

Consultation Draft

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs

Contents

Preface	4
Introduction	9
Definitions	11
Section 1 - Recommendations applying to all pigs	12
Stockmanship and staffing	12
Health and welfare plan	12
Disease control and biosecurity	13
Contingency planning for emergencies	15
Inspection	16
Handling	17
Tethering	18
Loading and unloading on-farm	19
Marking	20
Monitoring animal health and welfare	21
Animal-based measures	21
Fighting and aggressive behaviours	22
Body Condition Scoring	22
Lameness and limb lesions	24
Managing sick and injured animals	24
On-farm killing	25
Responsible Medicines usage and Record Keeping	26
Accommodation	27
General	28
Floors	29
Ventilation and Temperature	30
Lighting and Noise Levels	31
Automated and Mechanical Equipment	32
Feed, Water and Other Substances	33
Management	36
General	36
Natural Service, Artificial Insemination, Vasectomy and Electro-ejaculation	36
Mutilations	38
Tail docking	38
Identifying, managing and preventing tail biting incidents	39
Enrichment material	41
Teeth Clipping/Grinding	47
Castration	48
Section 2 – Additional Specific Recommendations	49
Farrowing sows and piglets	49
Weaners and rearing pigs	51
Dry sows and gilts	53
Boars	54
Pigs kept in outdoor husbandry systems	55
General	55

Accommodation	55
Feed and water	56
Fences	56
Farrowing sows and piglets	56
Nose ringing.....	57
Annex	58
Legislation.....	58

Preface

This preface is not part of the Code; instead, it explains the Code's role and the broad considerations on which it is based.

This Code applies to England only. It replaces the Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs, issued in 2003.

The legal text in boxes throughout this document is not part of this Code but highlights relevant legislation. The text in these boxes is the law as it stands on the date that this Code is published (please see the final page for the date of publication).

Owners/keepers should be aware that any of the legal requirements quoted here could change. Owners/keepers should check that these are an accurate statement of the law as it currently stands. See the Annex for a list of other relevant legislation.

This Code is made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Act makes owners and keepers responsible for ensuring that the welfare needs of their animals are met, have a suitable environment, are fed an appropriate diet and are protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states:

14 (1) The appropriate national authority may issue, and may from time to time revise, codes of practice for the purpose of providing practical guidance in respect of any provision made by or under this Act.

(2) The authority responsible for issuing a code of practice under subsection (1) shall publish the code, and any revision of it, in such manner as it considers appropriate.

(3) A person's failure to comply with a provision of a code of practice issued under this section shall not of itself render him liable to proceedings of any kind.

(4) In any proceedings against a person for an offence under this Act or an offence under regulations under section 12 or 13—

(a) failure to comply with a relevant provision of a code of practice issued under this section may be relied upon as tending to establish liability, and

(b) compliance with a relevant provision of such a code of practice may be relied upon as tending to negative liability.

The principle legislation referred to in this Code are the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007, which implement Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, and Council Directive 2008/120/EC which lays down minimum rules for the protection of pigs (codified version). There

may be other legislation and requirements (for example organic standards and legislation for farmed wild boar) that are not outlined in this Code but that owners/keepers must be familiar with and be in compliance. See the Annex.

Section 3 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states:

- (1) In this Act, references to a person responsible for an animal are to a person responsible for an animal whether on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (2) In this Act, references to being responsible for an animal include being in charge of it.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, a person who owns an animal shall always be regarded as being a person who is responsible for it.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, a person shall be treated as responsible for any animal for which a person under the age of 16 years of whom he has actual care and control is responsible.

Regulation 6 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

6 (1) A person responsible for a farmed animal—

- (a) must not attend to the animal unless he is acquainted with any relevant code of practice and has access to the code while attending to the animal; and
- (b) must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person employed or engaged by him does not attend to the animal unless that other person—
 - (i) is acquainted with any relevant code of practice;
 - (ii) has access to the code while attending to the animal; and
 - (iii) has received instruction and guidance on the code.

(2) In this section, a “relevant code of practice” means a code of practice issued under section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 or a statutory welfare code issued under section 3 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968(1) relating to the particular species of farmed animal to which a person is attending.

This Code is intended to help all those who care for pigs to practise good standards of stockmanship to safeguard pigs’ welfare. Without good stockmanship, animal welfare can never be adequately protected. Adherence to these recommendations will help keepers to maintain the standards required to comply with legislation.

Those who have care for pigs should demonstrate:

- Caring and responsible planning and management;
- Skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockmanship;

- Appropriate environmental design;
- Considerate loading and unloading; and
- Humane slaughter.

The welfare of pigs is considered within a framework that was developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) and known as the 'Five Freedoms'. These form the guiding principles for the assessment of welfare within any system, together with the actions necessary to safeguard welfare within the constraints of an efficient livestock industry. The Five Freedoms should be considered in conjunction with FAWC's three essentials of stockmanship.

The Five Freedoms are:

1. **FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST**
by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;
2. **FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT**
by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
3. **FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE**
by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;
4. **FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**
by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind;
5. **FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS**
by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

The Three Essentials of Stockmanship are:

1. **KNOWLEDGE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**
Sound knowledge of the biology and husbandry of farm animals, including how their needs may be best provided for in all circumstances.
2. **SKILLS IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**
Demonstrable skills in observation, handling, care and treatment of animals, and problem detection and resolution.
3. **PERSONAL QUALITIES**
Affinity and empathy with animals, dedication and patience.

During on-farm welfare inspections carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA, an executive agency of Defra and exercising Secretary of State functions) and Local Authorities, inspectors will assess compliance against legislation and this Code. Not complying with the welfare-related legislation outlined in the boxes throughout this Code, is an offence. In cases that go to court for prosecution, whether someone has met the requirements of this Code, or not, can be used to help establish a person's liability.

Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states:

4 (1) A person commits an offence if—

- (a) an act of his, or a failure of his to act, causes an animal to suffer,
- (b) he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act, or failure to act, would have that effect or be likely to do so,
- (c) the animal is a protected animal, and
- (d) the suffering is unnecessary.

(2) A person commits an offence if—

- (a) he is responsible for an animal,
- (b) an act, or failure to act, of another person causes the animal to suffer,
- (c) he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening, and
- (d) the suffering is unnecessary.

(3) The considerations to which it is relevant to have regard when determining for the purposes of this section whether suffering is unnecessary include—

- (a) whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced;
- (b) whether the conduct which caused the suffering was in compliance with any relevant enactment or any relevant provisions of a licence or code of practice issued under an enactment;
- (c) whether the conduct which caused the suffering was for a legitimate purpose, such as—
 - (i) the purpose of benefiting the animal, or
 - (ii) the purpose of protecting a person, property or another animal;
- (d) whether the suffering was proportionate to the purpose of the conduct concerned;
- (e) whether the conduct concerned was in all the circumstances that of a reasonably competent and humane person.

(4) Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states:

9 (1) A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, an animal's needs shall be taken to include –

- (a) its need for a suitable environment,
- (b) its need for a suitable diet,
- (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
- (e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

We have included suggested sources of additional information at the end of this Code, this includes a section on the relevant law applying to “pet” pigs kept in a domesticated environment. These ‘Sources of further information’ are relevant to the welfare of pigs but are for information only and should not be considered to be part of this Code of Practice.

This Code has been issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (following no objections by either House after being laid in draft in both Houses of Parliament).

THIS WELFARE CODE CAME INTO FORCE ON [DATE]

Introduction

1. This Code (which applies in England only) covers all pigs for breeding and fattening, including piglets, “wild” type or Eurasian boar kept in a confined farm (or exhibition / farm park) environment, breeders of “pet” pigs, single or multiple pigs kept on a smallholding, as well as commercial pig producers. These recommendations will help owners/keepers of pigs comply with animal welfare rules, but are not meant to replace expert advice such as from a veterinary surgeon or expert technical advisor.
2. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations applies to all those who keep pigs for breeding or fattening. This legislation lays down conditions under which all farmed animals, including pigs, must be kept (Schedule 1) and contains additional conditions that apply to the keeping of pigs (Schedule 8). The specific legal requirements are contained in boxes throughout the Code. The Council of Europe has recommendations concerning pigs and, where not already covered in legislation, they are reflected in this Code.
3. There are also licensing requirements for Old World Pigs (family suidae) such as wild boars and wart hog under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. (See the Annex). There may be additional legal (for example, welfare at slaughter, welfare at transport, or identification) or other voluntary standards that may impact on pig welfare. Any voluntary requirements which appear to conflict with animal welfare and health, should be discussed with the appropriate standard setting body. Expert advice, such as from a veterinary surgeon or expert technical advisor, should also be sought.
4. Pigs are intelligent, inquisitive, social animals and adapt well to different environments, but careful supervision is still important when changes are introduced at different stages of rearing. Pigs can be kept in a range of rearing environments, from those reared wholly outdoors to those reared in indoor units, although certain breeds are better suited to outdoor living than others. Meeting the pigs’ welfare needs in these different environments presents different challenges for owners/keepers.
5. The human-animal relationship is an important part of the pigs’ life experience and exposure to positive handling and human-pig interactions from an early age should result in less fearful and easier handling when pigs are older. If pigs have received appropriate and positive human handling from an early age they should react inquisitively towards humans, including those they are not familiar with. However, they should not be used for public spectacles or demonstrations if such use is likely to be detrimental to their welfare, including their health. In addition to movement licences, there are also licensing requirements associated with exhibiting animals to the public for educational or entertainment purposes.
6. The husbandry system that is used and the number of pigs kept at any one time, should depend on:
 - the breed;
 - the suitability of the farm environment;

- how many animals the farm can accommodate at one time;
- the competence of the stock-keeper; and
- how long the stock-keepers have to carry out their duties.

7. No changes should be made to husbandry, equipment or production until the possible effects on animal welfare have been considered. The implications for animal welfare should be considered before installing more complex or elaborate equipment than has previously been used. Systems involving a high degree of control over the environment should only be installed where conscientious staff skilled in both animal husbandry and the use of the equipment will always be available.

8. The relevant animal welfare legislation applies to owners as well as to anyone looking after pigs on their behalf, whether on the farm, during loading and unloading and at the point of slaughter. This includes anyone given temporary responsibility for pig care, including a veterinary surgeon. A written contract for both permanent staff and third parties contracted to carry out specific roles, such as on-farm killing, can be useful in making sure that everyone involved is clear about his or her animal welfare responsibilities. However, the obligations imposed by law will still apply, whether or not a contract exists. Certain aspects of livestock husbandry can present hazards to the health and safety of the stock-keeper. Advice on such matters is available from the local Agricultural Safety Inspector of the Health and Safety Executive.

Definitions

9. For the purposes of this Code definitions of terms used in this Code are summarised below. Some of these (marked with an asterisk) are taken directly from the relevant legislation, whilst others are included to provide an explanation for the purposes of the Code.

‘pig’ (*) means an animal of the porcine species of any age, kept for breeding or fattening;

‘boar’ (*) means a male pig after puberty, intended for breeding;

‘gilt’ (*) means a female pig after puberty and before farrowing;

‘sow’ (*) means a female pig after the first farrowing;

‘farrowing sow’ (*) means a female pig between the perinatal period and the weaning of the piglets;

‘dry pregnant sow’ (*) means a sow between weaning her piglets and the perinatal period;

‘piglet’ (*) means a pig from birth to weaning;

‘weaner’ (*) means a pig from weaning to the age of 10 weeks;

‘rearing pig’ (*) means a pig from 10 weeks to slaughter or service;

‘Old-world pig’ (*) means species in the family Suidae (except the domestic pig *Sus Scrofa*) which include the wild boar and the wart hog.

‘owner’ or ‘keeper’ (*) is defined “any natural or legal person or persons responsible for or in charge of animals whether on a permanent or temporary basis.”

‘mutilation’ is a procedure which involves interference with the sensitive tissues or bone structure of an animal, otherwise than for the purpose of its medical treatment;

Section 1 - Recommendations applying to all pigs

Stockmanship and staffing

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

1. Animals must be cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.

10. Stockmanship is one of the most important influences on the welfare of pigs. A good keeper will have a compassionate and humane attitude, will be able to anticipate and avoid many potential welfare problems and have the ability to identify those that do occur and respond to them promptly. Those responsible for managing a farm unit should make sure that the pigs are cared for by well-motivated and competent staff. Before any unit is set up or expanded, it is important to be certain that the level of stockmanship will be sufficiently high to safeguard the welfare of each individual pig.

11. All staff and owners/keepers (where no staff are employed), including those contracted to carry out specific management tasks, need to be aware of the welfare needs of pigs. They must be trained and competent in any specific tasks they will be required to undertake and be competent in the use of any equipment.

