9.1** **LEGAL** In all pig housing, adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable, must be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

- E 9.2** 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 9.3 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.

Where soil types and climate are a constraint, producers can keep gestating sows in barns, in groups, on deep straw bedding for a maximum of seven weeks at the start of each production cycle. In this situation all other appropriate RSPCA welfare standards are required to be met.

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

E 10.1 Producers must demonstrate that due regard has been given to the soil and site suitability prior to occupying a site.

i Ways to achieve standard E 10.1 might include consulting soil scientists, agronomists, experienced pig veterinarians and/or soil/geological data.

E 10.2 A follow-on site/location must be identifiable.

E 10.3 For any system of outdoor production (including free-range):

- a) the lying area (shelters) must be a minimum of:
 - i. 1.5m²/sow for mature adults, and
 - ii. 1m²/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 10.3.1 In relation to standard E 10.3, lower stocking densities must be employed if site conditions deem this necessary.

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

E 10.3.2 The minimum space allowances for growing pigs in outdoor systems are as follows:

Live weight (kg)	Bedded lying area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
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 10.3.3 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 12m²/pig where accommodation is moved to new paddocks after each batch
- b) a minimum total space (i.e. paddock space) of at least 40m²/pig where accommodation is not moved to new paddocks after each batch
- c) a minimum lying area in shelters as stated in standard E 5.1.

 **It is permitted to reduce the total area in standard E 10.3.3 (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.**

 **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 slaughterhouse. In such cases the space allowances in standard E 5.1 will apply.**

E 10.3.4 Where the total area in standard E 10.3.3 is reduced, this must be for no longer than 3 weeks post weaning.

E 10.4 Sites must not be used for farrowing paddocks for more than 2 years.

E 10.4.1 Land used for farrowing paddocks must not be used again for farrowing sows for at least 6 months.

E 10.4.2 The only exception to standard E 10.4.1 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 6th parity.**

E 10.5 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 10.5.1 **NEW** Where bedding is burnt, there must be no pigs present in the immediate vicinity.

E 10.6 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 standard E 10.3.2).

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 10.7 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:**

- provision of well-managed mud wallows
- 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
- provision of showers/sprinklers, although these only cool the animals and do not offer protection from the sun.

E 10.8 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



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 1.1** All records and other documentation that the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs* require the producer to keep and maintain, must be made available on request.

Managers

- M 2.1** Personnel with responsibility for the management of approved establishments must be named and recorded.

- M 2.2** 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.



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 2.3** 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 standard 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 a slaughterhouse approved by the assurance scheme assessing against these standards, 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 2.4

REVISED Managers must:

- a) develop and implement contingency plans and preventative measures for the following emergency situations, to help ensure the welfare of the animals can be safeguarded:
 - i. fire
 - ii. flood
 - iii. interruption of supplies to the farm, e.g. feed
 - iv. notifiable disease outbreaks
 - v. mass on-farm culling, e.g. due to an outbreak of a notifiable disease
 - vi. periods where the animals are required to remain on the farm for longer than planned, e.g. where there is a significant delay in animals being taken to the slaughterhouse
- b) provide an emergency action board sited in a prominent position that is visible to all farm staff and emergency services, which must include:
 - i. the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency
 - ii. the location of water sources for use by the fire services
 - iii. the What3words address and postcode for location of the unit.



A contingency plan is a course of action designed to help a business respond effectively to a significant future possible event/situation. For each event/situation, the plan includes the potential impacts on the animals and the actions that can be taken to address the issues identified. For example, in the event of a slaughterhouse breakdown that results in the animals having to remain on a unit/farm for longer than planned, contingency plans will detail:

- **the potential issues caused by this event and the implications to the welfare of the animals**
- **the actions that can be taken to safeguard the animals' welfare.**



NEW A contingency plan assists those on farm to be prepared for the precautions and actions that may need to be taken in the event of a notifiable disease outbreak. Contingency plans will demonstrate due consideration is given to the potential welfare issues that could arise should there be a notifiable disease outbreak. This would include:

- **the effect of movement restrictions and the potential implications**
- **meeting the welfare needs of slaughter pigs that can't be moved.**

M 2.4.1

NEW Plans and policies relating to standard M 2.4 a) iv) and v) must be:

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

M 2.5

Should an emergency require the removal of livestock to unregistered premises, the certification scheme responsible for assessing against these standards must be informed immediately.

Stock-keepers

M 3.1 Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of livestock, stock-keepers must be given appropriate training for their specific area of responsibility.

M 3.2 All stock-keepers must:

- a) understand the times and circumstances in which pigs are prone to welfare problems on their own unit
- b) be able to demonstrate their competence in recognising and dealing with problems relating to (a)
- c) have appropriate knowledge and understanding, specific to their area of work
- d) be able to recognise signs of normal behaviour, abnormal behaviour and fear
- e) be able to recognise signs of common diseases and understand their prevention and control, and to know when to seek veterinary help.



Examples of specific areas of knowledge include:

- a) **body condition scoring in accordance with the Defra (formerly MAFF) booklet *Condition Scoring of Pigs***
- b) **the normal gait of a pig, and foot care and treatment**
- c) **farrowing and the care of the newborn piglet**
- d) **humane methods of handling and loading, as detailed in the section on handling.**

M 3.3 Stock-keepers must have knowledge of, be able to demonstrate, and at all times practise:

- a) handling animals in a positive and compassionate manner
- b) proficiency in procedures that have the potential to cause suffering.

Handling

M 4.1 Pigs must be handled quietly and firmly, with care to avoid unnecessary pain or distress.

M 4.2 **LEGAL** Pigs must not be pulled or dragged by the tail, ears, limbs or any other part of the body.

M 4.3 The presence and use of the following to move pigs is prohibited:

- a) electric goads
- b) sticks.

Identification

M 5.1 Where it is necessary to mark pigs for permanent identification there must not be any method used other than:

- a) ear tagging
- b) slap marking
- c) tattooing
- d) ear notching of piglets, only as an alternative to ear tagging.

M 5.1.1 Operations relating to standard M 5.1 must be carried out by a trained, competent stock-keeper, using properly maintained instruments.

M 5.1.2 Only one ear may be notched and there must not be more than one notch made in the ear.

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

 **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 5.2 **REVISED** Justification for slapmarking for farm trial purposes or similar must be provided to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department in writing for review.

Equipment

M 6.1 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 6.2 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 6.3 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 6.4 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

- M 7.1** Stock-keepers must inspect their livestock at least twice daily.
- M 7.2** Following inspections, stock-keepers must:
- a) record observations
 - b) deal with any welfare problems appropriately and without delay
 - c) record any action taken.



Welfare problems of sufficient severity that they should have been noticed on previous inspections and dealt with, shall be taken by the certification scheme as evidence of negligence of duties by the stock-keeper.

Protection from other animals

- M 8.1** A written Wild Animal Control Plan (WACP) must:
- a) be in place
 - b) implemented on farm.
- M 8.2** Levels of potentially harmful wild animals (e.g. rodents and birds) must be humanely managed to avoid:
- a) the risk of disease spread to livestock
 - b) damage to livestock buildings and the services on which livestock depend
 - c) contamination and spoilage of feed.



In England and Wales, the following legislation applies to the management of wildlife:

- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**
- **Animal Welfare Act 2006**
- **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010**
- **Protection of Badgers Act 1992**
- **Pests Act 1954**
- **The Spring Traps Approval (England) Order 2012**
- **The Spring Traps Approval (Wales) Order 2012**
- **The Small Ground Vermin Traps Order 1958**
- **Food and Environment Protection Act 1985**
- **The Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) 1986**
- **Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962**

Equivalent legislation applies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- M 8.3** The primary means of protecting the livestock from wild animals, as documented in the WACP, must be by:
- physical exclusion methods
 - the removal of elements in the vicinity that might encourage the presence of wild animals
 - maintaining units in a clean and tidy condition to minimise the risk of wild animals gaining access to the unit.



