



Pigs Standards (V5.2) Changes: 1 February 2026

Following a wide-ranging consultation, the Red Tractor pigs sector is moving forward with new modules for outdoor-bred pigs with straw-based or free-range finishing enterprises. As part of rolling out these new modules, we've also made a few changes to the core pig standards to improve clarity and to bring the outdoor pig requirements into the main body of the standards.

This document provides an overview of the updates to the core standards and must be used in conjunction with Pigs Standards V5.2 which details the full standards and all audit points.

Note: The Outdoor Pigs (OP) section has been removed, and its individual clauses have been integrated into the relevant sections of the main standards. Each clause has been renumbered to reflect its new position, ensuring clarity and consistency throughout the standards.

The updated core standards and the new modules will come into effect on **1 February 2026**.

Green sections indicate changes that may call for something being done differently on your farm

Documents and Procedures (DP)

<p><i>DP.1.1</i> A farm map must be present and areas of specific risk are identified (Revised)</p>	<p>DP.1.1.b Farm map or other documents outline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total usable area/space provision within pens, accommodation and paddocks • number of pigs held within each by age and weight (to not exceed maximum stocking rates or feeder and drinker ratios) • bedded lying area (if applicable)
<p>DP.6 Where there is potential for adherence with Scheme standards to be compromised through trial work or other circumstances, Red Tractor must be notified before the trial begins and/or as soon as the potential breach is identified (NEW)</p>	

Traceability and Assurance (TI)

<p><i>TI.1 KEY</i> Pigs must be identified appropriately (Revised)</p>	<p>TI.1.e Slapmarking other than for identification with the herdmark is prohibited, except where used in place of an eartag for individual ID of breeding pigs. A suffix may be used to denote trial pigs</p>
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Vermin Control

<p>VC.6 Actions must be taken to minimise fly infestations (NEW)</p>	<p>VC.6.a Ongoing efforts to control fly infestations, where present, are evident</p>
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Housing, Shelter and handling Facilities

<p><i>HF.1 (KEY)</i> Housing must be constructed and maintained to provide a safe and secure environment for livestock</p>	<p><i>HF.1.d</i> Fenders or similar are used on outdoor farrowing accommodation to prevent very young piglets from straying</p>
<p><i>HF.2</i> Facilities must provide a comfortable thermal environment</p>	<p><i>HF.2.b</i> Covered shelter is available to pigs on outdoor sites to protect from weather with sufficient space for all pigs to lie at once</p>

	<p>HF.2.c</p> <p>Facilities are provided on outdoor sites during warm weather to allow pigs to keep cool and minimise risk of sunburn, e.g. wallows, well-ventilated shaded areas</p>
<p>HF.6 (KEY)</p> <p>Growing pigs must be provided with sufficient space (Revised)</p>	
<p>HF.6.1.1</p> <p>A training area must be used to allow new gilts, sows and boars to become accustomed to electric fences</p>	<p>HF.6.1.1.a</p> <p>Used for at least 48 hours</p>
<p>HF.9</p> <p>There must be appropriate facilities for livestock to give birth</p>	<p>HF.9.b</p> <p>Outdoor farrowing accommodation is sited on level ground (not excessively sloped or very uneven)</p>
<p>HF.9.1</p> <p>Farrowing accommodation must be of a sufficient size</p>	
<p>HF.9.2</p> <p>Sows must be moved in to farrowing facilities at an appropriate time (Revised)</p>	<p>HF.9.2.a Sows do not enter farrowing crates more than 7 days prior to their expected farrowing date</p>
<p>HF.9.4</p> <p>Farrowing confinement facilities must only be used for a minimum period</p>	
<p>HF.9.5</p> <p>Sows must be given sufficient suitable material to satisfy nestbuilding behaviour (Revised)</p>	<p>HF.9.5.c</p> <p>Available during at least the 24 hour period prior to expected farrowing</p>
<p>HF.11</p> <p>Where pigs are not held in their normal accommodation prior to transport, the area must be managed appropriately (Revised)</p>	<p>HF.11.a</p> <p>Pigs have access to water</p> <p>HF.11.b Maximum stocking densities for the enterprise are adhered to for weaners awaiting transport</p> <p>HF.11.c</p> <p>All other categories of pigs are stocked appropriately for comfort and thermoregulation</p>

Animal Health and Welfare (AH)