12. Staff and owners/keepers (where no staff are employed) need specific knowledge and skills. In a farm situation, this should be developed on the unit by working with a skilled stock-keeper who is experienced in the relevant system. Whilst under the supervision of others and before being given sole responsibility for animals, staff should have demonstrated competence and understanding, including on-farm practical ability, to ensure that they are capable of safeguarding the animals under all foreseeable conditions.

13. Wherever possible, staff and owners/keepers (where no staff are employed) should attend relevant courses run by a suitable training organisation. Ideally, the training should lead to formal accredited recognition of competence.

Health and welfare plan

14. It is recommended that the owner/keeper should draw up a written pig health and welfare plan with a veterinary surgeon and, where necessary, other technical advisors. Keepers should review and update the health and welfare plan regularly. This plan should set out health and husbandry activities that cover the cycle of production and include plans to prevent, treat or limit existing disease problems. It should also include strategies such as recording and evaluating on-farm and slaughterhouse findings to prevent, treat or limit health and welfare problems on the unit. The plan should include enough records for owners/keepers to assess the basic output of the herd and monitor the welfare of the pigs, including animal-based measures. See paragraphs 50 to 52.

15. Pig producers may also receive regular inspections from independent schemes as part of their retailer supply contract as well as inspections from Government regulators. Any health and welfare plan should be updated through the year to reflect information on findings from such inspections, from slaughterhouse reports and from trusted advice sources. Social media discussion forums can be a useful source of sharing information, but may not be monitored by the hosts and advice given on such sites should always be verified with a veterinary surgeon or technical expert.

Disease control and biosecurity

16. Owners/keepers must by law be registered with APHA, regardless of whether this is for a single pig or several in a herd. In the event of a disease outbreak, knowing the precise location of all livestock is essential for effective measures to control and eradicate highly contagious disease. Owners/keepers place both their own and other livestock in the area at risk if they do not register the holding or report notifiable diseases. See the Annex.

17. Incoming stock presents the greatest risk to the health of the herd as regards infectious disease. There are additional laws relating to pig identification, pre-movement notifications and controls on movements. See the Annex. It is not possible to prevent all airborne infections from entering a unit, but when planning new units these should be sited as far as is practicable from other livestock units, as this will reduce the risk of spread of airborne infectious diseases.

18. There is a legal duty to immediately report suspicions that any animal is suffering from a notifiable or reportable disease. APHA must be notified and failure to do so is an offence under the Animal Health Act 1981. See the Annex. All keepers/owners of pigs, including any staff employed, should be familiar with the signs and symptoms associated with notifiable diseases which affect pigs.

19. The term “biosecurity” means a set of management actions and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of disease to, from and within the pig herd.

20. Good biosecurity measures should result in:

- a) farm units/premises being more secure from the introduction of infectious diseases;
- b) the spread of any diseases within the unit/premises itself being kept to a minimum; and
- c) a reduced risk of spread of disease from unit to unit or elsewhere.

21. Good biosecurity can be achieved through:

- a) sourcing pigs from limited sources with high health status or at the minimum a known disease status;
- b) appropriate quarantine procedures for new pigs entering the herd – owners/keepers should have isolation facilities to observe/test incoming stock for a suitable period when they arrive, before they join the rest of the herd;
- c) limit external vehicle/ equipment / people movement onto the unit and instigate appropriate cleansing and disinfection procedures where this occurs, including;
 - i. appropriate pig free periods for visitors and a defined visitor protocol; including visitor book;
 - ii. loading facilities and, where possible, feed bins and dead stock collection points should be cited at the unit perimeter;
- d) good management/husbandry procedures on-farm, this includes:
 - i. separating different age pigs on the unit;
 - ii. where possible all in / all out management of pigs – by unit or by accommodation block;
 - iii. disinfections points on entry / exit from each accommodation / rearing section;
 - iv. separating staff responsibilities to specific sections and/or following strict disinfection protocols between age groups;
 - v. designing daily management routines which move from youngest pigs through to the oldest;
- e) good hygiene throughout the unit, this includes:
 - i. defining protocols in the health and welfare plan for staff hygiene cleansing and disinfection procedures (including hand washing / disinfection) when moving between pig accommodation;
 - ii. high levels of hygiene / disinfection procedures during interventions such as at farrowing / piglet treatments;
- f) preventive disease control programmes including vaccination and parasite control programmes, (including worming programmes for on-farm domestic animals that may present a risk to the pigs);
- g) a pest control programme described in the health and welfare plan which limits access of rodents, wild birds / wildlife, feral cats, domestic animals (e.g. dogs and cats) and other risks, to animals and feed stores;
- h) Actions to limit stressful events or conditions to which pigs could be exposed. These include:
 - i. ensuring piglets are not weaned until after 4 weeks of age (special conditions are legally required to wean below this age);

- ii. avoiding painful mutilations such as tail docking and castration and in relation to teeth reduction;
- iii. where possible, keep in same groups from wean to finish, where changes are necessary start with large groups that are then split into smaller groups;
- iv. where possible, separate by sex at weaning if the intention is to finish pigs to a heavier weight when juvenile pigs are likely to start maturing sexually.

Contingency planning for emergencies

22. Any health and welfare plan should include plans to deal with emergencies on the unit/premises, such as fire; flooding; temperature extremes; temporary restriction on movement of pigs from the unit (for example, during suspect or actual notifiable disease outbreaks); disruption of supplies and when automated equipment fails and cannot be immediately rectified. All those responsible for animals should be trained to act and respond in cases of emergency to safeguard, as far as possible, the welfare of the animals.

23. The installation of alarm systems should be considered (for example, for fire or power cuts) that can both be heard on the unit/premises and communicated via mobile telecommunications to duty staff members or any alternative contacts who are off-site or unable to hear the external alarm systems. Arrangements should ensure that alarms can be responded to at any time of day or night.

24. Contingency plans should be included in any health and welfare plan accounting for both endemic disease and potential notifiable disease on the unit and in relation to disease risks identified elsewhere. They should be drawn up for situations where movement of pigs off the premises would not be permitted (e.g. notifiable diseases) and for situations where it may be necessary to compartmentalise access and management procedures for staff to parts of the unit (e.g. endemic disease or food safety incident). Where notifiable disease is confirmed in pigs or other livestock near the unit/premises, restrictions on movements could persist for a considerable length of time.

25. Contingency plans should consider managing any short term restrictions, for example, for up to one to two weeks during a disease / incident investigation on the unit or farm nearby, and the impact of long term restrictions (over a month) linked to more serious incidents. Plans should include sites for suitable temporary accommodation and siting for additional feed and bedding storage or slurry management procedures. Restrictions on one premises could also affect any linked locations. See the Annex.

26. Responsibility for animal welfare remains the owners/keepers responsibility during any enforced restrictions on movement or any other emergency on the unit/premises. Concerns about animal welfare during a period of enforced movement restriction should be discussed with a veterinary surgeon and where appropriate, reported to APHA if animal welfare conditions deteriorate.

Inspection

Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

3. Where animals are kept in a building, adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) must be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

Paragraph 2 of Schedule 8. Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007(as amended) states:

2. All pigs must be inspected by the owner or other person responsible for the pigs at least once a day to check that they are in a state of well-being.

27. The health and welfare of animals depends on them being regularly inspected by the owner/keeper or a member of staff. For all pigs, inspections must be at least once per day. However there may be some occasions where more frequent inspections are necessary, for example, at farrowing and pigs in sick pens.

28. Adequate lighting must be available to enable thorough inspection of the stock. All owners/keepers should be familiar with the normal behaviour of pigs. It is essential that early signs of distress or disease in individual pigs and behavioural problems in pigs in the group (for example, aggression or other injurious behaviours) are recognised. To do this, it is important that owners/keepers have enough time to:

- a) inspect the stock;
- b) check equipment; and
- c) take action to deal with any problem.

29. The owner/keeper should always be looking out for signs of ill health in pigs, which include:

- a) separation from the group;
- b) listlessness;
- c) swollen navel, udder or joints;
- d) rapid or irregular breathing;
- e) persistent coughing or panting;
- f) shivering;
- g) discoloration or blistering of the skin, condition of bristles;
- h) loss of body condition;
- i) sneezing;
- j) lameness (inspection of the feet and legs is particularly important);
- k) lack of co-ordination;
- l) constipation;
- m) diarrhoea;
- n) poor appetite; and
- o) vomiting.

30. Owners/keepers should be able to anticipate problems or recognise them in their earliest stages and, in many cases, should be able to identify the cause and put matters right immediately. Recording incidents suggesting a health or welfare concern, in addition to minimum legal records requirements on mortality and medicines, may help in this.

31. If the cause is not obvious, or if the immediate action taken is not effective, a veterinary surgeon's advice must be sought immediately. Failure to do so may cause unnecessary suffering in the individual and/or in other pigs subsequently affected by lack of prompt action in the early stages.

Handling

32. All owners/keepers must have access to easy to use and efficient handling systems. This is to allow pigs to be routinely moved, managed and treated and ensures that they are quietly and gently handled. Pigs should be moved at their own pace. They move most freely in small groups where they can have visual and/or body contact with one another. Sharp corners should be avoided. Once one pig starts moving the others should follow. They will move more quickly if kept calm and quiet without any visual or audible distractions, as any excitement will make it more difficult to move the group.

33. Accommodation and walkway designs should therefore support this natural flow of pig movement. Any new building designs should consider pigs' needs during handling and movement. Owners/keepers must ensure that all floors and walkways are well maintained and provide a non-slip and non-abrasive grip surface to avoid damage to feet and legs. The floor should not slope too steeply, as this can increase the risk of slipping and injury. See paragraphs 40 to 42 and 86 to 89.

34. When designing a system to help with pig flow the following should be considered:

- a) consistent width passageways – allowing two pigs to move side by side is ideal which should also be sufficient space to turn them if they end up facing the wrong way;
- b) long channels with few turns – allowing pigs to see each other and follow one another quietly and calmly;
- c) consistent colour / consistency of walls and floors – ideally at a height that prevents pigs from seeing beyond the passageway they are following; and
- d) even lighting along the route.

35. The following can upset pig movement and should be avoided where possible:

- a) flapping objects;
- b) shiny objects;
- c) varied light and shade patterns including dappled shadowing;
- d) sudden noise;
- e) sudden movements by stock person;
- f) narrowing passageways; and

- g) constant turns that reduce ability of pigs to see and touch one another as they move.

36. Pigs have a very wide angle of vision and are easily frightened by novel objects, sudden movements, variations in lighting or sudden noise. Pigs should be encouraged gently, especially around corners. Excessive force must not be used, nor is it acceptable to strike or kick pigs. Avoid putting any pressure on the body of the pig, particularly the face, snout and belly. Pig boards should be used only for encouraging pigs in the right direction, for blocking visible exits / gaps along the route and must not have a sharp or pointed end.

Paragraph 30 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

30. An electrical current must not be applied to an animal for the purpose of immobilisation.

37. Electro-immobilisation, the use of electricity to paralyse an animal to stop it from moving during a procedure, is not legally permitted, other than for the purposes of electro ejaculation under veterinary supervision. Electro-ejaculation, sometimes used in artificial insemination centres, must not be carried out routinely and sedation with pain relief is, while not legally required, recommended for the procedure.

38. Appropriate design of the accommodation and passageways and the skill of the owner/keeper or staff means that electric goads should not be necessary and should not be routinely used. There is a risk that an individual pig may be prevented from moving away from the electric shock if it is blocked by other pigs. There are additional legal requirements at loading / unloading. See paragraphs 40 to 42.

Tethering

Paragraphs 3, 4 and paragraph 5(2)(a) and (e) of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

3. No person responsible for a pig may tether it or cause it to be tethered, except while it is undergoing any examination, test, treatment or operation carried out for any veterinary purpose.

4.—(1) Where tethers are used in accordance with paragraph 3, they must not cause injury to the pigs and must be inspected regularly and adjusted as necessary to ensure a comfortable fit.

(2) Each tether must be of sufficient length to allow the pigs to move as stipulated in paragraph 5(2)(a) and (e) and the design must be such as to avoid, as far as possible, any risk of strangulation, pain or injury.

5.(2) The accommodation used for pigs must be constructed in such a way as to allow each pig to—

(a) stand up, lie down and rest without difficulty;

(e) have enough space to allow all the animals to lie down at the same time

39. Any pigs taken off the registered premises for the purpose of exercise must be correctly identified and have an approved walking licence from APHA for this purpose.