Physical exclusion measures are the most humane and effective methods of providing protection from wild animals.

Measures should only be applied after the area has been checked and cleared of elements that could encourage the presence of wild animals, as applying some measures interfere with rodent behaviour and encourage them to spread to other areas. Humane methods of protecting livestock from other 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 of drains**
- **Maintenance/proofing of buildings against wild animals**
- **Storing bedding away from animals.**
- **In outdoor and/or free range systems some of these aspects, such as removal of food sources, may not be possible. Some of the methods listed above are intended to remove unnecessary and unintended harbourage sites, as opposed to elements specifically provided for other purposes.**



Rodents are less likely to inhabit an area if there is no cover or food supply. Reduced food availability will also increase the likelihood of rodents consuming bait, where applied. When stores or livestock buildings are empty, the opportunity should be taken to check and maintain spaces and introduce any necessary controls before restocking.

- M 8.4** Where any lethal method of control is being considered, a site survey of the unit must be carried out before applying the control (i.e. bait or traps), identifying:
- the type, level and extent of the problem species
 - any non-target animals likely to be present (including pets and children)
 - any maintenance and proofing issues.

- M 8.5** Where any lethal method of control is used, its use must have taken into account the results of the site survey (standard M 8.4).

M 8.6 The WACP must include provisions that specifically exclude the following methods of control:

- a) snaring
- b) gassing
- c) vertebrate glue traps.

M 8.7 Long-term baiting must not be used as a routine rodent control measure.

i In relation to standard M 8.7, site plans should therefore highlight potential high risk areas for wild animal activity (rather than permanent baiting locations).

Long-term baiting should not be necessary if bait or traps are applied effectively.

Long-term baiting can also contribute to bait resistance in rodents.

i The RSPCA is opposed to the use of poisons that cause animal suffering and it is important not to rely solely on the use of rodenticide. The RSPCA is concerned about the welfare of all animals that have the capacity to suffer, and therefore all alternative forms of humane deterrent should be exhausted before resorting to the use of poisons for rodents.

i Any baiting programme should be considered carefully and justified in risk assessments for each location where used. Consideration should be given to using non-toxic baits in order to ascertain the presence of rodents, which may necessitate the use of rodenticide.

M 8.8 When bait and/or traps are used, records of their use must be kept and:

- a) state the location of the bait/traps
- b) state what bait/traps were used
- c) state the volume/number of bait/traps placed
- d) state the name of the person who placed the bait/trap
- e) be retained for at least two years.

M 8.9 Bait and traps must:

- a) be placed in suitable positions
- b) be sufficiently protected to avoid harming non-target animals.

i Site plans should highlight potential high risk areas for wild animal activity rather than permanent baiting locations.

M 8.10 Bait must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions for:

- a) storage
- b) usage, including areas of use and replenishment
- c) disposal.

- M 8.11** Traps must be:
- used according to the manufacturer's instructions
 - maintained in good order
 - disposed of appropriately if no longer fit for purpose, e.g. have broken
 - stored safely and securely.
- M 8.12** Bait points must:
- be monitored regularly, and
 - records of monitoring be kept including:
 - levels of activity at each bait point
 - any missing or disturbed bait
 - the name of the person responsible for monitoring the bait points.
- M 8.13** Trap points must:
- be monitored at least twice a day, ideally at dawn and dusk, and
 - records of monitoring be kept including:
 - level of activity at each trap
 - any missing or disturbed traps
 - the name of the person responsible for monitoring the traps.
- M 8.14** Any injured, sick or dying wild animals found - that have been targeted for control - must be humanely dispatched immediately to prevent further suffering.
-  **Regular replenishment of bait will help prevent sub-lethal doses, which can result in a build-up of resistance to the active ingredient.**
- M 8.15** Where bait is used, dead animals must be disposed of safely, in line with the manufacturer's product label.
-  **Safe disposal of wild animals that have died as a result of poisoning reduces the risk of secondary poisoning in non-target species, such as domestic and other wild animals (including birds), that may consume the carcasses.**
- M 8.16** Once treatment has finished, all traps and traces of bait must be:
- removed
 - disposed of according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- M 8.17** Domestic animals must not have access to the unit, other than farm dogs and cats.
- M 8.18** Wild animal control methods must be covered by the farm COSHH assessment, where required.

- M 8.19** Managers must ensure all stock-keepers:
- have access to a copy of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use, *UK Code of Best Practice and Guidance for Rodent Control and the Safe Use of Rodenticides*
 - are familiar with its content
 - understand and apply its content.



Producers are strongly encouraged to complete at least one of the free, self-study training courses on rodent control, available at: <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/>. The courses are approved by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU).

Further information and access to the CRRU Code of Best Practice is available on the AHDB website, here <https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/rodent-control-on-farms> .

- M 8.20** Farm dogs and cats must be:
- in a healthy condition
 - regularly wormed (record to be kept in medicine book or VHWP).

Trial work

- M 9.1** All units undertaking trial work must:
- ensure that they are still able to meet all relevant RSPCA welfare standards
 - contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department if in any doubt as to whether or not they conform.
- M 9.2** Trial work that involves procedures with the potential to cause unnecessary pain, discomfort or distress must not be carried out.
- M 9.3** Trial work that involves an invasive procedure must not be carried out.
- M 9.4** 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 9.5** If there is any doubt as to whether procedures relating to standard M 9.3 are 'invasive' or have the potential to cause unnecessary pain, discomfort or distress, the RSPCA Farm Animals Department must be contacted.

Sourcing of livestock

- M 10.1** All pigs presented for slaughter must have spent their entire lives on unit(s) that have been approved by the certification scheme assessing against these standards as being compliant with the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*.

Preparation for transport

- M 11.1** Pigs must have access to water up to the point of transport.
- M 11.2** 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

- M 12.1** 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 4.3).

Artificial Intelligence



NEW The RSPCA is reviewing the role of artificial intelligence and the wide-ranging benefits it can bring to pig welfare, particularly in the area of health and welfare monitoring.

It is strongly recommended that producers investigate the feasibility of such technology to further safeguard animal welfare.

Where such technology is being considered, please contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department.

Health

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

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 standard 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 3 for an example VHWP. Should your veterinary surgeon require assistance with the formulation of your VHWP, please 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 standard H 1.6)
- b) document:
 - i. how
 - ii. when
 - 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 standard 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** **REVISED** The following health and welfare conditions, where applicable to the unit, must be listed in the VHWP (see standard H 1.4 a)):
- pre-weaning mortality levels
 - post weaning mortality
 - pigs humanely killed as unfit
 - body condition of sows
 - incidence of tail biting on the unit
 - incidence and type of lameness
 - injuries
 - the main disease problems affecting or likely to affect the farm
 - all deaths and culls that occur within 48 hours of pigs arriving onto the unit, including the reason (where known).



REVISED 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.

For example, with regards to litter size, breeding goals resulting in litter sizes that consistently exceed the sows' number of functional teats are hindering progress in improving health and welfare. The 2022 European Food Safety Authority report on the welfare of pigs recommends that selection for litter size should be limited to an average number of 12–14 piglets born alive.

Producers are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on this issue to breeding companies and think critically about the unit's/company's future policy on breeding and genetics.

The RSPCA believes that welfare should be enhanced, not compromised, and prioritised in breeding/genetic programmes. The Farm Animals Department will continue to monitor developments on this subject, which will be a key focus area for the RSPCA standards going forward.

- H 1.6.1** **NEW** With regards to the following conditions, producers must follow the latest version of the Pig Veterinary Society's document *The Casualty Pig*, with respect to humane end-points:
- body condition
 - tail biting
 - lameness
 - injuries.



NEW A humane endpoint is an agreed point at which an animal is humanely euthanised due to, for example, unmanageable pain, because it is not responding to treatment, or because future treatments are unlikely to be effective.