<p>AH.1 (KEY)</p> <p>A Veterinary Health Plan (VHP) to proactively manage and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented</p>	<p>AH.1.f</p> <p>Contains an action plan for dealing with injurious behaviour (e.g. tail, flank, vulva damage), which details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treatment and management of injured pigs • short-term measures to be taken to limit further injurious behaviour
<p>AH.2</p> <p>Records of the health and performance of livestock must be maintained (Revised)</p>	<p>AH.2.b</p> <p>Incidents of injurious behaviour (e.g. tail, flank, vulva damage), possible causes and interventions taken are recorded</p>
<p>AH.8.1</p> <p>Appropriate facilities must be provided for the segregation or isolation of sick or injured livestock (Revised)</p>	<p>AH.8.1.a.a</p> <p>If not permanently available, facilities can be set up within 1 hour</p> <p>AH.8.1.d</p> <p>Cleaned, washed and disinfected between batches (for batch systems) or at least twice a year</p>
<p>AH.8.3</p> <p>Issues with injurious behaviour (e.g. tail, flank, vulva damage) must be identified and managed</p>	

AH.9.4 <i>Steps must be taken to carry out euthanasia of pigs in a location that avoids unnecessary suffering of the animal and distress to potential onlookers (Revised)</i>	AH.9.4.a Non-ambulatory pigs, which are unable to stand or rise unaided, are euthanised without being moved, unless they can be moved with full body support and without causing further suffering.
AH.9.5 <i>Checks must be made to ensure method of stunning/euthanasia is effective and if deemed ineffective the process is repeated, or a back-up method is applied (Revised)</i>	AH.9.5.a <i>Checks are carried out promptly after stunning/euthanasia to ensure loss of consciousness and no signs of life</i> AH.9.5.b Euthanasia is performed again immediately should the first attempt fail
AH.14 <i>Supplementary rearing accommodation (e.g. "rescue decks") used for early weaning of piglets from the sow must be managed appropriately</i>	

Husbandry Procedures

HP.3 <i>Routine tail docking is prohibited. Where tail docking is carried out in exceptional circumstances as a last resort under veterinary direction, there must be documented evidence in place to justify the need</i>	
HP.3.2 <i>Tail docking is carried out appropriately (Revised)</i>	HP.3.2.f Only the minimum amount of tail is removed that is necessary to effectively limit tail biting, as discussed and agreed with the designated vet
HP.4.2 <i>It is recommended to grind rather than clip teeth (NEW)</i>	

Biosecurity and Disease Control (BI)

BI.12 <i>Measures must be in place to minimise disease transmission between batches (Revised)</i>	BI.12.a Indoor farrowing accommodation is cleaned and disinfected between occupancies BI.12.b <i>Outdoor farrowing arcs, tents, kennels and associated enclosing runs for growing pigs must be moved* to fresh land after each farrowing cycle or batch</i> <i>*unless sited on a concrete base and cleaned and disinfected between batches</i> BI.12.c Sites are only used for farrowing paddocks for a maximum of 2 years, or 2.5 years for single parity herds BI.12.d Farrowing sows are not placed on land previously used for farrowing paddocks for at least 6 months BI.12.e <i>After weaning, used bedding from farrowing accommodation is removed/destroyed</i>
BI.13 <i>A documented Wild Animal Control Plan must be implemented to minimise wild animal access to pigs on outdoor units</i>	BI.13.a <i>A plan is in place outlining the measures to be taken</i> BI.13.b <i>The plan is being implemented</i>
BI.14	BI.14.a

<p>The Food Standards Agency risk assessment tool for Trichinella is applied annually to relevant units to determine control</p>	<p>The designated vet completes the FSA Trichinella risk assessment tool at least annually and after any significant change to the unit</p> <p>Bl.14.b</p> <p>The designated vet indicates the unit's controlled housing status, informed by the results of the FSA risk assessment tool, via the relevant declaration on every QVR</p>
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Livestock Transport (LT)

<p>LT.4.0 Withdrawal of feed before transport is within prescribed limits to avoid prolonged hunger (NEW)</p>	<p>LT.4.0.a No more than 8 hours prior to transport (to farm or abattoir)</p> <p>LT.4.0.b No more than 12 hours prior to planned arrival at destination</p>
<p>LT.4.1 Journey times (from time of first pig being loaded, to last pig being unloaded) must be kept to a minimum (Revised)</p>	<p>LT.4.1.b Pigs are unloaded without delay on arrival at farm</p>
<p>LT.6 Emergency plans and facilities must be in place (Revised)</p>	<p>LT.6.b A written contingency plan outlines actions to be taken in the event of an emergency during transport of pigs off-farm</p> <p>LT.6.c Any interruption causing a delay of more than one hour to the scheduled arrival time is notified to the receiving slaughterhouse or farm</p>
<p>LT.9 (KEY) Vehicles used to transport pigs must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected with Defra-approved disinfectants (Revised)</p>	<p>LT.9.d Records of vehicle cleaning and disinfection are kept</p>

Environmental Protection and Contamination Control (EC)

<p>EC.1.4 Assessment of site and soil suitability must be undertaken before placing pigs on land for outdoor pig production (NEW)</p>	<p>EC.1.4.a Any identified actions required to improve site suitability for pig production are implemented before pigs are placed</p>
<p>EC.1.5 Injurious weeds (e.g. ragwort) which pigs may access must be controlled</p>	