Loading and unloading on-farm

40. There are detailed rules relating to the transport and movement of pigs to and from the farm which are covered by different pieces of legislation and which owners/keepers should be familiar with. See the Annex. They cover the following:

- a. fitness of the pigs for the intended journey;
- b. loading and unloading facilities on the farm;
- c. electronic notification of movements ahead of the journey;
- d. requirement for approval of the vehicle used for long journeys;
- e. requirements for driver training and transporter authorisation;
- f. requirement for journey logs for long journeys to another country; and
- g. transport documentation needed for all journeys.

41. There are additional requirements associated with moving pigs to slaughter; a food chain information form must be completed, including details on the health of the pigs and meeting medicine withdrawal periods for any treated pigs.

42. Where the transport is being carried out by a third party, the transporter will have responsibility for ensuring they meet all the legal transport requirements for the vehicle, the driver and the type of journey appropriate for the age and type of pigs being transported. The responsibility for providing appropriate loading and unloading facilities, ensuring pigs are correctly identified and are fit for the intended journey lies with the owner/keeper. The owner/keeper of the pigs during transportation will always have responsibility for the pigs and so it is important that trusted and reliable transporters are used. In instances where the owner/keeper is using their own transport, then all the legislation covering the welfare of animals during transport also needs to be met.

Council regulation (EC) No 1/2005, ANNEX I TECHNICAL RULES, CHAPTER III TRANSPORT PRACTICES states:

Facilities and procedures

1.3. Facilities for loading and unloading, including the flooring, shall be designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to:

- (a) prevent injury and suffering and minimise excitement and distress during animal movements as well as to ensure the safety of the animals. In particular, surfaces shall not be slippery and lateral protections shall be provided so as to prevent animals from escaping;
- (b) be cleaned and disinfected.

1.4(a) Ramps shall not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees, that is 36,4 % to the horizontal for pigs, calves and horses and an angle of 26 degrees 34 minutes, that is 50 % to the horizontal for sheep and cattle other than calves. Where the slope is

steeper than 10 degrees, that is 17,6 % to the horizontal, ramps shall be fitted with a system, such as provided by foot battens, which ensure that the animals climb or go down without risks or difficulties;

(b) lifting platforms and upper floors shall have safety barriers so as to prevent animals falling or escaping during loading and unloading operations.

1.5. Goods which are being transported in the same means of transport as animals shall be positioned so that they do not cause injury, suffering or distress to the animals.

1.6. Appropriate lighting shall be provided during loading and unloading.

Handling

1.8. It shall be prohibited to:

- (a) strike or kick the animals;
- (b) apply pressure to any particularly sensitive part of the body in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering;
- (c) suspend the animals themselves by mechanical means;
- (d) lift or drag the animals by head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece, or handle them in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering;
- (e) use prods or other implements with pointed ends;
- (f) knowingly obstruct any animal which is being driven or led through any part where animals are handled.

1.9. The use of instruments which administer electric shocks shall be avoided as far as possible. In any case, these instruments shall only be used for adult bovine animals and adult pigs which refuse to move and only when they have room ahead of them in which to move. The shocks shall last no longer than one second, be adequately spaced and shall only be applied to the muscles of the hindquarters. Shocks shall not be used repeatedly if the animal fails to respond.

1.11. Animals shall not be tied bythe nose rings nor by legs tied together...

When animals need to be tied, the ropes, tethers or other means used shall be

- (a) strong enough not to break during normal transport conditions;
- (b) such as to allow the animals, if necessary, to lie down and to eat and drink;
- (c) designed in such a way as to eliminate any danger of strangulation or injury, and so as to allow animals to be quickly released.

Marking

43. There is a legal requirement to identify pigs when they move with the herd mark of the holding they move from. This must be a permanent mark unless the pig is less than 12 months old and is only moving from one unit/premises to another location in which case the piglets can be identified with a temporary paint mark.

44. Permanent marking of pigs with an ear tag or tattooing should only be carried out by a trained and competent operator, using properly maintained instruments under

hygienic conditions and in compliance with the law. Any form of marking which pierces or cuts the skin is a mutilation which causes pain. The necessity for additional management marking procedures should be carefully considered. Only permitted procedures are allowed. See the Annex.

45. Ear tags used in pigs should meet all the legal requirements they must be: tamper-proof, not re-usable, easy to read, made of metal and/or plastic, heat resistant (for processing at the slaughter house) and must be designed to remain attached to the pig without harming it. Where, for herd management purposes, ear marking is by notching or punching, appropriate equipment should be used.

46. Tattooing can only be carried out either using tattoo forceps on the ear, or by using slap marking equipment (applied by mechanical force or compressed air), with the full herd mark visible to each front shoulder area of the pig only (and not to bony areas, such as the spine or the belly areas). Tattooing of the live pig is only permitted for identification or management purposes and should be restricted to minimum interference with the skin in order to create the animal's identity. A decorative tattoo applied to the skin of a live pig is not a permitted procedure.

47. When ear tagging or applying tattoos with tattoo forceps animals should be properly restrained. Care should be taken to position and insert tags correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions, avoiding main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage.

48. Slap marking is typically carried out immediately prior to transporting the pigs to slaughter but can be done at any age, providing the mark meets the legal requirements as detailed in the paragraphs above.

49. Ensure only non-toxic substances are used when using aerosols or paints for temporary marking and ensure the face and other sensitive areas of the body are avoided.

Monitoring animal health and welfare

Animal-based measures

50. Many recognised "welfare standards" are based on "inputs", such as during daily management duties and husbandry procedures or are resources provided by owners/keepers to the animals such as housing, feed and water. Many of these inputs are defined as minimum standards in law and are covered throughout this Code. However, certain animal-based measures can provide a better understand on how these inputs directly affect individual pigs and the herd as a whole. This in turn should focus owners/keepers, the veterinary surgeon and other expert advisors connected with the farm unit, in addressing the key issues in a particular pig herd.

51. Any animal-based measures which are monitored and recorded need to be practical and easily measurable and indicate the wellbeing of the pigs. Some of the measures are not new and should already be familiar, such as body condition scoring,

lameness and on-farm deaths (mortality). Others, such as cleanliness of pigs and evidence of fighting, may have been seen but not necessarily recorded as an indicator of wellbeing in pigs.

52. Routine animal-based measures to be carried out on the farm unit/premises should be agreed with a veterinary surgeon. There may be additional requirements specified through private schemes and retailer contracts with which a veterinary surgeon / or scheme advisor can provide assistance. All agreed measures should be detailed in the health and welfare plan and owners/keepers and all staff should be clear about their responsibilities in accurate recording, including minimum records required, such as mortalities, at weekends. Additional information from market sales and slaughterhouses may give further information on the health and welfare of the pigs. A number of the more common examples of animal-based measures are included in the following paragraphs.

Fighting and aggressive behaviours

Paragraph 8, Schedule 8 Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

8.—(1) If pigs are kept together, measures must be taken to prevent fighting which goes beyond normal behaviour.

(2) Pigs which show persistent aggression towards others or are victims of such aggression must be separated from the group.

53. Body marks / scratches on different areas of pigs can help indicate different causes of aggressive interaction between pigs. Whilst some wounds may be caused by poor pen or equipment design, most will be caused by aggressive interactions.

54. Aggressive interactions, fear and the wounds associated with fighting result in poor welfare for the pigs affected. Aggression between groups of pigs, including sows and boars, can be precipitated by a number of factors. As soon as new pigs are introduced to a group this will affect the hierarchy and social structure of the group, leading to some fighting to establish a new ranking order. However, prompt action must be taken to separate pigs when severe aggression and wounding occurs.

55. Aggression can also occur over feeder points and drinker points and there should be sufficient of both for the number of pigs in each pen.

56. Energy expended during aggressive activities and the healing from wounds as a result, can lead to a reduction in productivity for all pigs (including the aggressor) and thus poorer feed conversion rates. Therefore, minimizing aggression between pigs should have production benefits, in addition to improving their welfare.

Body Condition Scoring

57. Body condition scoring (BCS) is a key measure of the health and welfare state of a pig. Condition scoring is a simple technique for all pig owners/keepers that allows the body reserves (i.e. fat cover) of individual pigs to be assessed and enables better monitoring and adjustment of feed and management, so that pigs are not too fat or too thin.

58. Condition scoring is essential for gilts and sows to ensure they reach the target body condition score at each stage of their breeding cycle. The lactation period is particularly demanding. It is particularly important that sows farrow with sufficient body condition, without being over fat, to take them through this period, allowing them also sufficient time after weaning to regain condition prior to the next service.

How to condition score pigs

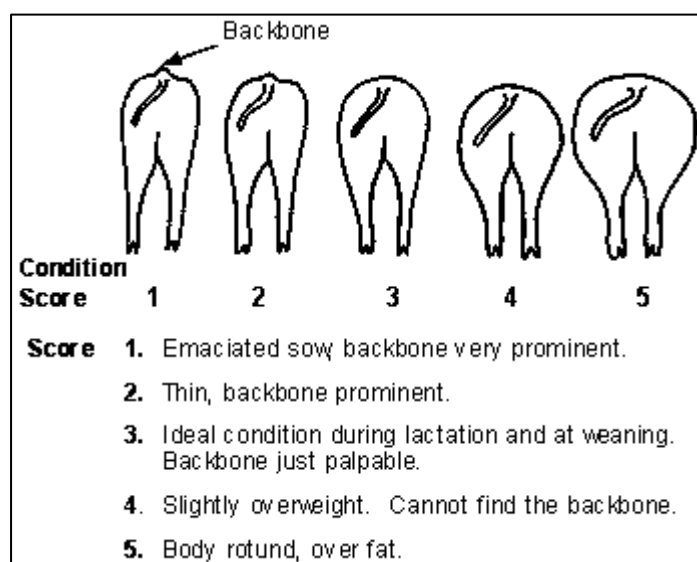
BCS Score 1: The sow is visually thin, with hips and backbone very prominent and no fat cover over hips and backbone

BCS Score 2: The hip bones and backbone are easily felt without any pressure on the palms

BCS Score 3: It takes firm pressure with the palm to feel the hip bones and backbone

BCS Score 4: It is impossible to feel the bones at all even with pressure on the palm of the hands.

BCS Score 5: The vertical processes are only detectable as a line; the ends of the horizontal processes cannot be felt. The loin muscles are full and have a thick covering of fat.



59. Evidence of poor body condition, despite adjusting feeding levels, may suggest other diseases or problems that need further investigation. Whilst poor body condition in young pigs, despite ad libitum feeding, may indicate welfare issues such as bullying at the feeder, wasting in these young growing animals may be more suggestive of infectious disease for which veterinary advice should be sought.

60. There should be agreed clear protocols described in the health and welfare plan for managing wasting pigs in the herd, including humane euthanasia. It is not good practice to move these pigs back into younger groups.

Lameness and limb lesions

61. Lameness and limb injury in any animal is usually a sign that they are in pain. Lameness in pigs is a sign of ill health and discomfort. It clearly affects an animal's welfare, as well as its performance and production. If a significant percentage of pigs in a herd have severe lameness, this is a sign of disease or poor overall welfare standards within the herd. In these circumstances, urgent veterinary advice should be sought.

62. Replacement gilts should be carefully monitored for lameness as the quality and quantity of nutrition at certain stages of growth can significantly affect the incidence of lameness in replacement breeding stock. Specialist nutritionist / veterinary surgeon advice should be sought if this is suspected to be a cause of lameness in pigs.

63. The quality of the flooring and slat / gap width can also affect the incidence of both lameness and limb/ foot injuries in all stages of pigs, including piglets. See paragraphs 86 to 89.

64. If lame pigs do not respond to treatment, veterinary advice should be sought. Lameness can have a number of causes and early and accurate diagnosis of the specific type of lameness affecting the herd will enable rapid and appropriate action to be taken.

65. If a lame animal does not respond to the veterinary surgeon's treatment, it must be culled rather than leave it to suffer. If lame animals cannot be transported without causing them more pain, owners/keepers are required to kill (cull) them on the farm. See paragraphs 70 to 77. Pigs that cannot stand up unaided or cannot bear their weight equally on all four legs when standing or walking should not be transported off the premises.

Managing sick and injured animals

Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

5. Any animals which appear to be ill or injured must be cared for appropriately and without delay; where they do not respond to such care, veterinary advice must be obtained as soon as possible.

6. Where necessary, sick or injured animals must be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.

66. Immediate action must be taken if any pigs are injured or appear ill or distressed. A veterinary surgeon needs to be consulted if there are any doubts about the cause of the ill health or the most effective treatment, including appropriate pain relief. It is important to regularly review an individual pig's response to treatment and if the pig is not improving, a veterinary surgeon's advice must be sought as soon as possible or where appropriate, ensure the pig is humanely euthanised.