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

- H 1.8** Stock-keepers responsible for undertaking health and welfare monitoring (see standard 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** **REVISED** 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 written hygiene policy.



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 standard H 1.10); uncontrolled, internal parasites can cause serious disease. A worming plan can be developed in discussion with the farm veterinary surgeon.



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 standard 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)
 - 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.



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:
- the medicines permitted on a unit and their basic use
 - permitted in-feed medication
 - permitted in-water medication
 - permitted routine injectable or oral doser medication
 - permitted vaccines used, which animals are to be treated, dose rating, timing of vaccine and the frequency and reason for use
 - assessment of basic welfare
 - assessment and justification of any potentially injurious husbandry procedures
 - training courses attended or required
 - 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

- H 2.1** Each farm must have provisions for the humane killing, without delay, of casualty pigs.
- H 2.1.1** **NEW** With regards to H 2.1, there must be someone on site who is trained and competent to carry out euthanasia within 60 minutes, at the latest, of a pig being identified as requiring euthanasia.
- H 2.1.2** **NEW** An emergency procedures action plan must be detailed in the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan (see standard H 1.1) to address situations where mass culling may be required, for example in response to a major disease outbreak.



NEW Where mass culling is required, for example in response to a major disease outbreak, prompt identification and action can prevent considerable suffering. Producers need to outline measures to ensure this is achieved as part of an Emergency Procedures Action Plan. It is particularly important that due attention is paid to welfare in such circumstances as advised by the attending veterinary surgeon.

- H 2.2** Anyone carrying out emergency killing of pigs must:
- have access to the latest version of the Humane Slaughter Association's (HSA) guide: *Emergency Slaughter* or, in the case of piglets, the *On-Farm Humane Killing of Neonate Pigs, Goats and Sheep*
 - be familiar with the content
 - follow the guidance where applicable (see information box below).

i With reference to standard H 2.2 c), the Humane Slaughter Association's documents should complement and support these *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*. However, if there is a conflict between the HSA guidance and what is required under these RSPCA standards, the requirements set out in these standards are to be followed.

H 2.3 **LEGAL** Casualty pigs requiring emergency euthanasia must only be humanely killed using the following methods (which are listed in no particular order):

- a) free bullet
- b) shot gun
- c) penetrative captive bolt followed swiftly by pithing or bleeding such that the animal dies without regaining consciousness
- d) for the emergency killing of piglets under 10kg only, a non-penetrative captive bolt provided that the device is capable of delivering a force equivalent to or greater than 27.7 Joules
- e) chemical euthanasia by overdose of an anaesthetic drug carried out by veterinary surgeon.

i The method outlined in standard H 2.3 d), under the specific circumstances listed, does not need to be followed by bleeding or pithing.

i With reference to the methods of emergency slaughter listed in standard H 2.3, it is advised that national laws are checked to ascertain which methods are permitted under national law in the country in question.

i Manual blunt force trauma must not be used to kill piglets of any age or weight in England and Wales, including in emergencies (see standard H 2.3 for a list of permitted methods).

H 2.3.1 A permitted method of emergency slaughter (see standard H 2.3) must also be available as a back-up method for use in the event that the primary method is unavailable, i.e. for occasions where it is not possible to use the primary method (e.g. due to failure).

H 2.3.2 Equipment for the slaughter/killing of animals must be:

- a) maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions
- b) easily accessible to the relevant member of staff
- c) checked at least monthly to ensure good working order
- d) checked immediately prior to the first use of the day to ensure good working order.

H 2.3.3 **LEGAL** Non-ambulatory pigs, which are unable to stand/rise unaided, must be killed without being moved, unless:

- a) they can be lifted without causing further suffering, and
- b) where there is full body support.

i A pig is considered non-ambulatory when the animal cannot rise or is unable to stand unaided.

H 2.4 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 2.4.1 Where the member of staff/slaughterman responsible for killing the casualty pig is unable to attend to the pig without delay, a veterinary surgeon must be called immediately to carry out the procedure.

H 2.5 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 2.6 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.

i **NEW** It is recommended that a different mark be used to identify dead pigs than that used to identify pigs being treated or selected for slaughter.

H 2.6.1 **NEW** All fallen stock must be marked with indelible dye (i.e. a dye that cannot be removed) prior to being placed into fallen stock storage (see standard H 2.7).

H 2.7 **REVISED** All carcasses must be:

- a) stored in suitable containers:
 - i. with no parts of the carcass visible,
 - ii. 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.

i To ensure carcasses are protected from rodents and other animals they may be kept in locked containers or in containers within locked buildings until disposed of.

H 2.8 A record must be kept of how and where all such carcasses are disposed of.

Biosecurity

- H 3.1** Each unit must have a written hygiene policy, which includes:
- use of foot dips
 - methods and frequency of pen cleaning
 - disinfectants used, the product concentration and how often they are changed
 - muck and slurry disposal.

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

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 standard 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 be 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. in 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.
-  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** **REVISED** **LEGAL** On-farm medicine use (including vaccines) must be listed, stating:
- a) dose rates
 - b) timing of vaccination
 - c) frequency of use
 - d) the reason for use
 - e) animal(s) treated.
- H 4.7.1** **NEW** **LEGAL** Records of medicine use must be kept for five years.
- H 4.7.2** **REVISED** Total antibiotics used must be collated and uploaded onto AHDB Pork's electronic medicine book <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.

Antibiotic usage



REVISED Prevention is better than cure, and it is the implementation of prevention strategies alongside the adoption of farming practices that prioritise and promote animal welfare that are key to reducing antibiotic use.

For more information on this issue, please see our information sheet available on our website www.rspca.org.uk.

H(A) 1.1 **NEW** Antibiotics must only be used when necessary, and always used responsibly.

H(A) 1.1.1 **NEW** The prophylactic use of antibiotics is not permitted.



NEW Prophylactic treatment is intended to prevent sickness or disease developing in a group of healthy animals where a veterinary surgeon has identified that there could be a high risk of bacterial infection. We believe that there should be no need for the prophylactic use of antibiotics when following these standards. However, we acknowledge there may be very exceptional circumstances, e.g. in the case of an emergency, such as a transport accident, where a veterinary surgeon may feel it is in the best interests of the affected animal's welfare for antibiotics to be given preventatively. We would expect these occasions to be extremely rare and limited to only a few animals.

Metaphylactic treatment is intended to control disease spreading in groups of animals where some are already showing clinical signs of disease and is not covered by standard H(A) 1.1.1.

H(A) 1.2 **NEW** The use of antibiotics on-farm must be reviewed annually and this review must form part of the VHWP.

H(A) 1.3 **NEW** In light of the findings of the antibiotic use review (see standard H(A) 1.2), an action plan must be drawn up aimed at reducing the use of antibiotics on the farm through improvements in animal husbandry.

H(A) 1.4 **NEW** When reviewing the use of antibiotics on-farm, the following must be included in the plan (see standard H(A) 1.3):

- a) the different classes of antibiotic drug used
- b) which group/s* of animals were treated, and for which condition/s
- c) the number of animals treated per occasion,
- d) the total amount of each individual drug within a class that was used (in mg/kg or mg/pcu) per occasion
- e) a specific section covering all the above for 'Critically Important Antibiotics' (CIAs).

*A group of animals refers to animals of a similar age and/or stage of production.



REVISED This review is intended to highlight which groups of animals are suffering from particular diseases and therefore aid the development and implementation of targeted prevention strategies.

Segregation pens

- H 5.1** Any injured, ailing or distressed pig must:
- be segregated if necessary (see standard H 5.3)
 - be treated without delay
 - if necessary, veterinary advice must be sought when needed
 - 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.



When referring to treating a pig without delay, there is an expectation that a pig will not suffer unnecessarily. Therefore, some types of drugs (i.e. pain relief) should be on farm in order to minimise the time where suffering could occur.