67. Any health and welfare plan should specify a procedure for isolating and caring for sick or injured animals. Hospital pens should be available for each category of pig on the unit. These pens should be easily reached and the animals in them must be regularly checked through the day. When moving sick or injured pigs to the hospital pens, owners/keepers must ensure that unnecessary suffering does not occur. Drinking water must be permanently available along with feeding facilities which can easily be accessed by all pigs.

68. Particular care is needed where recumbent animals are isolated to ensure that they can be checked and are seen to be consuming any water and feed provided. They must be well-bedded to reduce the risk of pressure sores.

69. Animals should be temporarily marked on entry to any hospital pen so that any medical treatments can be recorded against the individual animal and the time in the hospital pen can be monitored. It may be beneficial to have protocols for decision-making on culling, particularly for recumbent pigs. If an animal does not respond to treatment and is unfit to transport, it must be humanely killed on-farm. Any animals suffering from painful and incurable conditions must be culled immediately. See 'On-farm killing' below.

On-farm killing

70. For killing animals a Welfare at the Time of Killing (WAToK) licence or Certificate of Competence (CoC) must be held. A WAToK licence is provided per individual person. They will need to be assessed on-farm using the method(s) for which approval is being sought (e.g. penetrative captive bolt). More than one person can be assessed on-farm at the same time, but each will need to complete an individual licence application and assessment on the day. Contact APHA for further information and an application form.

71. Where a third party slaughter person is used to kill animals, they must attend without delay once the decision has been made to cull the animal and must be in possession of an appropriate WAToK licence or CoC for the method of killing and species of animal.

72. The health and welfare plan should detail the routine culling methods to be used on the farm for killing animals and who is competent to do this. Where there are circumstances in which there is no competent person to carry out killing, then there needs to be a contingency procedure written into the health and welfare plan regarding obtaining a licensed slaughter-person to carry out this procedure.

73. In an emergency, owners/keepers must ensure an animal is killed immediately and humanely to prevent its continued suffering. This must be done by someone who is suitably trained and competent both in slaughter methods and use of the equipment. Under these emergency circumstances a slaughter licence or Certificate of Competence (CoC) is not required.

74. An animal must only be transported if it is fit for the intended journey. A sick or injured animal can only be transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. There are strict legal requirements associated with the transport of slightly injured or ill animals where the journey must not cause additional suffering and, if in doubt, seek veterinary advice, including clinical inspection where necessary, before transport. Where the pigs are being transported for slaughter for human consumption additional requirements may need to be met and should be agreed with the Official Veterinarian present at the slaughterhouse on the day of consignment. See the Annex.

75. Animals must be killed using a permitted method according to current legislation. Pigs routinely culled on farm must not be killed with a non-mechanical percussive blow to the head, e.g. using a hand held blunt instrument. Where a pig has to be killed in an emergency, for example, animals that are injured or have a disease associated with severe pain or suffering that cannot be practically alleviated, then any method of killing is allowed as long as the animal is spared any avoidable pain, distress and suffering and is killed as soon as possible. Emergency killing may not be justified in all on-farm killing situations, e.g. culling of runts, animals unlikely to thrive, infertile animals or those unlikely to recover from injury or disease but which are not experiencing severe pain or suffering.

76. After a pig's death or killing, the carcass must be disposed of promptly and without delay by a suitable method. See the Annex. Whilst awaiting disposal the carcass must be stored in a leak –proof container that is inaccessible by dogs, cats and wildlife. The products of farrowing, still born pigs, fetuses and after-birth (placentas), are all animal by-products covered by this law.

77. Where the owner of a pig wishes to slaughter the animal on-farm for their own consumption, the owner needs to be aware that there are restrictions and controls on this process under food safety legislation. Further information is available from the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Responsible Medicines usage and Record Keeping

78. Any pig health and welfare plan, agreed with a veterinary surgeon, should focus on disease prevention through appropriate vaccination, biosecurity and hygiene protocols described in the health and welfare plan. Antimicrobials must not be used routinely but only for treatment purposes as prescribed by a veterinary surgeon when specific disease or infection has been diagnosed. Worming and ectoparasite treatments should be carried out only when necessary and in accordance with veterinary advice. Only authorised veterinary medicinal products must be used for the

animals specified and must be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions and, where additionally instructed, by a veterinary surgeon.

79. In certain instances a veterinary surgeon can prescribe medicines for pigs that are not intended for the specific condition and species for which the product is authorised. This can only be done if there is no alternative authorised medicine available. Products used would need to comply with the law. See the Annex. Further information on the 'cascade' system and prescribing unauthorised medicines are available from Defra's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

80. Full records of all medicines used in line with current medicines legislation for food-producing animals must be kept. Under welfare legislation, these records must be kept for at least three years. Further requirements for medicines records are required under additional legislation for food producing animals. See the Annex.

Paragraph 7 and 8 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

7. A record must be maintained of –

- (a) any medicinal treatment given to animals; and
- (b) the number of mortalities found on each inspection of animals carried out in accordance with any of the following provisions-
 - (iii) in the case of pigs, paragraph 2 of Schedule 8;

8. The record referred to in paragraph 7 must be retained for a period of at least three years from the date on which the medicinal treatment was given, or the date of the inspection, and must be made available to an inspector on request.

81. The medicines records must be available for a government or local authority inspector to review at any time and where these are kept on a computer or on-line, owners/keepers must be able to produce a copy of these records on request for the inspector. See the Annex.

82. In terms of individual animal management and overseeing herd health issues, it may be useful to record reasons for treatment and to keep a record of specific problems such as mastitis, lameness and other disorders. Where ongoing issues have been identified owners/keepers should agree management and treatment protocols with a veterinary surgeon, detailing agreed actions in the health and welfare plan.

Accommodation

Paragraph 5 and 6 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

5. (1) A pig must be free to turn round without difficulty at all times.

(2) The accommodation used for pigs must be constructed in such a way as to allow each pig to –

- (a) stand up, lie down and rest without difficulty;
- (b) have a clean, comfortable and adequately drained place in which it can rest;
- (c) see other pigs, except-
 - (i) where the pig is isolated for veterinary reasons; or
 - (ii) in the week before the expected farrowing time and during farrowing, when sows and gilts may be kept out of sight of other pigs;
- (d) maintain a comfortable temperature; and
- (e) have enough space to allow all the animals to lie down at the same time.

6. (1) The dimension of any stall or pen used for holding individual pigs must be such that the internal area is not less than the square of the length of the pig, and no internal side is less than 75% of the length of the pig, the length of the pig in each case being measured from the tip of its snout to the base of its tail while it is standing with its back straight.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a female pig for the period between seven days before the predicted day of her farrowing and ending when the weaning of her piglets (including any piglets fostered by her) is complete.

General

83. Owners/keepers should seek appropriate welfare advice from a veterinary surgeon or technical advisor when new buildings are to be constructed or existing buildings modified. Suitable sites should be selected, taking into consideration the risk of outside environmental factors such as noise, vibration and atmospheric pollution. New buildings should be compliant with current legislation. For example, designs should enable the provision of sufficient and appropriate nesting material at farrowing and allow for the provision of sufficient and suitable environmental enrichment for all pigs. Some specialised buildings use complex mechanical and electrical equipment which require additional technical and management skills and may require training to ensure that husbandry and welfare requirements are met.

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

11. Materials used for the construction of accommodation, and, in particular for the construction of pens, cages, stalls and equipment with which the animals may come into contact, must not be harmful to them and must be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

12. Accommodation and fittings for securing animals must be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to them.

84. The internal surfaces of housing and pens should be made of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected regularly, that are safe to use for pigs and can be easily replaced when necessary.

85. Where buildings (temporary or permanent) or outdoor pens are constructed over existing hard standing floor bases, (for example, on disused roads, tracks and airfields not originally designed for livestock use), owners/keepers must ensure that the flooring is made suitable for keeping pigs and is not hazardous to pig health and welfare. Where necessary, such flooring may require additional treatments to make it suitable for livestock use. Specialist advice should be sought before use is made of such hard standings.

Floors

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

11. Where pigs are kept in a building, floors must –

- a) be smooth but not slippery;
- b) be designed, constructed and maintained so as not to cause injury or suffering to pigs standing or lying on them;
- c) be suitable for the size and weight of the pigs; and
- d) where no litter is provided, form a rigid, even and stable surface.

12. (1) Where concrete slatted floors are used for pigs kept in groups, the maximum width of the openings must be:

- a) 11 mm for piglets;
- b) 14 mm for weaners;
- c) 18 mm for rearing pigs;
- d) 20 mm for gilts after service and sows.

(2) The minimum slat width must be:

- e) 50 mm for piglets and weaners; and
- f) 80 mm for rearing pigs, gilts after service and sows.

86. Good floor design and adequate maintenance is essential. Poor floor construction, incorrect slat width for the weight or size of pig and surfaces that are worn or damaged, can cause injury to the feet and legs of pigs.

87. There are permitted tolerances specifically for flooring made out of pre-cast concrete. See the following table:

Type	Minimum Beam width (slat)	Maximum Opening width (gap/slot)	Tolerance: Maximum permitted deviation
Piglet	50mm	11mm	No tolerance
Weaner	50mm	14mm	+/- 2mm

Rearer	80mm	18mm	+/- 3mm
Gilt	80mm	20mm	+/- 3mm
Sow	80mm	20mm	+/- 3mm
Boar	80mm	20mm	+/- 3mm

88. Excessive gaps should be avoided as they can trap the feet and may cause physical damage. Damaged floors should be repaired immediately.

Paragraphs 10 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

10. Where bedding is provided, it must be clean, dry and not harmful to the pigs.

89. The lying area should always be kept dry and pen floors, including the dunging area, should be drained effectively. Where bedding is provided, this must be clean, dry and not detrimental to the health of the pigs and should be regularly topped up or changed.

Ventilation and Temperature

Paragraph 13 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

13. Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations must be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals.

Paragraph 16 of Schedule 8 Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

16. Pigs must not be kept in an environment which involves maintaining high temperatures and high humidity (known as the “sweat-box system”).

90. Effective ventilation is essential to the wellbeing of the stock as it provides fresh air, removes noxious gases and aids in controlling temperature. High ammonia levels have negative impacts on pig health and production as well as impacts on human health and safety. Excessive heat loss should be prevented either by the structural insulation of the external walls, roof and the floor in the lying area, or by the provision of adequate bedding. Heat gain to buildings in hot conditions will be minimised by the insulation in the walls and roof.

91. Pigs have a very limited ability to sweat and are acutely susceptible to heat stress. Possible cooling methods, including blowing air over the pigs in a part of the pen, providing water spray/misting systems or simply wetting part of the floor with a hosepipe, can be used to ensure that pigs in buildings do not become overheated in hot weather. There should always be some dry lying area available as a matter of choice, so that the pigs can move away from the cooler conditions. Where necessary, reducing stocking densities during the summer months may need to be considered if temperature is difficult to control in any of the accommodation.

92. Liveweight, group size, floor type, air speed and feed intake markedly affect temperature requirements and these factors should be taken into account when determining the minimum temperature appropriate in each case. Slatted floors and low feed levels generally increase temperature requirements whilst straw bedding, high feed levels and higher body weights decrease requirements. For most circumstances, an appropriate minimum temperature can be found within the range given below:

Category of Pig	Temperature	
	(°C)	(°F)
Sows	15 - 20	59 - 68
Suckling pigs in creeps	25 - 30	77 – 84
Weaned pigs (3 – 4 weeks)	27 - 32	81 – 90
Later weaned pigs (5 weeks +)	22 - 27	71 – 80
Finishing pigs (porkers)	15 - 21	59 – 70
Finishing pigs (baconers)	13 - 18	55 – 64

93. Wide or abrupt fluctuations in temperature in housing systems within any 24-hour period should be avoided. Wide fluctuations in the daily temperature regime can create stress that may trigger outbreaks of injurious behaviours, such as tail biting, or disease such as pneumonia. A higher than normal level of vigilance at these times should be maintained. A change in use of the pen areas by pigs may indicate issues with the temperature or air flow (for example, draughts).

94. When pigs are moved to new accommodation, the possibility of thermal stress occurring as a result of changes in the environment should be reduced. Cold stress could be avoided by ensuring that the pen is dry, by the provision of bedding, such as straw, or by preheating the building. Newly weaned pigs will be particularly susceptible to cold stress.

95. When removing slurry from under slats, special care should be taken to avoid fouling the air with dangerous gases, which can kill both humans and animals. Buildings should either be empty or very well ventilated during this procedure.

Lighting and Noise Levels

Paragraphs 16 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

16. Animals kept in buildings must not be kept without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting.

Paragraphs 7, 17 and 18 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

7. Where pigs are kept in an artificially lit building, lighting with an intensity of at least 40 lux must be provided for a minimum period of 8 hours per day subject to paragraph 16 of Schedule 1.

17. Pigs must not be exposed to constant or sudden noise.

18. Noise levels above 85 dBA must be avoided in that part of any building where pigs are kept.

96. Where pigs are only provided with artificial light a normal 24 hour rhythm must be followed with a minimum of 8 hours darkness. Owners/keepers should routinely check and keep a record of light levels in pens at all stages of rearing, including farrowing accommodation.

97. The siting of machinery such as feed milling units should be appropriate to minimise the noise impact on housed stock. Any bell or buzzer which is likely to occur erratically, for example, a visitor to the unit, should be sufficiently loud to attract human attention, but without causing undue alarm to the pigs.

Automated and Mechanical Equipment

Paragraphs 18 - 21 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

18. All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the animals must be inspected at least once a day to check there is no defect in it.

19. Where defects in automated or mechanical equipment of the type referred to in the paragraph 18 are discovered, these must be rectified immediately, or if this is impossible, appropriate steps must be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the animals pending the rectification of those defects including the use of alternative methods of feeding and watering and methods of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment.

20. Where the health and well-being of the animals is dependent on an artificial ventilation system –

(a) provision must be made for an appropriate back-up system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health and well-being of the animals in the event of failure of the system; and

(b) an alarm system (which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed) must be provided to give warning of any failure of the system.

21. The back-up system referred to in paragraph 20(a) must be thoroughly inspected and the alarm system referred to in paragraph 20(b) tested at least once every seven days in order to check that there is no defect, and, if any defect is found at any time, it must be rectified immediately.

98. All equipment, including feed hoppers, drinkers, ventilation equipment, heating and lighting units, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, should be cleaned and inspected regularly and kept in good working order. All mains electrical equipment should meet relevant standards and be properly earthed, safeguarded from rodents and out of the pigs' reach.

99. Any health and welfare plan should include contingency plans for anticipated risks to key animal welfare needs caused by failure of any automated system. If, for example, water supply relies on a pressurised supply that fails and it is unable to be fixed, there should be a plan in place for providing an alternative water supply to all pigs to meet their daily needs, including over the weekend.

Feed, Water and Other Substances

Paragraph 22 to 27 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

22. Animals must be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health, to satisfy their nutritional needs and to promote a positive state of well-being.

23. Animals must not be provided with food or liquid that contains any substance that may cause them unnecessary suffering or injury and must be provided with food and liquid in a manner that does not cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.

24. All animals must have access to feed at intervals appropriate to their physiological needs (and, in any case, at least once a day), except where a veterinary surgeon acting in the exercise of his profession otherwise directs.

25. All animals must either have access to a suitable water supply and be provided with an adequate supply of fresh drinking water each day, or be able to satisfy their fluid intake needs by other means.

26. Feeding and watering equipment must be designed, constructed, placed and maintained so that contamination of food or water and the harmful effects of competition between animals are minimised.

27.—(1) — No other substance, with the exception of those given for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes or for the purpose of zootechnical treatment, may be administered to animals unless it has been demonstrated by scientific studies of animal welfare or established practice that the effect of that substance is not detrimental to the health or welfare of the animals.

Paragraph 13 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

13. (1) All pigs must be fed at least once a day.

(2) Where pigs are housed in a group and do not have continuous access to feed, or are not fed by an automatic feeding system feeding the animals individually, each pig must have access to the food at the same time as the others in the feeding group.

100. All pigs need a balanced daily diet to maintain full health and vigour, and any changes in diet should be planned and introduced gradually. Pigs must not be fed kitchen waste. See the Annex.

101. When introducing pigs to unaccustomed housing, owners/keepers should make sure that the animals are able to find the feed and water points. When newly weaned piglets are moved to pens where water is provided through nipple drinkers unfamiliar to the piglets, it is good practice to provide alternative water sources for the first few days.

102. Where pigs are fed on a rationed feed level to control intake, owners/keepers should ensure that adequate trough or feeder space is provided to ensure that all pigs can receive their allocation at the same time or that each pig can receive its ration without interference by other pigs. The following guidelines for trough space per pig apply:

WEIGHT OF PIG (KG)	TROUGH SPACE (CMS)
5	10
10	13
15	15
35	20
60	23
90	28
120	30

103. Good hygiene is necessary for storage and feeding systems, as moulds can develop in stale feed which can have a detrimental effect on pigs. Feed bins should be cleaned out regularly.

Paragraph 14 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

14. All pigs over two weeks of age must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water.

104. There are several factors which should be taken into consideration when looking at the provision of water to pigs:

- the total volume available;
- the flow rate (pigs will not spend a long time taking water);
- the method of provision, for example, the type of drinker; and
- its accessibility to all pigs over two weeks of age, including sick and injured pigs in the sick pens.

- e) the requirement for increased water supply during hot weather and for sick pigs e.g. diarrhoea.
- f) its suitability as a safe drinking water source (and appropriate regular testing requirements) if the water is not a mains water supply.
- g) the daily routine of owners/keepers and any staff to check on water supplies to all pigs to comply with legal requirements.

105. The following is a guide to minimum daily water requirements for various weights of pig:

Weight of pig (kg)	Daily requirement (litres)	Minimum flow rate through nipple drinkers (litres/min)
Newly weaned	1.0 – 1.5	0.3
Up to 20 kgs	1.5 – 2.0	0.5 – 1.0
20 kgs – 40 kgs	2.0 – 5.0	1.0 – 1.5
Finishing pigs up to 100 kgs	5.0 – 6.0	1.0 – 1.5
Sows and gilts – pre-service and in-pig	5.0 – 8.0	2.0
Sows and gilts - in lactation	15 – 30	2.0
Boars	5.0 – 8.0	2.0

106. Waste water and excessive or insufficient flow rates can be detrimental, particularly for sows in farrowing accommodation and very young pigs.

107. The height at which water nipples and bowls are placed should be carefully considered. All pigs should be able to access the drinking point so this might require height-adjustable, or several different drinkers at various heights when groups of pigs of a range of weights are housed together or when pigs are housed in a pen for a long period.

108. Where nipple drinkers are used, a drinking point should be available for each ten pigs on rationed feeding. On unrestricted feeding, one nipple drinker should provide adequate supply for 15 pigs given sufficient flow rates. Where trough systems are used, the following guidelines should be applied:

WEIGHT OF PIG (KG)	TROUGH SPACE PER HEAD (CM)
Up to 15	0.8
15 - 35	1.0
>35	1.2

109. Pigs are highly susceptible to dehydration and the condition commonly known as “salt poisoning”. If a wet feeding system is used, pigs must have access to a separate fresh water supply at all times.

110. In an emergency, where access to sufficient water is likely to be limited for 24 hours or more, then an alternative system of manually supplying water must be provided to all pigs over two weeks of age.

111. Feed and water must not be withdrawn from sows which are being dried off.

Management

General

Paragraph 17 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

17. Animals not kept in buildings must, where necessary and possible, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health and must, at all times, have access to a well-drained lying area.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

9. (1) Housing, pens, equipment and utensils used for pigs must be properly cleaned and disinfected as necessary to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease-carrying organisms.

(2) Faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food must be removed as often as necessary to minimise smell and avoid attracting flies or rodents.

112. All areas of the building, accommodation and equipment with which the pigs come into contact, should as a minimum be cleaned and disinfected in between batches of pigs. Where possible, buildings should be filled and emptied on a batch-wise basis to facilitate this and to minimise disease transmission between groups of pigs.

113. All buildings, fields and paddocks should be kept clear of debris, such as wire, plastic and sharp objects that could injure the pigs or rip out their ear tags and damage their ears.

114. Owners/keepers should take all practical measures to remove all pigs from areas that are in imminent danger of flooding.

Natural Service, Artificial Insemination, Vasectomy and Electro-ejaculation

Paragraph 28 and 29 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

28. .—(1) — Natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause, or are likely to cause, suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned, must not be practised.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not preclude the use of natural or artificial breeding procedures that are likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury or that might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury.

29. Animals may only be kept for farming purposes if it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of their genotype or phenotype, that they can be kept without any detrimental effect on their health or welfare.

115. In breeding programmes, at least as much attention needs to be paid to improving health and welfare, as to production criteria. Therefore, the conservation or development of breeds of pigs, which would limit or reduce animal welfare problems, should be encouraged.

116. All boars should have good and safe service conditions. Slatted floors and slippery conditions underfoot are not suitable for mating animals. As part of the health and welfare plan, owners/keepers should discuss with a veterinary surgeon how to avoid injury to boars and sows through excessive mating activity.

Paragraph 5 (1) and 6 (3)(b) of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states that:

5. (1) A pig must be free to turn round without difficulty at all times.

6. (3) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a pig held in a stall or pen—
(b) for the purpose of service, artificial insemination or collection of semen;

provided that the period during which it is so kept is not longer than necessary for that purpose.

117. Sows should be kept in their groups until insemination, at which time they can be moved to an appropriate stall or pen and inseminated. Sows should be allowed time to settle down in the stall or pen, and then exposed to a boar in order to encourage the standing reflex before artificial insemination takes place.

118. Sows should be left undisturbed, to allow uterine contractions after artificial insemination (and natural service), but they should then rejoin their group in order to minimise bullying within the group hierarchy. When double insemination is used, sows may be penned separately after the second insemination, but pens must allow the animal to turn round easily.

119. Semen collection and artificial insemination should only be carried out by a trained, competent and experienced operator. Vasectomy or electro-ejaculation may only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. See the Annex.

Mutilations

Section 5 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states:

- 5 (1) A person commits an offence if—
 (a) he carries out a prohibited procedure on a protected animal;
 (b) he causes such a procedure to be carried out on such an animal.
- (2) A person commits an offence if—
 (a) he is responsible for an animal,
 (b) another person carries out a prohibited procedure on the animal, and
 (c) he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening.
- (3) References in this section to the carrying out of a prohibited procedure on an animal are to the carrying out of a procedure which involves interference with the sensitive tissues or bone structure of the animal, otherwise than for the purpose of its medical treatment.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply in such circumstances as the appropriate national authority may specify by regulations.

120. All mutilations of pigs are banned under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 exempts certain procedures from this ban, provided that they are carried out by a person permitted to carry out the procedure and:

- in accordance with the relevant requirements in the Schedules;
- in such a way as to minimise the pain and suffering it causes to the animal;
- in hygienic conditions; and
- in accordance with good practice.

121. Mutilations can cause pain to pigs and should only be carried out where necessary to avoid a worse welfare outcome. They should only be applied having sought appropriate advice on possible alternative interventions in each case and not as a routine practice. See the Annex.

Tail docking

Paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 of the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 states that:

5. The procedure may only be carried out where measures to improve environmental conditions or management systems have first been taken to prevent tail-biting, but there is still evidence to show that injury to pigs' tails by biting has occurred.

The method used must involve quick and complete severance of the tail.

An anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia must be administered where the animal is aged 7 days or over.

122. Routine tail docking is not permitted. Tail docking should only be used as a last resort, after improvements to the pigs' environment and management have proved ineffectual. Owners/keepers should keep records of the evidence of the measures instigated and their effects on improving the pigs' welfare. Where records are not available and pigs are found to be tail docked, this may be considered in any decisions regarding the legality of the tail docking procedure being carried out by owners/keepers or any staff.

123. In addition to keeping and providing evidence, formal written prior approval from a veterinary surgeon is required before any tail docking is commenced. A letter from a veterinary surgeon should agree that, based on their professional assessment of the expected effectiveness of the measures and management practices undertaken, tail docking is necessary and unavoidable for the particular batch of pigs in question.

124. There should be a regular review of slaughterhouse reports of tail damage and associated post mortem findings such as spinal abscesses. The origins and the causes and control of tail biting will be specific to the individual farm and circumstances of outbreaks.

125. If tail docking has been used on a farm to prevent tail biting for a sustained period of time, this suggests there should be a more regular review of current measures being taken to minimise tail biting in the herd and owners/keepers may need to consider upgrading the system in which the pigs are reared. Any new accommodation and slurry management systems should be designed to ensure that adequate enrichment material can be provided and other trigger factors for tail biting have been addressed, to ensure tail docking is only seen as a last resort measure.

126. Where it is necessary to tail dock, it must be carried out in accordance with the law by a competent, trained operator before the seventh day of life, or by a veterinary surgeon. All equipment used should be cleaned and disinfected between pigs.