- 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:
- be emptied between occupancies, cleaned and disinfected according to the cleaning plan (Appendix 1)
 - 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 <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

- 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 standard 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:

- a) be familiar with its content
- b) adopt its recommendations where appropriate.

Mutilations

- 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 standards H 7.2 to H 7.13, under the circumstances specified and according to the standards laid down.



NEW The 3Rs approach – Reduction, Replacement and Refinement – is applied with the aim of preventing painful procedures being carried out on animals. The 3Rs should be the centre of discussions with your farm vet and potential finishing units, where appropriate, regarding the need to tail dock, teeth clip/grind and nose ring pigs. Examples of each include:

Reduction: only teeth clipping/grinding gilt litters or large litters.

Replacement: replacing tail docking with increased herd inspection, reduced stocking densities and increased environmental enrichment provision.

Refinement: implementing more staff training on how to carry out these procedures.



NEW The RSPCA is working to phase out the practices of tail docking, teeth reduction and nose ringing. However, it is acknowledged that prohibiting these procedures at this time could lead to detrimental impacts on animal welfare, such as an increased number of tail bitten pigs, an increase in injuries to piglets and sow teats, and an increase in piglet chilling and potentially higher pre-weaning mortality levels. This is an area under constant review and we encourage producers to think critically about these procedures.



NEW The RSPCA is currently investigating the possibility of providing both short-acting and long-acting pain relief for tail docking and nose ringing, as an interim measure, where permission to carry out these procedures is granted.

H 7.2 With regards to teeth clipping:

- a) **LEGAL** The removal of the points of needle teeth of newborn pigs must not be carried out routinely.
- b) 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 damage, including the number of pigs affected.
- c) If the procedure is permitted:
 - i. 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
 - ii. **LEGAL** the procedure must leave an intact smooth surface to the teeth.



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 With regards to nose ringing:

- a) nose rings are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances
- b) 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.

H 7.3.1 Where nose ringing is carried out, the following stipulations must be applied:

- a) only animals of at least 100kg weight may be ringed
- b) animals must only 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.



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 **REVISED** With regards to tail docking:

- a) **LEGAL** tail docking is not permitted except in exceptional circumstances
- b) requests for permission to tail dock must be submitted to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department by the producer in conjunction with the unit's veterinary surgeon, including:
 - i. the reasons for the request being made
 - ii. an indication of the severity (numbers involved, frequency of outbreaks) of tail biting on the unit in the last year
 - iii. the proposed method of docking (including equipment to be used)
 - iv. information on the other actions taken to alleviate the problem through means other than docking, including the date the action was taken in the last year.
 - v. an indication of the amount of tail to be left intact and the reasons for this (see standard H 7.7)
 - vi. the name and address of the farm requiring permission and the relevant farm assurance membership number.



Copies of the tail docking request form can be downloaded from the website (<https://science.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs>) alongside guidance on completing permission requests. Failure to provide all the information listed in standard 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.

Requests for permission should be sent to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department by email to farm-animals@rspca.org.uk. Permissions sent to other email addresses may not be received and responses will be delayed.

H 7.4.1 If the procedure is permitted, tail docking must be carried out in the first 48 hours of life, except in the case of weak/sick piglets, or if iron injections are given, then this can be extended to within 3 days of birth.

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 standard H 7.6
- b) the VHWP (see standard 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.



Producers are encouraged to use the WebHAT tool developed by AHDB to assess the potential tail biting risk factors for their unit. This should be done at least annually to review potential new risks and progress on pre-existing risk factors.



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 standard 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:

- a) that they have a valid permission letter from the RSPCA Farm Animals Department to tail dock
- b) the reason for the request, in terms of the severity of the tail biting issue on the finishing unit(s) (standard H 7.4 b) i and ii)
- c) the actions taken to alleviate the problem through means other than tail docking (standard H 7.4 b) iv).



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 standards 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.



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).



Replacement gilts brought onto a breeding unit may already be tail docked. Ideally, these animals should not be tail docked as producers 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 standards 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.



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 **REVISED** With regards to the use of Improvac® on male pigs:

- a) requests for permission to use Improvac® must be submitted to the RSPCA Farm Animals Department by the producer in conjunction with the unit's veterinary surgeon, including welfare-related reasons for the request
- b) the Department's written response must be made available on request.

- H 7.16** The application of Improvac® 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® 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’.



RSPCA Welfare Outcome Assessment¹ 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 5.

¹ 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.

WA 1.1 A Welfare Outcome Assessment must be conducted:

- a) according to the protocol in Appendix 5
- b) using the assessment form in Appendix 5 or the equivalent current Welfare Outcome Assessment form used by the farm assurance scheme assessing against these standards
- c) on a regular basis or, for members of the farm assurance scheme that is assessing against these standards, during each scheme assessment visit
- d) by:
 - i. a suitably competent person that is independent from the direct management of the farm and,
 - ii. in the case of assurance scheme members, the relevant scheme personnel.



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



With reference to standard 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 (standard 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 standard 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 (standard WA 1.1) must be included within the VHWP (see standards H 1.1 to H 1.14 and H 3.1 to H 7.16).



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.

T 1.1 All pigs presented for slaughter must have been transported by a haulier that has been approved by the certification scheme assessing against these standards as being compliant with the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*.

T 1.1.1 **NEW** From 3rd March 2026, all cull sows and boars must be:

- a) transported according to the transport standards (see standards T 1.1 – T 7.3)
- b) transported by a haulier that has been approved by the certification scheme assessing against these standards as being compliant with the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*.

T 1.1.2 **NEW** With regards to the transport of cull sows and boars:

- a) journey times exceeding 8 hours are not permitted, except in exceptional circumstances
- b) where it is not possible to transport cull sows or boars within the maximum permitted journey time of 8 hours (see standard T 5.7), producers and/or hauliers must receive annual written permission from the RSPCA Farm Animals Department to exceed the 8 hour journey time limit.



NEW When requesting permission to exceed the 8 hour journey time, the following details should be included:

- location of the breeding unit(s)
- location of the slaughterhouse(s)
- number of journeys each year likely to exceed 8 hours
- proposed route, including expected journey time
- rationale for needing to exceed 8 hours
- how the health and welfare of the animals will not be negatively impacted by the additional journey time.

T 1.2 Pigs must not be presented for sale at livestock markets.



Pigs presented for sale at livestock markets will automatically lose their status as being accredited by the certification scheme assessing against these standards.

Casualty animals

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

Training

- T 3.1** Hauliers must:
- have access to a copy of the relevant sections of the current version of the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*
 - be familiar with its content
 - understand and apply its content.
- T 3.2** **LEGAL** Personnel in charge of pig transporters must:
- have completed an approved training course, preferably validated
 - 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 3.2.1** 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 3.3** 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 3.4** 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

- T 4.1** Boards must be:
- present during the handling operation
 - used as a handling aid when necessary.
- T 4.2** The presence and use of electric goads on any unit or vehicle is prohibited.
- T 4.3** Pigs must not be moved or loaded unless:
- the way forward is clear
 - there is adequate space available for them to move into.
- T 4.4** Where loading and unloading facilities provide a ramp, the incline/decline must be no more than 20 percent (11 degrees).
- T 4.5** 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 4.6** All tail boards must be fitted with foot battens.



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 4.7** All handling systems must be designed and operated so as to:
- not impede the movement of the pigs
 - reduce the incidence of noise.



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

- 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 slaughterhouse 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.



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 2 for example).

Transport space allowance

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

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



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

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 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 1.1 All pigs presented for slaughter must have spent their entire lives on farms approved by the certification scheme assessing against these standards as being compliant with the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*.

S 1.1.1 **NEW** From 3rd March 2026, all cull sows and boars must be slaughtered/killed:

- a) according to standards S 1.1 – S 10.25
- b) in a slaughterhouse that has been approved by the certification scheme assessing against these standards as being compliant with the *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs*.