Identifying, managing and preventing tail biting incidents

127. The following table shows how to recognise early signs of tail biting in pigs:

Time before the start of tail biting	Individual level (increased risk to become a biter or a victim)	Group level (increased risk for a tail biting outbreak)
Months to weeks		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restlessness, exploration, manipulation• Infrequent feeder visits
A few weeks (2-3)	Decreasing feed intake in the victim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrequent feeder visits• Shortening of feeder bouts

A few days (0-6)	Decreasing feed intake in the victim - The biter shows a special interest in the victim's tail - Increased manipulation of an enrichment device in biters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased activity and restlessness • Tail biting activity • Hanging/clamped tails, tail wagging, hairless tails • Decreased feed intake

128. If a tail biting outbreak occurs, it is important to catch the problem early by:

- removing the biter and treating injured pigs; and
- providing distraction by adding fresh enrichment material such as rope, fresh wood, branches, straw (consider keeping a supply of enrichment material for emergencies).

All known risk factors should be considered, recorded and suitable management changes should be made in those areas identified as being at risk. It can spread quickly through the pen and the severity of injury caused can increase very quickly.

129. There are a number of identifiable and multiple causes associated with outbreaks and in order to understand why the problem is occurring, a systematic way of monitoring and recording incidents and possible causes should be developed. Owners/keepers and any staff should be familiar with the any agreed procedure:

(1) Quantify the problem

Record the date; the type of rearing system or accommodation type (if there is more than one); the position of pens; age of pigs; numbers of pigs affected and severity of the lesions. Record the stocking density; lux levels (at pig level); temperature (at pig level) and air quality levels (for example, ammonia, dust) at the time of the outbreak and record quality, type and volume of enrichment provided at the time of the incident.

(2) List possible causes

Based on the data collected for the incident list the probable and possible causes. Causes include: overstocking; feed deficiencies; interruption or inadequate supply of feed or water; sudden change in diet; competition at feeding; incorrect water flow rates; fluctuating temperature levels; inadequate ventilation; draughts; incorrect temperature levels; elevated dust/noxious gas levels; excessive light levels; genetics/breed; tail length variations; mixing; health/disease and lack of or unsuitable environmental enrichment. Different causes may be found in different pens on the same unit and at different times of the year.

(3) Evaluate findings and consider management changes

Monitor the findings and compare to previous incidents, including time of year; age group; location; accommodation and type of pigs affected. Consider areas for improvement and in consultation with the herd's veterinary surgeon and other

technical advisors, modify the health and welfare plan to implement the necessary changes with a view to preventing future outbreaks of tail biting.

130. If improvements are not successful in reducing tail biting, then a reassessment of the measures introduced should be made to identify areas where further suitable changes need to be made. This process should continue until tail-biting behaviour stops. Where piglets are bought in, suppliers should be engaged early on to ensure they can supply a specified number of source litters which have not been tail docked.

131. Tail biting is a multi-factorial problem. Identifying any problems before it becomes an issue, and addressing the underlying cause of any tail biting should improve health, reduce antibiotic use and improve production. To help owners/keepers find the solutions and management strategies that work best on a particular farm unit, the following six factors should be investigated, where necessary with the advice of a veterinary surgeon.

These six factors are:

- **Enrichment material;**
- **Thermal comfort, air quality and light;**
- **Health and fitness;**
- **Competition;**
- **Diet; and**
- **Pen structure and cleanliness.**

Enrichment material

Paragraph 15 of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

15. To enable proper investigation and manipulation activities, all pigs must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material such as straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat or a mixture of such which does not adversely affect the health of the animals.

132. Environmental enrichment is the process of improving and enhancing the captive environment that an animal is reared in by stimulating its natural and highly motivated behaviours. This often involves adding complexity and additional materials to the environment. The goal of environmental enrichment is to create positive and interesting experiences for the pigs. This should then reduce stress and injurious behaviours such as tail-biting in pigs or fighting between pigs. Some systems (such as outdoor rearing and kennel systems) provide extra space and complexity, including choices to be inside shelters or outside, and opportunities to forage. When pigs are reared in a less stimulating environment with less space and less complexity, then the provision of appropriate and stimulating enrichment materials becomes much more important. Potential indicators of ineffective or insufficient enrichment material, which could lead to tail biting:

- bitten tails and ears
- skin lesions
- loss of interest in enrichment materials over time
- biting pen fittings or other pigs instead of enrichment materials
- rooting in and manipulating dung
- competition or fighting for use of enrichment materials
- belly-nosing.

133. In order for environmental enrichment to work well the enrichment provided needs to focus on what is important to the pig. The pig is highly motivated to forage and explore and so this is why suitable enrichment materials to all pigs at all stages of rearing to allow them to express this type of behaviour must be supplied.

134. All pigs must have permanent access to enrichment materials which provide pigs with the opportunity to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities. Enrichment materials should enable pigs to fulfil their essential needs without compromising their health. They must be safe, hygienic and ideally have all of the following characteristics:

- a) edible— so that pigs can eat or smell them, preferably with some nutritional benefits;
- b) chewable— so that pigs can bite them;
- c) investigable— so that pigs can investigate them; and
- d) manipulable— so that pigs can change their location, appearance or structure.

135. Straw is an excellent material for environmental enrichment as it can satisfy all of the characteristics described above when it is provided in sufficient quantities and regularly replenished. It provides a fibrous material which the pig can eat; the pig is able to root in and play with long straw; and, when used as bedding, straw can provide the pig with physical and thermal comfort.

136. Objects such as footballs and chains can satisfy some of the pigs' behavioural needs, but can quickly lose their novelty factor. The use of such items is not permitted unless they are used in conjunction with other acceptable or optimal materials that can meet the requirements of a suitable enrichment material. See table below in paragraph 138.

137. Enrichment materials are categorised according to how well they meet the characteristics:

- a) ideal materials—materials possessing all the characteristics listed in paragraph 135 and therefore such materials can be used alone;
- b) acceptable materials—materials possessing most of the required characteristics and therefore such materials should be used in combination with other materials to improve the enrichment experience of the pig; and
- c) materials which are not acceptable on their own—materials of limited interest to pigs, which are not considered capable of fulfilling their essential needs for enrichment purposes.

138. The table below provides guidance on the suitability of commonly used enrichment materials.

Suitability of materials for providing environmental enrichment

Materials	Provided as	Suitability of enrichment material	Additional information	Risks
Straw, hay, miscanthus,	Bedding	Ideal	Meets all the requirements of appropriate enrichment material, also provides appropriate thermal and physical comfort needs.	Competition if insufficient for all pigs. Can get dirty or wet, may need regular replenishment.
Silage, root vegetables (excluding parsnips which are toxic to pigs)	Novel food source	Acceptable	If silage is permanently available / constantly replenished then this would be considered ideal.	Provide in appropriate amounts to avoid competition and avoids over-feeding.
Wood shavings, sawdust	Bedding	Acceptable	Complement with edible / manipulable materials.	Must ensure safe to use – an untreated wood source, no metal content.
Straw, hay or silage	Rack or in dispenser	Acceptable	If material is constantly replenished then this would be considered ideal. More hygienic than when provided as bedding.	Competition if insufficient dispensers and/or insufficient daily supply for all pigs.
Sand	Bedding	Acceptable	Complement with edible / manipulable materials.	Must ensure safe to use. Only suitable on earth floors or for outdoor pigs, may need regular replenishment.
Shredded paper	Bedding / Nesting material	Acceptable	Complement with edible / manipulable materials.	Ensure safe to use and metal-free. Printed or recycled is not

Materials	Provided as	Suitability of enrichment material	Additional information	Risks
				recommended due to toxins in the ink
Soft, untreated wood, cardboard, natural rope, hessian sack	Object	Acceptable if regularly replenished	Complement with edible and investigable materials. If using rope, try tying knots in it so that pigs cannot bite off long pieces that could end up in the slurry system.	Competition if insufficient for all pigs. Can get dirty, will need regular replenishment.
Compressed straw in cylinder	Object	Acceptable	Complement with investigable and manipulable materials.	Competition if insufficient for all pigs. Can get dirty, will need regular replenishment.
Sawdust briquette (suspended or fixed)	Object	Acceptable	Complement with edible, investigable and manipulable materials.	Competition if insufficient for all pigs. Can get dirty, will need regular replenishment.
Chain, rubber, soft plastic pipes, ball, hard plastic, hard wood (such as oak, ash, beech)	Object	Unacceptable if used alone	Complement with edible, investigable and manipulable materials.	Interest quickly lost. Health and safety issues depending on toy type e.g. rubber source, treated wood blocks etc. Suspending objects prevents soiling. Change regularly.

139. The following materials are not recommended due to potential health or environmental risks or other concerns: mushroom compost, peat, novel sources of bedding, such as “green” bedding.

140. The enrichment materials need to sustain interest and should be available in sufficient quantity to allow all pigs the opportunity to interact with them. Materials which do not have all of the defined characteristics are less likely to achieve this and may need replacing or changing more often.

141. If the enrichment is provided as bedding there should be sufficient quantity to maintain interest as long as the bedding is hygienic, clean, dry and safe to use as pig bedding. Improved enrichment in straw or other materially-bedded environments may include regularly adding large bales that the pigs can pull apart themselves.

142. Where the provision of larger volumes of enrichment material is limited due to the floor and slurry removal systems, owners/keepers should aim to ensure that this is replenished sufficiently and is sufficient to maintain interest.

143. The enrichment material's frequency of renewal, its accessibility, quantity and cleanliness are all key factors in maintaining a pig's interest. Owners/keepers should assess how well the enrichment material provided to the pigs is used. Re-directed chewing behaviours towards other pigs or non-enrichment materials, such as faeces or equipment may suggest the enrichment material is inadequate or ineffective. Direct animal-based indicators should be monitored including the presence of bitten tails, other skin lesions from fighting or biting and/or abnormal behaviour by pigs.

Thermal comfort, air quality and light

144. Pigs need a stable environment that is close to their optimum temperature and humidity levels, draught-free and with suitable lighting conditions. Maintaining the right temperature and good air quality are extremely important in keeping stress levels low. If pigs are not comfortable, they become frustrated and may begin tail biting. Potential indicators of poor thermal comfort/air quality/lighting conditions, which could lead to tail biting:

- lack of cleanliness
- restlessness/aggression
- huddling
- shivering
- playing with water and manure
- reduced appetite
- pigs laying on their sides and/or far apart
- excretion in the rest area
- panting, sneezing or coughing
- conjunctivitis

145. In cold climates, insulation, good bedding or a heating system can ensure thermal comfort. During warm weather, options include ground heat exchangers, air conditioning, floor cooling, misting systems, showers and wallows.

146. Limiting the flow of cold air over sleeping areas is important as well as keeping dust and ammonia levels to a minimum. It is also important for pigs to be able to avoid direct sunlight. As continuous lighting causes stress, a day and night rhythm should be maintained. Very bright lights should be avoided. For direct sunlight, the solution could be as simple as fitting blinds on windows. Keeping pigs in semi-darkness to avoid attacks is ineffective and should be avoided. See paragraphs 96 to 97.

Health and fitness

147. Good overall health is one of the best ways to avoid tail biting. A pig in poor health is a stressed pig. Pigs with intact tails are stronger and healthier so are less likely to need veterinary or medical treatment, or specialised feed. They also experience fewer problems at weaning. Potential indicators of poor health that could lead to tail biting:

- bitten or limp tail;
- skin lesions or scratches;
- increased restlessness;
- Lameness;
- lack of appetite;
- panting, shivering, coughing, sneezing, diarrhoea;
- abnormal body size;
- social isolation; and
- increased mortality.

148. A comprehensive health and welfare plan and regular visits by a veterinary surgeon are important for maintaining the overall health of pigs and avoiding clinical outbreaks of diseases on the farm unit/premises.

Competition

149. Pigs prefer to forage, eat and rest simultaneously. There should be sufficient space in each pen to avoid competition. For example, for food and drink provide sufficient trough space and numbers of drinkers. Potential indicators of a lack of space, which could lead to tail biting:

- low body condition scores;
- variability in body size within a pen;
- skin lesions on hind quarters (food competition);
- skin lesions on forequarters (space competition);
- fights around feeders;
- pigs waiting to use feeders; and
- poor distribution of pigs in each area of the pen.

150. Good skin condition is evidence of sufficient space, as are a lack of fighting and waiting in the feed area. If all pigs feed in one part of the pen, or all lie down simultaneously in another, it is unlikely that there is a problem with competition.

Diet

151. Pigs need feed of adequate consistency, as well as the right levels of minerals, fibre and essential amino acids. They also need a sufficient quantity of fresh, good quality water. High raw fibre content can calm pigs down as it leaves them feeling full for longer. Good intestinal health means fewer cases of diarrhoea, healthier pigs, higher daily gain, better feed conversion and less use of antibiotics. Potential indicators of an unsuitable diet, which could lead to tail biting:

- low body condition score;
- variation in weight;

- poor carcass classification;
- high incidence of stomach and intestinal ulcers; and
- high incidence of tail or ear necrosis.