Management and training

S 2.1 Managers must develop and implement an animal welfare policy, which must include written procedures with regard to maintaining animal welfare in the slaughterhouse, including the responsibilities and duties of staff for emergencies such as escaped, trapped or injured livestock.

S 2.1.1 Contingency plans and suitable backup systems must be in place to:

- a) deal with occasions where unavoidable delays may occur, such as a mechanical breakdown, and it is not possible to process the pigs as planned
- b) ensure the continued killing of animals in the event of an emergency that threatens the ongoing use of the main system, such as a disruption to the supply of gas in the case of gas killing systems.

S 2.2 The animal welfare policy must be regularly reviewed and updated.

S 2.3 **LEGAL** Managers must appoint at least one trained Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), who is responsible for the implementation of the animal welfare policy.

S 2.3.1 **LEGAL** All AWOs must:

- a) hold a certificate of competence relating to all those operations listed in standard S 2.4 c), 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 slaughterhouses
- c) keep a record of all action taken to improve animal welfare in the slaughterhouse for which he/she is responsible.

S 2.3.2 Records relating to standard S 2.3.1 c) must be kept for at least a year.

S 2.4 **REVISED** Managers, in conjunction with the AWO, must:

- a) develop and implement a training programme for all staff involved in the handling and slaughtering/killing of pigs
- b) ensure that these staff are trained and competent to carry out their duties
- c) 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.
- d) only record staff training as completed once a self declaration of competence has been signed by both the trainee and management staff.



NEW For staff undertaking the operations listed under standard S 2.4 c), a certificate of competence in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009¹ is required.

¹Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, Article 7, Paragraph 2.

S 2.4.1 Certificates of competence must be attained through the completion of approved training programmes/courses.

S 2.5 When developing the staff training programme (see standard S 2.4 a)) the following areas must be included, as appropriate:

- a) pig welfare
- b) pig behaviour
- c) handling and movement of pigs
- d) lairage, including lairage conditions and care of pigs during lairage
- e) restraint of pigs
- f) slaughter/killing method(s), including emergency back-up methods
- g) assessment of an effective stun/kill
- h) bleeding.



In relation to standard S 2.5, The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) *Humane Slaughter – Taking Responsibility* training package can be used to help inform the content of training programme.

S 2.5.1 Slaughterhouse managers/AWOs must:

- a) obtain a copy of the Humane Slaughter Association's *Best Practice Guidelines for the Welfare of Pigs in Abattoirs* (2004)
- b) be familiar with its content
- c) ensure that the recommendations are applied where appropriate.

- S 2.6** An AWO must:
- LEGAL** be present on the site at all times while slaughter is being carried out.
 - ensure that reserve equipment is serviced according to the service schedule
 - LEGAL** make frequent and thorough checks throughout the day to ensure that animals are being effectively stunned and are insensible throughout the slaughter operation.
 - record the temperature in the lairage during start up checks.
- S 2.7** **LEGAL** Where it is found that animals are not being effectively stunned, the slaughter line must be stopped and immediate remedial action taken.
- S 2.8** 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 2.9** The AWO must ensure that animal welfare during the slaughter process is not compromised by operator fatigue.
- S 2.10** 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

- S 3.1** **LEGAL** 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 3.2** Casualty animals must be killed in accordance with methods outlined in standard S 7.1 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.

Lairage

- S 4.1** Fasting must not exceed 18 hours for any pigs prior to slaughter (see standard M 11.2).
- S 4.2** Slaughterhouse managers must take steps to ascertain when animals last had access to food.
- S 4.3** **LEGAL** Slaughterhouse managers must ensure that the premises are constructed and maintained so as to prevent any injury being caused to animals confined there.

- S 4.4** The slaughterhouse must provide a lairage facility which:
- LEGAL** is constructed so as to provide shelter from direct sunlight and adverse weather conditions
 - provides animals with a dry lying area, except when misting is taking place
 - is of adequate size and construction for the number of animals confined there
 - LEGAL** provides adequate draught-free ventilation
 - LEGAL** is thermally comfortable for the pigs (i.e. the pigs are neither overheated nor chilled)
 - is properly lit to permit animals to be inspected
 - has drainage facilities for faeces and urine
 - is able to be thoroughly cleaned between batches of animals
 - has isolation pens in which sick or injured animals can be isolated and, if necessary, humanely killed, and such pens must be located closely to the unloading area and within easy access of the stunning area
 - LEGAL** provides easy access to adequate water, which must be available at all times, and to food, if necessary.

S 4.4.1 Misting or spraying of pigs in lairage is not permitted at air temperatures below 5°C.

S 4.4.2 **NEW** Pigs lairaged at slaughterhouses overnight must be provided with suitable bedding to ensure their physical and thermal comfort.



NEW Suitable bedding includes straw and rubber mats. To ensure the physical comfort of the pigs, the material used is required to keep the pigs dry and clean (i.e. no pooling of water and/or urine/faeces), and be deep enough so that the temperature of the surface/material in contact with the pigs is higher than that felt directly on the floor.

S 4.5 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 ²)
80	0.49
90	0.53
100	0.57
110	0.61



The minimum space allowances listed in standard S 4.5 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 standard E 3.1 for more guidance on appropriate temperature ranges for pigs.

S 4.5.1 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 ²)
80	0.675
90	0.715
100	0.75
110	0.80

S 4.5.2 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 ²)
Up to 120	0.64
121–250	0.85
251+	1.06



The minimum space allowances listed in standard S 4.5.2 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 4.5.3 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 ²)
Mature sow	3.5
Gilt (first & second parity)	2.5

S 4.6 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 4.7 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.

S 4.8 **NEW** The use of off-site lairaging facilities must not be used as an extension of the on-site lairage.



NEW Off-site lairages may only be used in emergency situations.

S 4.9 **NEW** Should the use of an off-site lairage be required, the scheme that is responsible for assessing against these standards must be notified within 24 hours of pigs being unloaded at the lairage.

Pre-slaughter handling

S 5.1 Pigs must be handled calmly, quietly and firmly, with care to avoid unnecessary excitement or distress.

S 5.2 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 5.3 **LEGAL** Flooring must be non-slip in races and passageways.

S 5.4 The presence and use of electric goads and sticks in any slaughterhouse is prohibited.

- S 5.5** Pigs must not be moved unless the way forward is clear, and there is adequate space available for them to move into.
- S 5.6** 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

- S 6.1** 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 6.2** All slaughter equipment must be thoroughly and appropriately cleaned after use.

i **REVISED** Regular decarbonising and cleaning of electrodes (when dry) with a wire brush can improve the efficiency of current flow of electrical stunning equipment, leading to a more effective stun.

- S 6.3** 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 6.4** A record of the check on slaughter equipment must be made.
- S 6.5** **LEGAL** Reserve equipment for the stunning and killing of animals must be readily available for use in an emergency.
- S 6.6** **LEGAL** 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 6.7** A record must be made of the check on reserve equipment.

Slaughter/killing methods

S 7.1 **REVISED** Pigs must only be slaughtered/killed using one of the following methods:

- a) electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution)
 - i. one-cycle method (head-to-back)
 - ii. two-cycle method
- b) free bullet
- c) penetrative captive bolt
- d) electronarcosis
- e) exposure to carbon dioxide until death ensues
- f) carbon dioxide associated with inert gases
- g) inert gases.



NEW The methods listed in S 7.1, with the exception of free bullet, must legally be followed as quickly as possible by a procedure ensuring death such as bleeding, pithing, electrocution or prolonged exposure to anoxia.



NEW Methods by which electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution) is permitted under S 7.1 a):

i. **one-cycle method (head-to-back):** this method involves passing a current simultaneously through the brain and the heart.

ii. **two-cycle method:** this method involves a current being first applied to the head, using hand-held tongs (similar to head-only stunning), immediately followed by the application of current across the chest to induce cardiac ventricular fibrillation.



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.



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 (standards S 10.1 to S 10.25) shall apply to use of carbon dioxide only.

- S 7.1.1** **NEW** The use of restrainer conveyor systems, such as the 'v' restrainer and 'Midas' stunning system, are not permitted.



NEW Moving pigs from a group into a single line and restraining them individually can be very stressful to pigs. The act of lifting the pigs makes the use of these restrainer conveyor systems even more stressful.

- S 7.2** If killing is carried out by a veterinary surgeon, this must be done by any method deemed appropriate by them.

Stunning and electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution)

- S 8.1** 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 8.1.1** In the case of electronarcosis, the minimum current level during stunning must be:
- LEGAL** no less than 1.3 amps
 - attained within 1 second
 - maintained for at least 3 seconds.
- S 8.1.2** In the case of electrical stun-to-kill systems (electrocution), the minimum current level during each stage must be:
- LEGAL** no less than 1.3 amps
 - attained within 1 second
 - maintained for at least 3 seconds.
- S 8.1.3** In the case of electronarcosis and electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution):
- LEGAL** equipment must be fitted with a device which displays and records the details of the electrical key parameters for each animal stunned
 - LEGAL** 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
 - 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
 - the outcome of each check referred to in (c) must be recorded
 - records relating to (a) and (d) must be kept for at least a year.
- S 8.1.4** **NEW** For two-cycle electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution), in the case of the heart stun the electrodes must be:
- placed so they span the heart from side-to-side or front-to-back
 - applied immediately following the head stun
 - applied for a minimum of 7 seconds.
- S 8.1.5** **NEW** In the case of two-cycle electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution), the head stun, heart stun and shackling must all be completed on each individual pig in turn before beginning the process on the next pig.

- S 8.1.6** 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 8.1.7** At least 10 animals must be checked on each occasion when assessing the effectiveness of stunning (see standard S 8.1.6).
- S 8.1.8** The records of checks on the effectiveness of stunning must include:
- the name of the person undertaking the stunning
 - the name of the person undertaking the checks
 - the number of pigs checked each time
 - the indicators used to verify the effectiveness of stunning
 - the frequency of checks
 - the number of non-compliant pigs
 - the action taken to correct ineffective stunning
 - procedures to review the effectiveness of the corrective action.
- S 8.2** Pigs must only be stunned when they can be stuck immediately afterwards with a stun-stick interval of no more than 15 seconds.



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 8.2.1** 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 8.2.2** **NEW** In the case of two-cycle electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution), if paddling movements are seen after the heart stun, similar to those seen after head-only electrical stunning (see the information box below standard S 8.2), a head stun must be applied again immediately, followed by another heart stun to prevent recovery.



NEW Signs of an effective stun/kill using the two-cycle electrical stun-to-kill (electrocution) method include:

- immediate collapse
- immediate onset of tonic phase (see information box below standard S 8.2 for more detail on the signs of this phase)
- immediate cessation of rhythmic breathing
- little or no clonic phase follows the tonic phase (see information box below standard S 8.2 for more detail on the signs of this phase)
- gradual appearance of relaxation of the body
- dilated pupils.

Forceful handling should be avoided as this could resuscitate the heart before or during bleeding.

Sticking

- S 9.1** Pigs must be stuck using a sharp knife that is a minimum of 5" (12cm) long.
- S 9.1.1** Two knives must be present at the point of sticking at all times whilst the process is in operation.
- S 9.2** A chest stick (thoracic bleeding) must always be used.



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

- S 9.3** 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 9.4** 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 9.5** **LEGAL** Both carotid arteries or the major blood vessels near the heart from which they arise must always be severed during sticking.
- S 9.6** **LEGAL** Blood loss from the pig must be rapid, profuse and sufficient to ensure the animal is dead.
- S 9.7** **LEGAL** 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 9.8** **LEGAL** 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



NEW Whilst gas killing systems can offer some welfare advantages over alternative methods, such as calmer handling due to the automated nature of the system, the use of carbon dioxide gas, especially at high concentrations, is aversive to pigs. As such, exposure to high concentrations of carbon dioxide gas causes pain and distress to pigs prior to them losing consciousness. The RSPCA wants to see a rapid phaseout of the legal use of carbon dioxide gas killing systems in their current form, which is long overdue, and humane alternatives developed.

In light of further research and developments into humane alternatives, the RSPCA will review the timescale for a phase out within these standards and would like to see this happen as soon as practically possible.

- S 10.1** 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 10.2** 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 10.3** A verifiable record of calibration must be made available during inspection.
- S 10.4** Pigs must not be loaded into the crates unless and until the crates can immediately be lowered into the gas.



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 10.5** **LEGAL** 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 10.5.1** The entrance to the chamber must be of adequate size and construction so as not to impede movement into the chamber.

- S 10.6** The gas chamber must be fitted with devices which:
- a) **LEGAL** maintain the required concentration by volume of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the gas mixture in the chamber
 - b) measure, continuously display and record:
 - i. the concentration by volume of CO₂ 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 CO₂ falls below 85 percent
 - d) records relating to (b) must be kept for at least one year.

- S 10.6.1** Pigs must be loaded into the crates in numbers that allow all individuals to lie down simultaneously, without being stacked on each other.

- S 10.7** In systems where crates stop in increasing concentrations of gas prior to reaching the maximum concentration of CO₂, the maximum concentration must be measured at floor level within the crate.

- S 10.8** In systems where pigs are lowered immediately into the maximum concentration of CO₂, the concentration of gas must be measured at the height in the chamber equivalent to pig nose height.

- S 10.9** Upon activation of the alarm, pigs must not be allowed to enter the chamber until the defect has been identified and rectified, and CO₂ concentration has returned to at least the minimum permitted concentration.

- S 10.10** 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 10.11** **LEGAL** There must be a means of visually monitoring pigs that are in the chamber.



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 10.12** **LEGAL** Once a pig enters the chamber, it must be conveyed to the point in the chamber of maximum concentration of CO₂ within 30 seconds, or within 20 seconds if a dip-lift system is in use.

- S 10.13** Pigs must not be lowered into the chamber until the CO₂ concentration is at least 85 percent at the point of maximum concentration.

- S 10.13.1** The average minimum CO₂ concentration for the batch must be 90 percent.

- S 10.13.2** Pigs must remain at the point of maximum concentration of CO₂ 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 CO₂, 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 10.14** 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 10.15** 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 10.16** At least 10 animals must be checked on each occasion when assessing the effectiveness of the stun/kill (see standard S 10.15).

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 CO₂ 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 10.17** 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 10.18** 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.

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

- captive bolt
- electrocution – 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 10.19** Where captive bolt or electrocution are used as methods of re-stunning, they must be followed by bleeding within 15 seconds.
- S 10.20** Emergency equipment for re-stunning/killing must be easily and immediately available and accessible.
- S 10.21** 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 10.22** Records relating to standard S 10.21 must be kept.
- S 10.23** 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 10.24** 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 10.25** 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.



The European Food Safety Authority guidelines (*Welfare Aspects of Animal Stunning and Killing Methods 2004*) relating to new CO₂ group stunning equipment, with a minimum of 70 to 80 percent CO₂ in air at the first stop position of the gondolas, and 90 percent CO₂ 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, CO₂ gradients, and exposure times.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)



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 slaughterhouse 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 slaughterhouse.

S(TV) 1.1 **LEGAL** A functional CCTV system must be installed and operational to monitor animals undergoing the following processes at the slaughterhouse (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)
- g) induction to unconsciousness in a CAS.

S(TV) 1.2 **LEGAL** CCTV cameras must be positioned to ensure a clear view of the processes being monitored is achieved at all times.

S(TV) 1.3 **LEGAL** It must be possible to observe clearly the view from each camera at all times via one or more monitors.

S(TV) 1.4 **LEGAL** 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 **LEGAL** The recorded CCTV footage must be:

- a) retained by the slaughterhouse for a period of at least three months, and
- b) available for viewing on site on request.



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.



NEW The RSPCA is reviewing Intelligent Camera Surveillance systems for use in slaughter plants. These systems can alert relevant slaughter plant staff to potential welfare concerns in real time, allowing situations to be dealt with quickly and efficiently. They can also be used to identify areas where staff require additional training or where staff safety is at risk. It is strongly recommended that slaughter plants adopt such technologies to help further safeguard animal welfare in their plant. Where such technology is being considered, please contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department for further information.

Appendix 1

Herd biosecurity policy

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

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.

Appendix 2

Transport – standard operating and emergency procedure

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 3

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 slaughterhouse evidence; **Present (Pres)** = clinical signs seen;
Absent (Abs) = no clinical signs; **Negative (Neg)** = negative laboratory or slaughterhouse 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 st stage weaner	2 nd 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

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

d) Lameness

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

e) Injuries

	% injured	Action	Date
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.

Section of the unit	Satisfactory?	Areas of concern (where applicable)

9. Farm policies

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

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 slaughterhouse/post mortem results

Area of concern	Slaughterhouse or PM?	Action taken

Appendix 4

Documents required

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

- *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs* (latest version)
<http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/faranimals/standards/pigs>
- Pig Veterinary Society *The Casualty Pig* (latest version)

The following lists those codes of practice 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)
- Defra *Lameness in Pigs* (PB 1148, 1992)
- Defra *Guidance on the Transport of Casualty Farm Animals* (PB 1381, 1998)

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*
- *Guidelines on responsible use of antimicrobials in pig production*, issued by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) alliance (latest version)
- *Code of practice on the responsible use of animal medicines on the farm*, issued by the Veterinary Medicine Directorate
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responsible-use-of-animal-medicines-on-the-farm/code-of-practice-on-the-responsible-use-of-animal-medicines-on-the-farm>
- *Veterinary Medicines: safe use by farmers and other handlers*, issued by the Health and Safety Executive
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/as31.pdf>

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

- *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs* (latest version)
<http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/faranimals/standards/pigs>
- Pig Veterinary Society *The Casualty Pig* (latest version)
- Humane Slaughter Association video *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 of practice 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)

The following lists those codes of practice and guides that are required at the **slaughterhouse**:

- *RSPCA welfare standards for pigs* (latest version)
<http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/farmanimals/standards/pigs>
- Humane Slaughter Association training programme *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)

Appendix 5

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 of finishing pigs.
- Include at least one pen of the oldest finishing pigs on site.
- If possible, avoid choosing pens in which pigs have been newly mixed (within 1 week) or treated (as a batch), however where this it is necessary to do so, please note it on the score sheet. Do not assess hospital pens.

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 pigs are to be assessed jointly with the stockperson (record assessor's score only)

*Individual sample size, for units with:

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

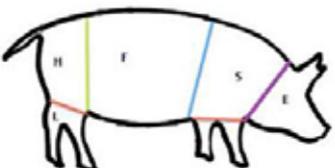
Pen measures: Assess all the pigs in the pen.

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

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

Lameness	Pen measure
<p>Observation: 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>Record: Number of lame pigs</p> <p>When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes, and/or – 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 – Severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’ – Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait. 	
Tail docking	Pen measure
<p>Observation: Look at the animals from the side or behind.</p> <p>Record:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">All Undocked – None of the tail is docked Docked (long) – less than 50% of the tail is docked Docked (short) – more than 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>Observation: Assess all animals in pen</p> <p>Record: If ear biting (EB) lesions are present, and If flank biting (FB) lesions are present</p> <p>Typical fight or clambering/mounting lesions show parallel lines, while lesions from flank biting are generally round</p>	
Pigs needing further care	Herd measure
<p>Observation: 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>Record: Number of pigs seen that would benefit from further treatment, hospitalisation or culling. When identifying pigs requiring further care, please record reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Further interventions include further treatment, hospitalisation or culling. – 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. – This assesses legislative compliance that ‘where necessary, any sick or injured pigs shall be temporarily isolated in suitable accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding’ – The nature of the condition and the pen environment will affect this measure. – Do not include sick or injured pigs already receiving suitable care. 	

Hospital Pens	Pen measure
Observation: Look at all sows in the hospital pens	
Record: Record the number of sows in the hospital pens according to reason for hospitalisation	
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
Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.	
Scoring:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None / Minimal – No lesions or less than mild lesions as described below 1. Mild – 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. 2. Severe – Circular Lesion or area of lesions \geq 5cm diameter Or lesion extends into deeper layers of skin Or the lesions cover a large percentage (>25%) of the skin 	
Body regions: If >25% 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)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deep tissue injury may also need to be recorded under 'Pigs needing further care' – Do not include vulva or shoulder lesions (typically shoulder lesions are round rather than scrape marks) 	
Record if too dirty to assess.	

Tail lesions	Individual measure
Observation: Look at the animal from behind. Investigate carefully if the tail is swollen or shorter than normal and for scabs and lesions.	
Scoring:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None – The tail is unmarked or has circular lesions <0.5cm diameter or linear lesions <1cm in length 1. Mild – The tail has a circular lesion \geq0.5cm diameter or a 1cm linear scratch (including small scratches and scrapes, swelling, fresh blood or scabs visible on any part of the tail); 2. Severe – The tail is more severely bitten – at least a proportion of the tail missing, tail swollen or held oddly, scab covering whole tip. 	
Record if too dirty to assess	

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

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

Skin conditions	Individual measure
<p>Observation: 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>Scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None – No evidence of skin inflammation or discoloration 1. Mild – More than zero but less than 10% of the skin is inflamed, discoloured or spotted 2. Severe – More than 10% of the skin has an abnormal colour or texture 	
<p>Record if too dirty to assess.</p>	

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

Finishing Pigs WOA Score Sheet

New unit (no certificate in last 12 months) Membership transfer (in past 12 months)

Reg no.		Total no. pigs on farm		Unit type (circle all that apply)	Breeding	Rearing	Finishing
Assessor		Total no. finishing pigs on farm			Batch		Continuous
Date					Sexed		Unsexed

		Batch units		Continuous units	Batch start date	
		Current batch	Average last 2 batches	Last 12 months	Start age (wks)	
Mortality	% deaths (not actively euthanased)	<input type="radio"/> No pig deaths in current batch			Start weight (kg)	
	% euthanased	<input type="radio"/> No pigs euthanased in current batch			End weight (kg)	
	Predominant mortality cause (if applicable)				<input type="radio"/> Pigs treated (as a batch) in past 7 days <input type="radio"/> Pigs mixed (incl. drawn) in past 7 days	

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

Pen measures	pen 1	pen 2	pen 3	pen 4	pen 5	Total
Total no. of pigs in pen						TOTAL no. pigs in pens 1-5
No. pigs assessed in pen						No. pigs assessed pens 1-5

Pen enrichment:						
Substrate						Average no. objects pens 1-5
Object(s)						
No. of objects						
Object suspended (s) / floor (f)						

Enrichment use:						
No. pigs using enrichment						Total
No. pigs manipulating other						No. pigs manipulating other

Tail docking						Tail docking - select one:
						<input type="radio"/> All undocked <input type="radio"/> Mixed (short docked / long docked) <input type="radio"/> Docked (short) <input type="radio"/> Mixed (undocked / docked) <input type="radio"/> Docked (long)

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

No. lame pigs						Total no. lame pigs
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No. pigs needing further care (excl. hospital pen)						Total
Reasons for further care						No. pigs needing further care

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

Individual measures		pen 1	pen 2	pen 3	pen 4	pen 5
Body marks	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Predominant body region (if any)						
Manure on body	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Leg swellings	0					
	1					
	2					
Tail lesions	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					
Skin conditions	0					
	1					
	2					
	d					

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

	Total
Manure on body score 0	
Manure on body score 1	
Manure on body score 2	
Too dirty to assess	
Leg swellings score 0	
Leg swellings score 1	
Leg swellings score 2	
No tail lesions	
Mild tail lesions	
Severe tail lesions	
Too dirty to assess	
Skin conditions score 0	
Skin conditions score 1	
Skin conditions score 2	
Too dirty to assess	

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?	

General comments	
 Any responsive action to be taken	
<i>Any health/welfare issue identified as an area of concern by the Welfare Outcome Assessment (Standard WA 1.1) must be included within the VHWP (see Standard H 1.1).</i>	

Further advice and support: Your RSPCA Assured assessor can provide help and advice. The RSPCA can provide additional advice and support if you wish to discuss any aspect of your welfare outcome assessment.

Tick if producer would like to be contacted to discuss welfare outcome results:

Producer's preferred contact details:

In accordance with the RSPCA Welfare Standards for Pigs (see standard WA 1.2) this form must be kept (a) on the farm where this assessment was carried out (b) for a minimum of five years. Please keep this form with your records, it will be required at future RSPCA Assured assessments and RSPCA monitoring visits.

Carried out and signed by: Title & affiliation: version January 2020

Pigs: Dry sows Assessment Protocol

Guidance on sampling

- Randomly select 5 pens of dry sows.
- If possible avoid choosing pens in which pigs have been newly mixed (within 1 week) or treated (as a group); do not assess hospital pens.

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

Tail docking	Pen measure
Observation: Look at the animals from the side or behind.	
Record:	
All Undocked – None of the tail is docked	
Docked (long) – less than 50% of the tail is docked	
Docked (short) – more than 50% of the tail is docked	
Note if there are mixed tail lengths within the pen, i.e. (long docked / short docked and docked / undocked)	

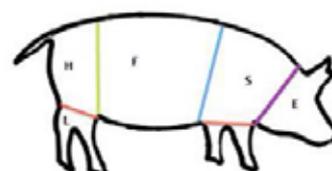
Ear/Flank biting	Pen measure
Observation: Assess all animals in pen	
Record:	
If ear biting (EB) lesions are present, and	
If flank biting (FB) lesions are present	
Typical fight or clambering/mounting lesions show parallel lines, while lesions from flank biting are generally round	

Nose ringing	Pen measure
Observation: Observe and record if the animals are nose ringed or not	

Pigs needing further care	Herd measure
Observation: 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.	
Record:	
Number of pigs seen that would benefit from further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Further interventions include further treatment, hospitalisation or culling. – 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. – This assesses legislative compliance that ‘where necessary, any sick or injured pigs shall be temporarily isolated in suitable accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding’ – The nature of the condition and the pen environment will affect this measure. – Do not include sick or injured pigs already receiving suitable care. – When identifying pigs requiring further care, please record reasons. 	

Hospital Pens	Pen measure
Observation: Look at all sows in the hospital pens	
Record:	
Record the number of sows in the hospital pens according to reason for hospitalisation	
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
<p>Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.</p>	
<p>Scoring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None / Minimal – No lesions or less than mild lesions as described below 1. Mild – 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. 2. Severe – Circular Lesion or area of lesions \geq 5cm diameter Or lesion extends into deeper layers of skin Or the lesions cover a large percentage ($>25\%$) of the skin 	
<p>Body regions: If $>25\%$ 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"> – Deep tissue injury may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’ – Do not include vulva or shoulder lesions (typically shoulder lesions are round rather than scrape marks) 	
<p>Record if too dirty to assess..</p>	



Shoulder lesions	Individual measure
<p>Observation: 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>Scoring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None – No skin damage on the shoulder 1. Mild – Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder 2. Severe – Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder $>5 \times 5$cm Or deep tissue injury – these may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’ 	
<p>Record if too dirty to assess.</p>	

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

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

Leg swellings	Individual measure
<p>Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess the front and hind limbs, on one side only, for leg swellings</p> <p>Scoring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None – No evidence of swelling 1. Small – Swelling present up to 5cm in diameter (walnut-sized) 2. Large – Swelling present larger than 5cm diameter (walnut-sized) or any swelling that is eroded 	
Skin conditions	Individual measure
<p>Observation: 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>Scoring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. None – No evidence of skin inflammation or discoloration 1. Mild – More than zero but less than 10% of the skin is inflamed, discoloured or spotted 2. Severe – More than 10% of the skin has an abnormal colour or texture <p>Record if too dirty to assess.</p>	
Lameness	Individual measure
<p>Observation: 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>Record: Number of lame pigs</p> <p>When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes, and/or – 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 – Severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’ – Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait. 	
Body condition	Individual measure
<p>Observation: Visually assess from the side and behind. Manual assessment can help distinguish borderline scores.</p> <p>Scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thin – Score 1 or 2: Ribs, backbone, ‘H’ bones and ‘pin’ bones obvious (or easily detected with pressure) • Moderate – Score 3: Ribs, backbone, ‘H’ bones and ‘pin’ bones barely visible (or barely felt with firm pressure) • Fat – 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. 	
Mortality	Records
<p>Record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage mortality on farm in the last 12 months. - Percentage unplanned culls in the last 12 months. <p>Record the predominant cause of mortality.</p>	

Dry Sows WOA Score Sheet

- New unit (no certificate in last 12 months) Membership transfer (in past 12 months)
 Pigs treated (as a batch) in past 7 days Pigs mixed (incl. drawn) in past 7 days

Reg no.	
Assessor	
Date	
Total no. pigs on farm	
Total no. dry sows on farm	

Mortality in last 12 months	% deaths (not actively euthanased)	<input type="radio"/> No pig deaths
	% euthanased	<input type="radio"/> No pigs euthanased
	Predominant mortality cause: (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 measures	pen 1	pen 2	pen 3	pen 4	pen 5	Total
Total number of pigs in pen						TOTAL no. pigs in pens 1-5
No. pigs assessed in pen						No. pigs assessed pens 1-5

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

Average no. objects pens 1-5	
------------------------------	--

Enrichment use:					
No. pigs using enrichment					
No. pigs manipulating other					
No. pigs stone chewing					

Total	
No. pigs using enrichment	
No. pigs manipulating other	
No. pigs stone chewing	

Tail docking					
--------------	--	--	--	--	--

Tail docking - select one:	
<input type="radio"/> All undocked	<input type="radio"/> Mixed (short-docked / long docked)
<input type="radio"/> Docked (short)	<input type="radio"/> Mixed (undocked / docked)
<input type="radio"/> Docked (long)	

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

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

No. pigs needing further care (excl. hospital pen)	
Reasons for further care	

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		pen 1	pen 2	pen 3	pen 4	pen 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
Shoulder lesions	0						No shoulder lesions
	1						Mild shoulder lesions
	2						Severe shoulder lesions
	d						Too dirty to assess
Vulva lesions	0						No vulva lesions
	1						Mild vulva lesions
	2						Severe vulva 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 swellings score 0
	1						Leg swellings score 1
	2						Leg swellings score 2
Skin conditions	0						Skin conditions score 0
	1						Skin conditions score 1
	2						Skin conditions score 2
	d						Too dirty to assess
Lameness	Y						Number of lame pigs
	N						Thin
Body condition	T						Moderate
	M						Fat
	F						

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 month?	

General comments	
 Any responsive action to be taken <i>Any health/welfare issue identified as an area of concern by the Welfare Outcome Assessment (Standard WA 1.1) must be included within the WfWP (see Standard H 1.1).</i>	

Further advice and support Your RSPCA Assured assessor can provide help and advice. The RSPCA can provide additional advice and support if you wish to discuss any aspect of your welfare outcome assessment.

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Carried out and signed by:

Title & affiliation:

version January 2020

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