152. A correctly balanced feed will keep pigs healthy and ensure good gut condition. Pigs with sore guts and those that have to adapt suddenly to new feed become stressed pigs, and may turn to tail biting. If body condition scores are high and the pigs' gastric function is normal, it is unlikely that there is a problem with diet.

Pen structure and cleanliness

153. A dirty environment reduces the comfort of a living area and increases levels of noxious gases, stressing the pigs and increasing the risk of disease. It is important to have well-defined areas for resting, feeding and dunging, particularly in pens with partially slatted floors. Potential indicators of an unsuitable pen structure or lack of cleanliness, which could lead to tail biting:

- presence of manure on the pigs' bodies;
- increased disease (lameness, diarrhoea, respiratory infections).

Teeth Clipping/Grinding

Paragraph 6 of Schedule 3, to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 states:

6. The procedure may only be carried out on an animal that is aged not more than 7 days.

The procedure must consist only of the uniform reduction of the corner teeth by either grinding or clipping so as to leave an intact smooth surface.
The procedure may only be carried out where measures to improve environmental conditions or management systems have first been taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, but there is still evidence to show that injury to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails by biting has occurred.

154. Piglets compete aggressively with their litter mates for a particular teat on the sow. As piglets are born with sharp teeth, this may result in injuries to the piglets' faces and to the sow's udder. Injuries are reduced if sows are lactating well and do not have extremely large litters. Cross fostering piglets from very large litters to a sow with a smaller litter may help avoid injuries.

155. Routine clipping or grinding of teeth is not permitted and should always be considered a last resort. Tooth reduction causes short term pain and may cause long term pain if teeth are fractured due to poor technique. Local infection and joint infection can result. If owners/keepers are carrying out tooth reduction on the farm unit, the health and welfare plan should identify the specific circumstances where tooth reduction may be necessary, such as large litter size, gilt litters in outdoor units and poor milk let down as a result of mastitis.

156. Suitable sharp, clean clippers or an appropriate grinder should be used. All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between pigs. Risk of injury and infections occur with both methods and appear more related to the proficiency of the operator than the procedure used (clipping or grinding).

Castration

Paragraph 1, Schedule 3 to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 states:

When carried out on a pig, a procedure listed below must be carried out in accordance with the condition or conditions specified for that procedure.

1. Castration

The method used must not involve the tearing of tissues.

An anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia must be administered where the animal is aged 7 days or over.

Exceptions to the prohibition on mutilations

3. Section 5(1) and (2) of the Act does not apply to a procedure listed in Schedule 1, providing it is carried out—

(b) in such a way as to minimise the pain and suffering it causes to the animal;

(c) in hygienic conditions; and

(d) in accordance with good practice.

157. Owners/keepers should consider carefully whether surgical castration is necessary. Castration is a mutilation and should be avoided wherever possible. Alternative methods to surgical castration are available which can prevent “boar taint” developing in the meat of heavier boars, such as use of a vaccine.

Section 2 – Additional Specific Recommendations

The following is intended to be read in addition to Section 1.

Farrowing sows and piglets

Paragraphs 22 to 26 of Schedule 8, Part 4 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

22. Pregnant gilts and sows must, where necessary, be treated against external and internal parasites.

23. Pregnant sows and gilts must be thoroughly cleaned before being placed in farrowing crates.

24. In the week before the expected farrowing time, sows and gilts must be given suitable nesting material in sufficient quantity unless it is not technically feasible for the slurry system used.

25. During farrowing, an unobstructed area behind the sow or gilt must be available for the ease of natural or assisted farrowing.

26. Farrowing pens where sows are kept loose must have some means of protecting the piglets, such as farrowing rails.

Paragraph 5 (2) of Schedule 8, Part 2 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states that:

5. (2) The accommodation used for pigs must be constructed in such a way as to allow each pig to—

(c) see other pigs, except—

(ii) in the week before the expected farrowing time and during farrowing, when sows and gilts may be kept out of sight of other pigs;

158. Owners/keepers should manage the feeding of sows and gilts so that they are in a suitable body condition at the time of farrowing. A target BCS score of 3.5 to 4 should be aimed at just prior to farrowing. See paragraphs 57 to 60. The feeding regime should be arranged to minimise any loss in body condition during lactation.

159. All sows must be clean and dry on entry to the farrowing accommodation to maintain as clean and hygienic an environment at farrowing and minimise infectious risks to both sow and piglets. The farrowing environment should be designed so that the sow and her piglets stay clean and dry throughout lactation.

160. The environmental requirements of the sow and litter are considerably different. In an environmentally controlled farrowing house a heated creep area (up to 32°C) should be provided for the piglets. This can be by artificial heating, for example,

overhead infra-red lamps, a heat pad, underfloor heating or alternatively by providing a well-bedded lying area. The sow, however, has different environmental requirements. The temperature in the farrowing room as a whole should be around 18°C to 20°C. High temperatures for the sow can impair feed intake and her milking ability.

161. Where overhead lamps/heaters are used they should be securely fixed, checked regularly to reduce the fire risk, and should be protected from interference by the sow or piglets.

162. In free farrowing systems where the sow is not confined, the sow should have sufficient space to allow her to nest build, to turn around, rise up and lie down again, as well as access feeding and dunging areas without difficulty. Farrowing rails or other means to protect piglets from crushing must be incorporated into the pen design. Where possible the pen design should allow for the sow to be shut into her feed stall when any procedures are needed to be carried out on the piglets.

163. Where the sow is confined in a farrowing crate, it should be large enough to accommodate her and to allow her to rise and lie down without difficulty. The crate length should be sufficient to allow space for farrowing which can be easily accessed in an emergency. Ideally the sow should only be confined in this crate for the minimum time possible in the days following farrowing, when piglets are at the greatest risk of crushing or savaging. Where the farrowing crate incorporates a design that can be opened up to allow the sow to turn freely this should be carried out two to three days following farrowing.

164. Enrichment materials provided in farrowing crates should enable proper investigation and manipulation activities' without compromising health. For example, chopped straw; shredded paper; soft untreated wood; cardboard; natural ropes; compressed straw cylinders; pellets; jute cloths or hessian sacks. Note that some of these materials may need to be used in combination with others as they do not have all the necessary main properties. See paragraphs 132 to 143.

165. Owners/keepers and any staff should be experienced and competent in the techniques of farrowing and the farrowing system being used (free or crate). Cleaning, disinfection and hygiene at farrowing are essential and procedures for assisted farrowing should be documented in the pig health and welfare plan. The use of mechanical farrowing aids should be avoided and when used should only be performed by a trained, competent operator.

Paragraphs 34 to 38 of Schedule 8, Part 5 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

34. Where a farrowing crate system is used, piglets must be provided with a source of heat and a solid, dry and comfortable lying area away from the sow where all of them can rest at the same time.

35. A part of the floor where the piglets are kept, and which is large enough to allow the animals to rest together at the same time, must be solid or covered with a mat, or be littered with straw or other suitable material.

36. Where a farrowing crate system is used, the piglets must have sufficient space so they can be suckled without difficulty.

37. Subject to paragraph 38, piglets must not be weaned from the sow at an age less than 28 days, unless the health and welfare of the sow or piglets would otherwise be adversely affected.

38. Piglets may be weaned up to seven days earlier than the age referred to in paragraph 37 if they are moved into specialised housings which is –

(a) emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before the introduction of a new group; and

(b) separate from housing where other sows are kept.

166. The later pigs are weaned the better their health and the smaller their growth check following weaning. Orphaned, sick and surplus piglets may need to be cross fostered to another sow.

Fostering

167. When cross fostering is practiced this should be included in the health and welfare plan and suitable measures to prevent disease introduction and spread should be taken.

168. Careful consideration should be given to the needs of the piglets such as provision of sufficient colostrum, size and age of other piglets in the litter and the need to avoid fighting and competition.

169. The needs of the sow receiving piglets should also be carefully considered such as ensuring she has sufficient milk for the fostered piglets, she has a suitable body condition, and can avoid teat injuries. Sows should not be retained in farrowing accommodation for prolonged periods due to fostering.

170. Where owners/keepers are making use of an artificial fostering system with automated provision of artificial milk, only strong larger piglets that are at least 10 days old should be fed on this system, leaving the smaller piglets to continue to feed from the sow. Strict hygiene measures should be followed in the use of automated milk machines for pigs and a high quality pig specific artificial milk should be used.

171. It is particularly important that piglets are watched carefully for signs of diarrhoea or respiratory disease, such as coughing or rapid or laboured breathing; infections can spread rapidly in a litter. If the piglets do not respond to treatment promptly, advice must be sought from a veterinary surgeon.

Weaners and rearing pigs

Paragraph 43 of Schedule 8, Part 6 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

43. The unobstructed floor area available to each weaner or rearing pig in a group must be at least –

- (a) 0.15 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is 10 kg or less;
- (b) 0.20 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 10 kg but less than or equal to 20 kg;
- (c) 0.30 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 20 kg but less than or equal to 30 kg;
- (d) 0.40 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 30 kg but less than or equal to 50 kg;
- (e) 0.55 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 50 kg but less than or equal to 85 kg;
- (f) 0.65 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 85 kg but less than or equal to 110 kg;
- (g) 1.00 m² for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 110 kg.

172. The unobstructed floor areas in the box above are minimum requirements. The type of housing and its management may mean that greater space allowances are necessary. The total floor space should be adequate for sleeping, feeding and exercising.

Paragraphs 39 to 42 of Schedule 8, Part 6 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

39. As soon as possible after weaning, weaners and rearing pigs must be kept in stable groups, with as little mixing as possible.

40. If weaners and rearing pigs unfamiliar with one another have to be mixed—

- (a) this must if possible be done before weaning or up to one week after weaning, or otherwise when the pigs are as young as possible; and
- (b) they must be provided with adequate opportunities to escape and hide from other pigs.

41. The use of tranquillising medication in order to facilitate mixing must be limited to exceptional conditions and only after consultation with a veterinary surgeon.

42. If there are signs of severe fighting, the causes must be immediately investigated and appropriate measures taken.

173. The health and welfare plan should include a strategy for managing mixing and establishing groups of pigs. Plenty of space, sufficient environmental enrichment and the use of shower sprays/sprinklers can all help to minimise aggression at mixing.

174. The minimum amount of mixing should occur from weaning through to finishing. If changes do occur it should be to split groups as they increase in age rather than to mix groups. For pigs being reared to heavier finish weights, these groups should be split by sex at weaning rather than as they move from the rearing to finishing phase if possible.

Dry sows and gilts

Paragraphs 27 to 33 of Schedule 8, Part 4 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

27. Sows and gilts must be kept in groups except during the period between seven days before the predicted day of farrowing and the day on which the weaning of piglets (including any piglets fostered) is complete.

28. The pen where the group is kept must have sides greater than 2.8 m in length, except when there are six or fewer individuals in the group, when the sides of the pen must be no less than 2.4 m in length.

29. The unobstructed floor area available to each gilt after service and to each sow when gilts and/or sows are kept in groups must be at least 1.64 m² and 2.25 m² respectively. When these animals are kept in groups of six or fewer individuals, the unobstructed floor area must be increased by 10%. When these animals are kept in groups of 40 or more individuals, the unobstructed floor area may be decreased by 10%.

30. For gilts after service and pregnant sows, a part of the area required in paragraph 29 equal to at least 0.95 m² per gilt and at least 1.3 m² per sow must be of continuous solid floor of which a maximum of 15% is reserved for drainage openings.

31. Sows and gilts kept on holdings of 10 or fewer sows may be kept individually provided that their accommodation complies with the requirements of paragraphs 5 and 6 of this Schedule.

32. In addition to the requirements of paragraph 13 of this Schedule, sows and gilts must be fed using a system which ensures that each individual can obtain sufficient food even when competitors for the food are present.

33. All dry pregnant sows and gilts must be given a sufficient quantity of bulky or high-fibre food as well as high-energy food to satisfy their hunger and need to chew.

175. Innate aggressiveness can present a severe problem where sows and gilts are kept in groups. Much depends on the temperament of individual animals. Adequate space and providing opportunities for subordinate sows to move away from aggressors (for example, large bales to create separate spaces) within the pen is particularly important at the time of mixing sows. First parity sows and sows that have lost body condition should be managed as separate groups. Owners/keepers should ensure that persistent bullying, which could lead to severe injury or deprivation of food, does not take place. Any animal suffering persistent bullying should be removed to different accommodation.

176. Feeding facilities in which animals can be fed individually and thereafter released are recommended. However, if sows are fed using a system that does not

include some form of protection during feeding, such as floor feeding, then the feed should be distributed widely and in such a way to ensure that all members of the group can obtain their allocation at the same time.

177. Breeding sows and gilts should be fed simultaneously wherever possible to avoid undue excitement. Some feeding systems have been designed to feed animals sequentially without interference from pen-mates. Owners/keepers need to pay special attention to the proper functioning of such equipment and also make sure that all members of the group can obtain their allocation.

178. The provision of bedding in loose housing systems for sows and gilts is recommended. See the section on environmental enrichment.

Boars

Paragraphs 19 to 21 of Schedule 8, Part 3 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

19. Boar pens must be sited and constructed so as to allow the boar to turn around and to hear, see and smell other pigs, and must contain clean resting areas.

20. The lying area must be dry and comfortable.

21.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the minimum unobstructed floor area for a boar must be 6 m².

(2) When boar pens are also used for natural service, the floor area must be at least 10 m² and must be free of any obstacles.

179. Walls between pens should be high enough to prevent boars climbing and/or jumping into adjacent pens. Pens should be sited so that boars can see other pigs. Owners/keepers and any staff should not enter boar pens without a pig board and it should be able to escape easily from the pen if the boar becomes aggressive.

180. Boars are generally individually housed and need either plenty of bedding material or a closely controlled environmental temperature. Extremes of temperature can lead to temporary infertility and may affect a boar's willingness or ability to work satisfactorily.

181. If the boar is kept with other boars or sows, measures need to be taken to prevent excessive fighting, especially during feeding. If signs of severe fighting appear the causes need to be immediately investigated and appropriate preventive measures taken.

182. As a guide, individual accommodation for an adult boar should have a floor area of not less than 7.5 m² if used for living purposes only. Bedding should be provided in the lying area. In a pen intended for mating purposes, the whole floor area should be

kept dry or sufficient bedding provided to give adequate grip during service. The use of small quantities of coarse sand on floors will reduce the risk of slipping.

Pigs kept in outdoor husbandry systems

General

Paragraph 17 of Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 states:

17. Animals not kept in buildings must, where necessary and possible, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health and must, at all times, have access to a well-drained lying area

183. Stock selected for outdoor production must be suitable for outdoor conditions. Most breeding companies provide lines that have been developed for outdoor use.

184. Sites for outdoor pig enterprises should be chosen carefully. Free-draining soils, in low rainfall areas, with low frost incidence are most suitable for outdoor pig keeping.

185. Field stocking densities should reflect the suitability of the site and the system of management. The pig health and welfare plan should include a strategy for dealing with outdoor weather extremes such as, water provision in freezing conditions and feed provision to the site and to the paddocks in snow or severe wet weather.

Accommodation

186. All outdoor accommodation used, including arcs and huts, should be liberally provided with bedding and have a warm, draught-free lying area. This is especially important for the sow and litter at farrowing, during the suckling period and for newly weaned pigs.

187. Owners/keepers should properly maintain arcs, huts and other outdoor accommodation such as bale tents, especially to ensure that damage through handling or by the pigs does not produce sharp edges that may injure the animals.

188. Adequate shelter must be provided to protect pigs from extreme weather conditions. Arcs should be secured to the ground, particularly in cold windy conditions and should be sited so that the doorways can be adjusted to allow for changing weather circumstances and situated away from the prevailing wind. Wet conditions create greater welfare problems than the cold, as moisture is easily carried into the arcs on feet and bodies, causing chilling in piglets and provides the ideal environment for micro-organisms to flourish.

189. Adequate shelter must also be provided to protect the animals from the sun in summer. Wallows should be provided to allow pigs to cool themselves and to produce mud that can coat the skin help prevent sunburn.

Feed and water

190. Feed should be distributed widely and evenly to minimise aggression between animals, unless an alternative method is used to ensure even consumption.

191. Owners/keepers should carefully monitor the body condition of pigs and adjust feed provision if necessary. Extra care is needed during extremes of weather.

Fences

192. Electric fencing should be designed, constructed, used and maintained properly, so that when the animals touch them they only feel slight discomfort. All power units for electric fences must be properly earthed to prevent short circuits or electricity being conducted anywhere it should not, for example, gates and water troughs.

193. Incoming stock that have not been trained to electric fencing should be kept in a training paddock with secure fencing, such as pig netting, outside the electric fencing to help the animals see the fencing and to ensure that they cannot escape from the unit. Invisible fencing is not recommended for outdoor pig management.

194. Every effort should be made to protect pigs, particularly young piglets, from predation. Steps such as a predator control programme and possibly fox fencing should be considered.

Farrowing sows and piglets

195. In hot conditions, lactating sows may be prompted to leave the arc to seek more comfortable conditions outside, effectively abandoning her litter for long periods of the day. Owners/keepers may need to consider alternative solutions to allow the sow to comfortably feed her piglets in a cooler environment and ensure piglets have access to water. Farrowing arcs should be insulated and have provision for some degree of extra ventilation such as manually controlled flaps.

196. Farrowing arcs should be sited on level ground to reduce the risk of overlying. Suitable fenders should be used to prevent very young piglets from straying during the post-farrowing period.

Nose ringing

Paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 states:

4. The procedure may only be carried out on an animal that is not kept continuously in an indoor husbandry system.

197. Nose ringing is a mutilation and should be avoided wherever possible as it interferes with a pig's natural rooting behaviours. Nose ringing should not be necessary for any pig. Where it is necessary to nose ring pigs, it should only be carried out by a suitably trained and competent person. All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between pigs.

Annex

Legislation

The main requirements are summarised below. This does not represent an exhaustive list and note that some legislation is regularly updated and/or amended. All UK legislation can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>

The Animal Welfare Act 2006:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/2078/contents/made>

The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/1100/contents/made>

Specific sections:

Introduction:

Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/38>

Disease control and biosecurity:

Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011 SI No. 2154:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2154/contents/made>

Animal Health Act 1981: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/22>

Contingency planning for emergencies:

Diseases of Swine Regulations 2014/1894 (GB wide) – covers disease controls for the three main diseases: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1894/contents>

Aujeszky's Disease Order 1983:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1983/344/contents/made>

Loading and unloading on-farm:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (the protection of animals during transport and related operations):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32005R0001>

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/3260/contents/made>

Marking:

The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011. See Article 6:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2154/contents/made>
(Also see legislation in connection to mutilations below)

On farm killing:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (the protection of animals at the time of killing). Also see Chapter II Article 3 paragraphs 1 and 2 (General requirements for killing and

related operations) and Chapter III Article 19 (Emergency killing): <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32009R1099>

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1782/contents/made> provides the legal basis in England for the requirements under Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulation 2013: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/2952/contents/made> provides the legal basis in England for the requirements of EU regulation EC1069/2009 which covers the controls on disposal:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32009R1069> and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 for the EU requirements for storage, transport and disposal of animal by-products such as dead carcasses, manure and litter: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011R0142-20150223>

Responsible Medicines usage and Record Keeping:

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 require records to be kept on medicine usage, administration and disposal of unused medicines. Records must be kept for at least 5 years. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 relates to recording what medicine is administered and when (for welfare purposes) and applies to all farm animals. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 recording requirements describe in detail what must be recorded, how long the records must be kept and includes the requirement for records of when and where medicines are acquired in addition to the requirement for records at the time of administration. It also describes the 'cascade' system, the duties on suppliers of medicines and records that they are required to keep, including a private veterinary surgeon (see paragraphs 19 (1 to 3) and 20 of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations):

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/2033/contents/made>

Record keeping requirements are additionally set out in the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, Part V, paragraph 32: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1729/contents/made>

Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32010R0037>

Natural Service, Artificial Insemination, Vasectomy and Electro-ejaculation:

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988 No. 526) prohibits the performance of a vasectomy or the carrying out of electro-ejaculation by anyone other than a veterinary surgeon: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1988/526/contents/made>

Mutilations:

The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 allow veterinary surgeons or other persons permitted to carry out the procedures under the Veterinary

Surgeons Act 1966 or the Veterinary Surgeons (Exemptions) Order 1962, to carry out a number of permitted procedures on specified animals, including pigs.

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1966/36>

The Veterinary Surgeons (Exemptions) Order 1962:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1962/2557/made>

The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/1100/contents/made>

Sources of further information

These sources of further information are for information only and should not be considered to be part of the Code of Practice. These sources of information are current on the date that this Code is published (please see the final page for the date of publication). Any of the sources of information listed here could change.

Council of Europe

https://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/biological_safety_and_use_of_animals/farming/Rec%20pigs%20rev%20E%202004.asp

EU Commission information on pig welfare, including guidance on tail docking:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/pigs_en

Specific sections:

Preface

“Pet” pigs

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 applies when pigs are kept in a domesticated state including so called “micro pigs”, “teacup piglets” and “mini-pigs”. Owners/keepers of “pet” pigs must follow the same regulations as pig producers in order to protect their own health and their pigs’ health and welfare. Owners/keepers should ensure they know what type of pig they are buying so it can be provided with a suitable living environment. Owners/keepers should understand and be able to meet all the welfare needs of their pig before they purchase it.

Owners/keepers need a county parish holding (CPH) number supplied by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). Pigs must be registered with the APHA within 30 days of the first pig’s arrival at the owners/keepers premises or farm unit. Upon registration, APHA will provide the owner/keeper with a herd mark specific to the CPH. This herd mark must be used to identify the pig if it is moved off the premises. A licence is required from APHA for owners/keepers to walk their pigs (which must be identified with a tag or tattoo) along specific approved routes outside of the premises.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/keeping-a-pet-pig-or-micropig#get-a-licence-to-walk-a-pet-pig>

“Pet” pigs must not be fed waste food or scraps from the home kitchen or any other catering establishment and must never be fed meat or products containing meat of any kind. This is for disease control reasons. However certain milk products can be fed to pet pigs if certain conditions are met. If owners/keepers are not sure of the restrictions on the type of food products which they are permitted to feed to pigs then they should contact APHA for further advice.

Owners/keepers also need to record all medical treatments their pigs receive (a veterinary surgeon can provide details of this on request) and all movements on and off the premises, except for licensed walking routes. There is no exemption for “pet” pigs regarding the administration of unauthorised medicines.

[see Annex for the legislation on the responsible use of medicines]

Introduction:

Consultation on licences for specific animal-related establishments and activities:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/consultation-on-the-review-of-animal-licensing/>

Disease control and biosecurity:

APHA guidance on registering before keeping pigs:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pig-keepers-register-your-holding-and-animals>

Movements:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pig-keepers-report-and-record-movements-to-or-from-your-holding>

Keeping pet pigs: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/keeping-a-pet-pig-or-micropig>

The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulation 2013. For further information on animal by-products, see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-by-product-categories-site-approval-hygiene-and-disposal>

AHDB's rodent control on farm guide which includes the responsible use of pest control, both inside and outside units:

<https://ahdb.org.uk/projects/documents/LRAHDBRodentStrategyGuide2016.pdf>

Loading and unloading on-farm:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welfare-of-animals-during-transport>

Marking:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pig-keepers-identify-animals-before-moving-them>

On farm killing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/welfare-of-animals-at-the-time-of-killing>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supplying-and-using-animal-by-products-as-farm-animal-feed>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-the-animal-by-product-industry>

Guidance on the home slaughter of livestock and food safety legislation:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/meatregsguid/home-slaughter-livestock>

Responsible Medicines usage and Record Keeping:

Veterinary Medicines Directorate:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate>

The Cascade: Prescribing unauthorised medicines

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-cascade-prescribing-unauthorised-medicines>

For further guidance on responsible use of antimicrobials and vaccines for pigs see Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture:

<http://www.ruma.org.uk/pigs/>

The AHDB Pork and the VMD have created an on line version of the paper medicines records book on the e-MB-Pigs website:

<https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/antimicrobial-usage/e-medicine-book-emb-pigs/>

<https://emb-pigs.ahdb.org.uk/>

Accommodation – Floors:

The manufacture of precast concrete flooring is covered by a European Standard (EN +A1:2007), consistent with Council Directive 2001/88/EC. This standard specifies both minimum and maximum gap and beam widths for precast concrete floors together with a manufacturing tolerance.

Fighting and aggressive behaviours:

There are readily available protocols available through industry bodies and academic institutes advising how best to record and monitor aggressive behaviours/body marks, such as AssureWel:

<http://www.assurewel.org/pigs>

Managing sick and injured animals:

The Casualty Pig Guide, produced by the Pig Veterinary Society, provides further guidance: <http://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/resources/pvs-documents>

Enrichment:

AHDB Pork has produced additional guidance for pig keepers that can be accessed on the AHDB Pork website. <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/273607/enrichment-guide-2017.pdf>

Advice is available from the Farewell Dock Project: <http://farewelldock.eu/about/>

The AHDB tail biting WebHAT online tool also provides guidance on assessing tail biting risks and gives possible solutions to resolve: <https://webhat.ahdb.org.uk/>

Date of publication: