

PROPOSALS

RED TRACTOR PIG STANDARDS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED STANDARDS

November 2026

Introduction

Dear stakeholder,

Over recent months, Red Tractor's Pigs Sector Board and Technical Advisory Committee have been reviewing the Pigs Standards, listening carefully to farmers and the wider industry about what you need from the standards. One message has come through clearly: standards must continue to protect the reputation of British pig production, but they must also be practical, proportionate and reflect the realities of farming today.

Taking some of the industry's recent challenges into consideration, new welfare and biosecurity requirements are proposed, to ensure the standards remain robust and fit for the future. This includes a suite of standards to support a transition from conventional farrowing crates to alternative systems – following industry engagement and calls from producers for clarity on pen size.

The proposed new Pigs Standards are now open for consultation, and we want to hear from you. We are acutely aware that this consultation comes at a particularly challenging time for the pig sector. Many producers are facing significant financial pressures and uncertainty, and we recognise the difficult circumstances that many businesses are navigating. That's why it's important to stress that any changes arising from this review will not come into effect until late 2027. We're also looking at how assurance is delivered in practice, with a focus on reducing audit burden and making assessments more efficient, including through the use of technology.

We are listening, and this review is an important opportunity to ensure your experience and views help shape what comes next.

Your standards. Your say.

This document sets out the proposed changes, which are also summarised on the Red Tractor website. **All feedback must be submitted via the consultation portal, which can be accessed using the link provided**. This route was chosen to make it easy for farmers to provide their feedback and for us to analyse responses. The consultation is designed so that the most significant changes are presented first and grouped by section. If you are short on time, identify the areas that matter most to you and focus on providing feedback there. You can comment on as many sections as you like, save your progress and return to complete your response later. There is also an opportunity to provide general feedback at the end of the consultation.

We know that listening only matters if it leads to action. Every response will be carefully considered and will help inform the final standards and the future direction of assurance for the pig sector.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views, and for the commitment and resilience you continue to show in supporting British pig production.

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Best wishes,

Stewart Houston, Pigs Sector Chair

Pigs Sector Chair

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How the proposals are presented

The proposals are presented across 7 pages, one for each area of the standards, each with a set of questions for you to consider. View page 7 to review the proposals in full and share any further feedback. You do not have to complete every section. Go to the areas that matter to your enterprise.

What you'll find in each section

Every section follows the same order:

- **Aim** – why the standards in this area exist and what they are there to protect
- **Summary of proposed changes** – a short overview of what is changing, and why
- **Proposed standards** – the full detail, set out in tables

Reading the tables

Each table sets out one row per standard or audit point. The columns tell you:

- **Standard reference** and **Audit point** – the reference code, so you can quote it in your feedback
- **Standards** (Core/Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred (EWOB)/Free Range) – which enterprises the requirement applies to
- **Template available** – ✓ means Red Tractor provides a template you can use
- **Change status** – what is happening to this requirement
-

Where a column does not apply to a particular row, it shows N/A.

Standard definitions

- **Core:** At least the minimum legal requirements for space provision, health and welfare and provision of environmental enrichment.
- **Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred:** Growing pigs are born and live outside until they are weaned and move into housing with solid floors and bedding. Breeding sows live outside for their productive lives, except if soil types and climate are a constraint in which case they can live inside in 'barns' with deep straw bedding for a maximum of 7 weeks at the start of each production cycle.
- **Free Range:** Born and live outside. Generous space allowances according to soil conditions and rotation practices.

What the status labels mean

- **New** - a requirement that does not exist in the current standards
- **Revised** - the requirement itself has changed
- **Upgraded** - the requirement now carries more weight, such as a recommendation becoming a full standard
- **Editorial change** - the wording has been clarified, with no change to what is required
- **Moved** - the same requirement, relocated to a different section
- **Retained** - no change

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Understanding what's required

Standards, audit points and recommendations set different levels of requirements.

Standards: Detail the requirements that Red Tractor members must demonstrate. All standards must be met.

Key Standards: A standard of elevated or particular significance. A major non-conformance raised against a Key Standard (indicating total disregard for the requirements) will result in a suspension of certification until the non-conformance has been addressed or can be legitimately downgraded to a minor non-conformance, allowing 28 days for corrective action. Donated by (Key) alongside the Standard reference e.g. XX.1 (Key)

Audit Points: Provide additional detail about how the Standard will be assessed. Annotated by a lower-case letter following the Standard reference e.g. XX.1.a

Recommendations: Provide guidance on best practice and are assessed to aid industry knowledge and understanding, but do not require compliance. Recommendations do not pre-empt future standards. Some recommendations have remained recommendations since the scheme began.

Unless otherwise stated, the number coding of Standards and Audit Points is consistent with that in version 5 of the Standards. Coding may be modified in final standards.

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How to give feedback

Only feedback submitted via the consultation portal on Red Tractor's website can be considered.

Visit: https://redtractor.org.uk/pigs-consultation/ or scan the QR code below.

- Your answers save as you go, and **save and continue later** at the foot of each page lets you return and finish another time
- On a phone or tablet, the tables scroll sideways so you can see all the columns
- If you have a question about the consultation, contact enquiries@redtractor.org.uk

The consultation closes at midnight on 22 December 2026.

Giving your Feedback

The consultation survey asks specific questions on eleven of the 15 sections, focusing on areas where more significant changes are proposed and where your views will be particularly valuable.

The sections with specific questions are:

- **Documents and Procedures**
- **Traceability and Assurance**
- **Vermin Control**
- **Housing, Shelter and Handling Facilities**
- **Animal Health**
- **Husbandry Procedures**
- **Moving and Handling**
- **Biosecurity**
- **Animal Medicines**
- **Fallen Stock**
- **Environmental Protection**

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You can still comment on any of the proposals across all 16 sections. At the end of the survey, there is an opportunity to provide any other feedback on any of the proposed Poultry Standards.

All questions are optional, and every scored question has a free-text box beneath it. Your comments are as valuable to us as the ratings.

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Proposed Standards

Documents and Procedures (DP)

Aim

Plans and procedures in place to support safe and legal food production and protect farm and industry reputation.

Summary of proposed changes:

No significant overall change to the requirements in this section. Some additional details are asked for on the site/farm plan - although this means a bit more paperwork initially, it should save time at assessment. It's also proposed there's an explicit requirement to keep emergency/ contingency plans up to date.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- DP.1.a was removed as covered under VC.2
- DP.1.b was split from DP.1 as relevant to risk mitigation, not farm appearance
- DP.1.1.a and b have been merged into the standard that requires a farm/site plan. An additional requirement has been added for the inclusion of drinker/feeder provision and the location of muck/slurry/FYM storage
- DP.2: Requirement that the emergency/contingency plan is reviewed and kept current
- DP.2.c has been removed as included in the standard wording

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Section Introduction

This section sets out foundational planning requirements that support safe and legal pig production whilst protecting business and industry reputation Farms should maintain a tidy appearance and manage hazardous materials appropriately. Comprehensive site maps showing stocking density help demonstrate sufficient space is available to the pigs throughout their time on site. Contingency planning and robust complaint handling systems support mitigation of risk, and the impact of unexpected events.

Proposed Standards

Tidy appearance and hazardous materials

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
DP.1 (Key)		The site entrance, and the site as a whole, must present a tidy appearance to the general public	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
DP.1.0.9 (Key)		Materials that present a hazard to livestock, food safety or the environment such as scrap, debris, feed, needles (see AM.7) and old tyres must be managed to mitigate risk to food safety, animal welfare and the environment *	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance Specific requirements for storage, use and disposal of potential pollutants, including chemicals, fuel oils, PPPs and fertilisers, are set out in the Environmental Protection and Contamination Control (EC) section					

Site Plan

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
DP.1.1		A site map or maps must be present to support site management and demonstration of compliance with	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Revised

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		the RT standards. Where relevant to the pig enterprise, the following must be included: • all paddocks and buildings including buildings used for storage • all pig accommodation (pens/shelters/houses/yards/'barns') • usable pig area/space* within buildings/pens/paddocks/shelters • number/amount of provision of feeders and drinkers • note of number of pigs held within each by age or weight (to not exceed maximum stocking rates and minimum feeder and drinker ratios) • slurry/muck stores • where not exported, location of muck heaps • bedded lying area (EW, FR) • watercourses including ditches and ponds • boreholes, springs and wells, including any on neighbouring land within 50m of the boundary of the site(s) • any areas of high pollution risk**			

Proximity to landfill sites

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
DP.1.2		Where a landfill is known to be located within 2km of the pig unit the member must notify the Food Standards Agency	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
		Guidance *Notifications should be sent to sla.contracts@food.gov.uk*			

Emergency/Contingency plan

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
DP.2		There must be a documented plan for the effective management of serious incidents and potential emergency situations that threaten	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained

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		the welfare of livestock, food safety or the environment. It must be documented, reviewed/kept current, and known to those involved in farm tasks As a minimum this should include emergency contact numbers (e.g. vet, feed and water supplier, environment agency hotline) and action to be taken in the event of: - interruptions to pig movements e.g. caused through loss of assured status/suspension or withdrawal from the RT Pigs scheme, inability of processor to accept planned consignments - feed and/or water supply or equipment failing - fire - power cuts - disease outbreaks which have the potential to affect other farms/the general public - activist activity - pollution incident, e.g. slurry spillages or leaks - other site-specific risks (where applicable) - extreme weather/thermal stress contingency*			
Guidance *May be set out separately in the Extreme Weather and Thermal Stress Contingency Plan required at HF.2.1					
DP.2.b		Up-to-date relevant contact details are displayed (including out of hours phone numbers) e.g. vet, electricity supplier, Environment Agency hotline, feed and water supplier	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Complaints/Incidents System

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
DP.3		Systems must be in place for recording, investigating and resolving complaints* that are	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

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		relevant to the requirements of the Red Tractor Standards, including any complaints from abattoirs			
	DP.3.a	System includes recording the: - complaint details - investigation findings - what action was taken to prevent recurrence or reduce the likelihood of the issue recurring	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
Guidance Complaints includes complaints made by local authority, general public, customers/abattoirs or other, including but not limited to those related to animal welfare, food safety, the environment and results/notification of any relevant analyses carried out that have importance to human health e.g. residues in meat					

IPPC/EPR Permits

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
DP.5		The farm holds an environmental permit where required by The Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance An environmental permit is required where the following intensive pig place numbers are exceeded - 2,000 places for production pigs (above 30kg) and/or 750 places for sows					
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	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Resources

- *AHDB contingency planning for pig keepers: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/contingency-planning-for-pig-keepers*
- *Government guidance on farm fires and protecting farm animal welfare: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farm-fires-protecting-farm-animal-welfare*
- *AHDB Livestock: Notifiable diseases: https://ahdb.org.uk/livestock-notifiable-diseases*
- *EPR permit information and applications: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-environmental-permit*

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Give Feedback:
Specific Feedback - DP.1.1 Site plan details: Adding details to the farm/ site plan, that show the amount of feeder and drinker provision and the location of muck and storage facilities, should reduce the time spent on physical checks during the farm assessment. Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Documents and Procedures – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

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Personnel (P)

Aim

Skilled and valued workers have the knowledge, competence, training and support needed to work safely and effectively.

Summary of proposed changes:

Only limited changes are proposed - mainly for stock people to be able to demonstrate relevant skills and knowledge, and for trainees to be overseen until competent. Guidance has been included to link related requirements about specific competencies and knowledge set out in other sections, and examples of the 'specific tasks' that must be listed in the veterinary health plan (VHP).

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- PL.1 Revised to require that personnel have the skills and knowledge required, not only to require that a system is in place for delivering this. Also revised to require that trainees should be overseen until trained/ competent, and guidance has been added to cross reference other relevant standards
- PL.1.b Revised to specify that the required knowledge and skills must be demonstrable
- PL.2.a and b have been merged into the standard wording PL.2
- PL.3.a has been merged into PL.3

Section Introduction

Everyone involved in primary production - including employees, family members and self-employed workers, must have the necessary skills and knowledge for their role, with new starters receiving an induction covering tasks, health and safety, and reporting lines. Training records must be maintained for workers, with annual performance reviews to identify and address any training needs. Where labour providers are used, they must hold a valid Fair Work Agency (FWA) gangmaster license, with documented agreements in place. A written health and safety policy must be communicated to all relevant workers.

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Proposed Standards

Competence, skills and knowledge

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
PL.1 (Key)		All personnel must have the necessary skills and knowledge* to carry out the activities required of them, or if in training they work under the oversight of a suitably experienced person	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Revised
	PL.1.a	Nobody starts work without an induction, covering at least: an explanation of tasks, Health & Safety information, reporting lines			Retained
	PL.1.b	All those responsible for livestock health and welfare must have demonstrable skills and knowledge* in animal husbandry to support good stockmanship			Editorial change
	PL.1.c	Where workers are trained to undertake specific tasks**, these are listed in their training record			Retained

Guidance
*Demonstrable skills and knowledge could be assessed through practical demonstration, or through discussion/explanation
Where relevant , areas of knowledge include but are not limited to:
•Knowledge of the farm VHP (AH.1)
•Defra Code of Recommendation for the Welfare of Livestock – Pigs (AH.7.1)
•Knowledge of Enrichment material needs (AH.12)
•Knowledge of the PVS Casualty Pig (see AH.9.2)
•Knowledge of emergency/ contingency procedures (DP.2, HF.2.1)
**'Specific tasks' refers to particular duties or activities that require particular competence, knowledge or skills. Examples include:
• Routine health and welfare checks
• Moving and handling pigs
•Transporting pigs
•Administering veterinary medicines
•Compromised pig care & management
•Euthanasia
•Husbandry procedures
•Identification and marking pigs

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PL.1.1		All persons involved in the care of pigs on the unit have completed all available mandatory modules on the UK Pig Industry Training platform		T	Retained
	PL.1.1a	Each person has completed the relevant available modules within 3 months of their launch			Retained
	PL.1.1.b	New persons on the unit undertake all available modules within 3 months of starting			Retained
Guidance Most modules are mandatory for all, but where a module is focused on a particular age/class of pig that is not kept on the unit, the persons on the unit are not expected to undertake that module (although they may choose to voluntarily) e.g. the Handling Sows module is not required on a finishing-only unit.					

Training Record

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
PL.2		A training record must be kept for all, including: - name - details of training/title of course or module - date of training - who provided training (in-house or external)	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	PL.2.C	Records kept for 2 years after person has left the business	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Performance Review

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
PL.3		Employees' performance and ability to carry out required work activities must be reviewed and documented annually*	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	PL.3.B	Gaps in competence are addressed by recorded refresher training, implemented immediately or within defined timeline	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance					

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This standard applies to employees (not personnel, workers, family members) * On a site operated by only one person, there is no requirement for that person to undergo an annual performance review (although this could be undertaken by a fields person or other appropriate person if deemed valuable)

Labour providers

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
PL.4		Where labour providers are used, they are licensed* and a documented agreement is in place	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	PL.4.a	All labour providers used hold a valid Fair Work Agency (FWA) gangmaster license	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	PL.4.b	A Service Level Agreement is in place between the business and the labour provider	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	PL.4.c	The agreement confirms that any workers provided are suitably competent	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	PL.4.d	The agreement confirms any training completed by the labour provider as an alternative to the business's own training systems	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	PL.4.e	The agreement confirms that all workers are legally permitted to work within the UK	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	PL.4.f	The agreement defines allocation of Health & Safety responsibilities between labour provider and labour user	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance The Gamemasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) was absorbed into the Fair Work Agency (FWA) in April 2026 The FWA defines specific circumstances which are excluded from the licensing requirements - refer to FWA website for further information. This standard does not apply where workers are supplied outside of the scope of licensing requirements * A labour provider's current license status can be checked at www.glass.gla.gov.uk/public/s/					

Health and safety policy

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
PL.5		There must be a Written Health and Safety Policy	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	PL.5.B	Policy is effectively communicated to all relevant workers	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	PL.5.c	Language and learning style is given due consideration to ensure all workers understand information	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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Guidance
Definition of worker (taken from https://www.gov.uk/employment-status/worker): a person is generally classed as a 'worker' if
• they have a contract or other arrangement to do work or services personally for a reward (your contract doesn't have to be written)
• their reward is for money or a benefit in kind, for example the promise of a contract or future work
• they only have a limited right to send someone else to do the work (subcontract)
• they have to turn up for work even if they don't want to
• their employer has to have work for them to do as long as the contract or arrangement lasts
• they aren't doing the work as part of their own limited company in an arrangement where the 'employer' is actually a customer or client

Resources

AHDB Pig Industry Training Platform
• AHDB Pig Pro online training recording system
• AHDB advice on effective staff appraisals
• Fair Work Agency advice for labour users
• Association of Labour Providers
• Stronger Together
• HSE health and safety guidance
• Farmwise

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Traceability and Assurance (TI)

Aim

Animal identification, movement records, reporting and standstills to support food chain traceability

Summary of proposed changes:

Few other changes are proposed for this section - they include a requirement to have spare digits to hand for any slap markers used, and clarification of sourcing rules applicable to tail docked pigs.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- TI.1.1.b New requirement for spare pins/digits/plates to be readily available, if slapping is carried out
- TI.5.l New - to clarify Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred (EWOB) and Free Range (FR) sourcing rules in relation to pigs with docked tails

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section establishes requirements for animal identification and traceability on Red Tractor assured pig farms. To maintain Red Tractor assured status, pigs and semen must be sourced in accordance with the requirements set out for the relevant enterprise (Core, Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred and Free Range). These traceability requirements support controls in the event of disease outbreaks that threaten animal welfare and food supply, facilitate recognition of different production systems, and ensure food chain integrity throughout the whole Red Tractor supply chain. All pigs must be appropriately identified using approved methods, and equipment must be maintained in clean, serviceable condition. Standstill rules must be observed, accurate movement records kept and pigs in transit accompanied by the required movement documents.

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Animal Identification

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
TI.1 (Key)		Pigs must be identified appropriately	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.1.a	Pigs of any age moving off a holding to a market, a slaughterhouse, a show, for breeding purposes or for export are identified with at least one of: legible slap mark(s), heat- and tamper-resistant ear tag; tattoo of the herdmark on one ear			Retained
	TI.1.b	Means of identification includes a unique identification number for the individual pig if moving to a show, for breeding purposes or for export	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.1.c	Means of identification includes UK-GB when exporting pigs from a holding in GB; UK for export from a holding in Northern Ireland	Core, EWOB. FR		Retained
	TI.1.d	Pigs imported from outside the EU are identified with the destination farm's herdmark and relevant statutory letters (UK and F), within the required timescale	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	TI.1.e	Slapmarking other than for identification with the herdmark is prohibited, except where used in place of an ear tag for individual ID of breeding pigs. A suffix may be used to denote trial pigs	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised

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Guidance Pigs moving to a semen centre for the purpose of collecting semen, or for breeding purposes with the intention of returning the pig to the holding from which it was moved. *In England and Wales the slap mark has to be applied to both shoulders; in Northern Ireland and Scotland the slap mark only has to be applied to one shoulder (although depending on processor requirements producers may apply to both shoulders). Whilst the letters 'UK' must be used on ear tags, these letters are optional for slap marks and ear tattoos (unless required for export). In Northern Ireland all pigs over 6 months of age (even if not moving off the holding) must be identified with an ear tag detailing a full ID mark (holding code plus individual ID number). In addition, pigs under the age of 6 months must be identified with an ear tag, ear tattoo or a slap mark bearing the holding code when moving to another holding for further production. Pigs under 6 months of age moving directly to slaughter may be identified with an ear tag, ear tattoo or a slap mark bearing the holding code.					
TI.1.1		Slap markers/tattoo equipment must be kept clean and in serviceable condition	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.1.1.a	Tattoo equipment is clean with all needles present and straight and characters in the correct order and orientation	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.1.1.b	Where slap markers are used, spare pins/digits/plates should be readily available	Core, EWOB, FR		New

Movement records, reporting and standstills

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
TI.2 (Key)			Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.2.a	Movements of pigs are notified to the relevant authority* where applicable	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.2.b	Movement records are kept as required by local legislation***	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	TI.2.c	Movement records are kept for at least 3 years	Core, EWOB. FR		Retained
	TI.2.d	Controlled housing status for the purposes of Trichinella control is	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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		declared accurately on movement documents			
			Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance *In England and Wales movements must be notified electronically via eAML2. In Northern Ireland, relevant moves must be notified to DAERA. In Scotland movements are notified to the ScotEID movement reporting database. Movements reported to either eAML2 or ScotEID will pre-notify the other respective system, for moves between England/Wales and Scotland. **For Trichinella control, fully enclosed indoor units and outdoor breeding units weaning pigs into indoor set-ups before 5 weeks of age may declare the pigs as coming from controlled housing, as long as all units that pigs are sourced from are also deemed as controlled housing. Units where pigs over 5 weeks of age (excluding breeding boars and sows) have outdoor access must indicate the controlled housing status as determined by the FSA Trichinella risk assessment tool applied annually by the designated vet (see BI.14) *** Currently, required details are: date of move, required identification mark e.g. herdmark, number of pigs, origin, destination.					
TI.3(Key)		Livestock must be accompanied by the required movement and delivery information	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.3.a	Pigs in transit are accompanied by a haulier summary/movement document where required	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.3.b	Food Chain Information (FCI) is sent to the receiving abattoir with each consignment of pigs to slaughter	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the haulier summary must be carried by the person transporting pigs, for all movements. In Northern Ireland the movement document must accompany pigs during transit, except for movements of pigs between different premises within the same holding. In Scotland where a movement has been notified to the ScotEID database the movement does not need to be accompanied by a movement document, except for movements of pigs less than 12 months old (identified with a temporary mark) and movements of pigs to England, Wales or Northern Ireland.					
TI.4 (Key)		Movement restrictions must be strictly observed. Pigs trigger a 20-day standstill on other pigs when they move onto a	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

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		premises. Cattle, sheep and goats trigger a 6-day standstill on pigs when they move onto a premises. Exceptions apply.			

Source of livestock and semen

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
TI.5 (Key)		Controls must be in place to ensure assurance status of livestock and semen being sold as assured	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.a	Pigs and semen are only sourced from sites assured under the Red Tractor or QMS Pigs Scheme, or any other scheme as may be approved from time to time	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.b	No pigs are purchased from live auction markets	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.c	A written derogation from Red Tractor must be sought in advance of intake of any consignment of non-assured breeding stock or semen	Core, EWOB. FR		Retained
	TI.5.d	In order to retain their assured status, stock are transported by members of a recognised livestock transport assurance scheme	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.e	Pigs can only move through a market or collection centre that is Red Tractor Assured for Pigs and only when moving directly to slaughter after	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.f	Pigs may only move to a show if they are moving directly to slaughter after	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.g	There are no non-assured pigs on the unit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.h	Assured sites supplying semen or breeding stock include the source sites RT number on delivery information	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.i	Assured sites supplying semen or breeding stock to Red Tractor assured farms notify their customers within two working days in the event of their certificate being suspended or withdrawn	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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	TI.5.j	Pigs to be reared and processed as Red Tractor Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred may only be sourced from sites participating in Red Tractor's Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred enterprise*	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.k	Pigs to be reared and processed as Red Tractor Free Range must have been kept outdoors for their entire life and must be sourced from Red Tractor Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred or Red Tractor Free Range certified units	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	TI.5.l	Breeding pigs sourced for the Red Tractor Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred enterprise**and all pigs sourced for the Red Tractor Free Range enterprise must not have docked tails	Core, EWOB, FR		New
Guidance See Appendix for more information on chain of assurance requirements. Recognised transport assurance schemes are the RT Livestock Transport Scheme or the QMS Haulage Assurance Scheme. Livestock can only be transported by a member's own trailer (audited under LT section during RT Pigs Scheme audit) or an assured haulier. It is not permitted for a member to transport pigs for another member using their own trailer even if assured. *It is accepted that replacement breeding stock may come from a unit that is not participating in EWOB. ** It is accepted that replacement gilts brought onto an outdoor breeding unit may already be tail docked. This should be avoided where possible					
	TI.5.1 (Recommendation)	It is recommended that the assurance status of source farms is verified using Red Tractor Checkers and Services no more than 72 hours before intake of any pigs	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
TI.6		Importation of breeding stock and/or semen from outside the UK into Great Britain or Northern Ireland must be done in accordance with the NPA Imports Protocol	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	TI.6.a	There is a signed veterinary statement, from the vet responsible for the unit importing the stock/semen, confirming that the NPA Imports Protocol (or equivalent) has been complied with	Core, EWOB		Retained

PROPOSALS

TI.7		Records must be kept of all breeding stock and semen suppliers	Core, EWOB		Retained
	TI.7.a	Records include supplying farm name, address, postcode and assurance number (unless non-assured)	Core, EWOB		Retained
	TI.7.b	Breeding stock records are kept for 6 years	Core, EWOB		Retained

Resources

- https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/identification-registration-and-movement-pigs
- eAML2 electronic pig movement reporting: https://www.eaml2.org.uk/ami/about.eb
- ScotEID electronic pig movement reporting: https://www.scoteid.com/user/register
- Governments guidance on pig identification and movements:
    - England - https://www.gov.uk/topic/keeping-farmed-animals/pig-identity-registration-movements (England)
    - Wales– https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-01/pig-identification-and-movement-guidance.pdf (Wales)
    - Scotland – https://www.gov.scot/publications/livestock-identification-and-traceability-guidance/pages/pigs/ (Scotland)
    - Northern Ireland - https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/identification-registration-and-movement-pigs
- Red Tractor Checker service to complete assurance checks on other farms, hauliers and markets: https://checkers.redtractor.org.uk/rtassurance/services.eb
- NPA Imports Protocol: https://nationalpigassociation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NPA-Imports-Protocol-lastupdated-July-25.pdf

Give Feedback:

Specific feedback - TI.1.1.b Spare digits: Non-conformance data indicates issues with damaged slap marker digits which can result in wasted carcases. To what extent do you agree that pig finishing sites should have spare digits, plates or pins readily available to allow damaged parts to be replaced promptly?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Traceability and Assurance – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards?

- Agree

PROPOSALS

- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Vermin Control (VC)

Aim

Effective control of pests and vermin

Summary of proposed changes:

A section introduction has been added for context and content. Subheadings have been added to aid navigation and cross references to related standards have been added where helpful.

Changes in detail

- VC.1.a was upgraded to a standard VC.2 , ' harbourage' that should be removed where practicable is not restricted only to vegetation, and removal of attractants now explicitly required.
- VC.1.b has been removed as covered by VC.3
- VC.1.c has been removed as covered within new VC.3
- VC.2 has ben removed as replaced within VC.4
- VC.3 (New) replaces VC.2.a, VC.2.d and VC.e
- VC.4 (new) has been re numbered from VC.2 and reworded to include relevant areas of assessment. And is less prescriptive about records unless toxic bait is used . Replaces VC.b, VC.c, VC.f, VC.g,, VC.h
- VC.2.a-VC.2.h were removed due to CRRU removed earned recognition.
- VC.6.a was merged into the standard
- Note: Unless otherwise stated, the number coding of Standards and Audit Points is consistent with that in version 5 of the Standards. Coding may be modified in final standards.

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section sets out requirements for effective management of pest and vermin that pose risks to animal health through disease transmission, contamination of feed, and damage to buildings and essential services on which livestock depend.
There must be effective control measures, including removing harbourage and attractants were reasonably practicable. If infestation occurs it must be managed responsibly. If toxic bait is used, strict requirements apply to storage, use, disposal and record-keeping.

PROPOSALS

Tidy appearance and hazardous materials

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
VC.1 (Key)		There must be effective control of pests and vermin	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
VC.2 (Key)		Harbourage, and unnecessary attractants such as spilt feed under feed silos, should be removed where reasonably practicable	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
VC.3 (Key)		Selected control methods must be operated responsibly*	Core, EWOB, FR		New
VC.4		Where toxic bait is used, it must be stored, used and disposed of responsibly, and records kept for a period of 12 months	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
VC.6		Ongoing action must be taken to minimise fly infestations, where they are evident	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Give Feedback:
Specific Feedback - VC.2 Harbourage and attractants
To discourage pest and vermin activity, in addition to the removal of harbourage provided by vegetation, to what extent do you agree that harbourage provided by other things, such as building materials alongside pig housing and unnecessary attractants (such as feed spilt beneath silos), should be removed where reasonably practicable?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Vermin Control – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree

PROPOSALS

- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Housing, Shelter and Handling Facilities (HF)

Aim

Safe, comfortable and hygienic housing and facilities

Summary of proposed changes:

The proposal for this section includes a number of changes, including new standards for indoor 'flexi-farrowing' systems, where temporary crating can be used flexibly, only during the initial period around farrowing. The sow is provided with material specifically suitable for nesting, for at least 3 days before farrowing, as well as permanent enrichment material. Sows must have sufficient space to turn freely, gather their piglets together, and lie and nest away from feeding and dunging areas.

These 'flexi-farrowing' standards will enable producers, through Red Tractor, to demonstrate the UK pig industry's voluntary shift to alternative farrowing systems with reduced confinement. The proposed requirements align with competing countries or where equivalence is important for export. They are based on welfare studies and evolving operational and design experience and balance the welfare needs of the sow and her piglets with stockperson safety.

No new, 'new to you' or 'new use' of conventional crate systems is proposed. The period for which nesting materials are provided has been aligned across all farrowing systems, the number of additional litters fostered by a single sow has been limited to one, and an increased space provision is proposed in the Core enterprise for finishers with an average liveweight per head over 130kg.

Adjustments to requirements for heat stress contingency planning are also proposed, and an alarm acknowledgment time introduced. The means of cooling pigs in outdoor units remains mandatory. A similar requirement is now proposed as a recommendation only, for pigs in indoor units.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- HF.1.a and HF.1.d have been merged into the standard HF.1
- HF.1.b and HF.1.c have been merged into HF.1.1
- HF.6.5 and 6.5.a were merged and moved to HF.1.2
- HF.2.0 is a new recommendation to provide all indoor pigs with the means of cooling. Suggested options include a well-insulated building, controlled targeted ventilation, evaporative cooling systems, cool surfaces for pigs to lie on and portable fans.
- HF.2.1.b Relevant staff should be sufficiently acquainted with the farm's Extreme Weather/ Thermal Stress Contingency Plan to effectively use it as a 'go-to' reference when needed.

PROPOSALS

- HF.2.3.a absorbed HF.2.3.b
- HF.2.3.b and c are new and set an alarm response time of 15 minutes, and require a record of triggered alarms (not applicable to 'non-critical' alarms such as those triggered by temperature 'blips')
- HF.3.3 has been split into a revised HF.3.3 and new HF.3.3.1 to aid clarity for outdoor access requirements for pigs in the different enterprises
- HF.3.3.b has been removed as covered by HF.3.3.1
- HF.4.a Combined with audit point HF.4b and made explicit that access to dry lying is for all pigs at all times. Guidance has been added to acknowledge circumstances in which it is acceptable that dry lying for all pigs is temporarily unavailable e.g. in mitigation of heat stress.
- HF.4.b was merged into audit point HF.4.a
- HF.5.e guidance that requirement to keep windows clean may not apply where left unclean to reduce the effect of heat from the sun.
- HF.6.a Revised - space provision for finisher pigs with average liveweight of up to 130kg, 150kg and over 150kg increased from 1.00m2 to 1.07m2, 1.15m2 respectively
- HF.6.1.1.a requiring 48 hours electric fence training, where it is used, was merged into HF.6.1.1
- HF.6.2 moved to HF.0
- HF.6.4 has been renumbered to HF.6.6
- HF.6.5 and HF.6.5.a have been combined into a single standard and moved to HF.1.2
- HF.7.1 has been re-worded to be specific about tethers and stalls split off to HF.7.2
- HF.7.1.a has been replaced by HF.7.2
- HF.7.2 was HF.7.2, editorial change
- HF.6.3.a is now HF.7.3.a
- HF.6.3.b is now HF.7.3.b
- HF.8 and HF.8.1 are new requirements that there is no new use of new or 'new to you' conventional farrowing crates unless only used temporarily during transition to alternative farrowing systems e.g. flexible or free farrowing systems
- HF.9.6.b is now HF.9.c
- HF.9.1.c New 'Grandfather rights' on specific flexi pen measurements for early adopters subject to other requirements being met e.g. sow being able to turn unhindered
- HF.9.1.d New flexi-farrowing pens to allow gilts/ sows to turn unhindered, rise, lie down fully , access enrichment materials, and feeding and dunging areas without difficulty
- HF.9.1.e New - flexi-farrowing pen size - 6.5m2 including minimum dedicated piglet creep of 0.7m2 and a free area for nesting, separate from dunging and feeding
- HF.9.1.f New - flexi-farrowing pen turning circle must be a minimum of 1.6m. Paired guidance that some producers may prefer to provide larger pens with a turning circle of at least 1.8m for account for larger sows

PROPOSALS

- HF.9.2.b Requirement for gilts/ sows to enter outdoor farrowing accommodation at least 3 days before their expected farrowing date, extended to sows entering flexi-farrowing systems
- HF.9.2.1 New recommended standard that all gitls/sows enter farrowing accommodation at least 3 days prior to their expected farrowing date
- HF.9.3 recommendation to open temporary crates in flexi-farrowing pen as soon as practicable has been upgraded to a standard
- HF.9.3.a New requirement - temporary confinement in flexi-farrowing pens must be for no more than 24 hours prior to farrowing, and no more than 7 days maximum afterwards (expected date for batch, where applicable)
- HF.9.3.b New requirement - temporary confinement in flexi-farrowing pens, after the initial period if necessary, around farrowing, must only be if needed for stockperson safety (for a maximum of 1 hour) or in exceptional circumstances (e.g. for the protection of piglets from an aggressive sow)
- HF.9.4 b Revised - nurse sows only to foster a maximum of one litter
- HF.9.5 Editorial
- HF.9.5.c New - nesting material to be provided in farrowing accommodation, for the whole pre farrowing period until expected farrowing date (of the batch, where applicable)
- HF.9.5.d was HF.9.5.c

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section sets out requirements for housing, shelter and handling facilities on Red Tractor assured pig farms. Facilities must securely contain pigs, provide dry lying areas and avoid hazards such as sharp edges or unsafe flooring. A comfortable thermal environment is essential. Where forced or automatic ventilation is used, an alarm system must be in place along with contingency arrangements.

Periods of light and dark that allow normal behaviours, rest and inspection are also set out, along with conditions for slats, bedding and minimum space provision for different systems. Pigs are social animals and should be kept in suitable groups with minimal mixing. Tiered cages and tethers are prohibited, and stalls may only be used for short periods in limited circumstances - for example when sows are being fed individually to ensure each receives her full ration.

Farrowing accommodation requirements are set out for different systems including outdoor (free) farrowing, flexi-farrowing (where temporary restriction of movement may optionally be used for a few days around the initial period of farrowing, for the protection of piglets) and conventional farrowing crates. Materials must be provided for every farrowing sow and gilt to enable her to satisfy her overwhelming need to nest during the farrowing period.

PROPOSALS

Multi level housing

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.0		If a balcony system is installed, it must meet scheme requirements specified in the relevant appendix of these standards	Core		Moved
	HF.0.5	Tiered cages are not allowed	Core, EWOB,FR		Moved
Guidance For the purposes of the scheme, a cage is defined as an enclosure of bars and/or wires for keeping animals in. A tiered system, in which pigs are kept in two or more levels within the same airspace, is permitted provided the design meets the balcony system specification outlined in HF.6.5 and associated Appendix.					

Safe, secure housing

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.1 (Key)		Housing must securely contain livestock, including young piglets outdoors that should be prevented from straying by the provision of fenders or similar	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
HF.1.1		Housing and equipment should not present a hazard to pigs (e.g. sharp edges, projections, hazardous holes in flooring, accessible electrical installations)	Core, EWOB,FR		Editorial change

Thermal comfort and ventilation

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.2		Facilities must provide a comfortable thermal environment	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.2.a	Ventilation minimises high humidity, build-up	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

		of odours and maintains a comfortable temperature			
	HF.2.b	Covered shelter is available to pigs on outdoor sites to protect from weather with sufficient space for all pigs to lie at once	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.2.c	On outdoor sites, cooling and sun-protection measures* are provided when necessary for the protection and comfort of all pigs, including those in farrowing paddocks	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance *Cooling and sun protection measures such as: • insulated huts • mud wallows • sufficiently sized cool, well-ventilated areas which are shaded, for example by canopies. Where pigs are kept in groups, these areas should be big enough for them to all lie down simultaneously but to lie apart from each other if they wish to do so • showers/sprinklers (in addition to protection from the sun) •ground cover plants to reduce heat reflection and cool the ground					
HF.2.0 Recommendation		It is recommended that all pigs in indoor accommodation are provided with the means of cooling where necessary*	Core, EWOB		
Guidance *As should be identified in the extreme weather/thermal stress contingency plan (HF.2.1). Options include a well-insulated building, controlled targeted ventilation, evaporative cooling, cool surfaces for pigs to lie on, and portable fans. It is recommended that a pig building ventilation specialist assesses suitability for existing and new buildings.					
HF.2.1		There must be a written extreme weather/ thermal stress contingency plan to	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

PROPOSALS

		minimise heat and cold stress and ensure vital resources			
	HF.2.1.a	The plan must be documented, reviewed annually and include measures for: •Hot weather •Cold weather •Freezing drinking water •Ventilation •Emergency procedures for all ventilation systems (including manually operated) •Transport •Cleaning and maintenance of ventilation systems	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Revised
	HF.2.1.b	Relevant staff are acquainted* with the plan and can access it without delay	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance Pigs experience thermal stress when behavioural and physiological adaptations are insufficient to maintain body temperature and they are pushed outside their thermoneutral zone. Risk factors include extreme heat or cold, rapid temperature changes, severe wet weather, inadequate ventilation or ventilation failure. Pigs are particularly vulnerable to heat stress because they have very limited sweat glands. Extreme or prolonged thermal stress can cause multi-organ failure and death. Relevant publications and guidance are listed in the 'where to find help' panel at the end of this section. *'Acquainted' means sufficiently familiar with the plan to use it effectively as a 'go-to' reference. Detailed knowledge is not required.'					

Ventilation Systems – alarms and back up

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.2.3		Where there is insufficient self-ventilation and forced or automatic ventilation is used, there must be an alarm system in place to warn of failure	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	HF.2.3.a	Alarm system is tested weekly and a record kept	Core, EWOB,FR	T	Editorial change
	HF.2.3.b	Alarms must be acknowledged within 15 minutes	Core, EWOB, FR		New
	HF.2.3.c	A record must be kept of triggered critical* alarms including response time	Core, EWOB, FR		New
Guidance *It is not expected that alarms that are not critical e.g. relating to 'temperature blips', are recorded					
HF.2.4		Back-up provision must be available in case of ventilation failure	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Floors, slats, bedding, clean & dry lying area, outdoor access

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.3		Floors must be constructed and maintained in a manner that minimises risk of injury to pigs	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.3.a	Flooring is designed and maintained in such a way that pigs do not slip	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	HF.3.b	There is evidence of ongoing maintenance of flooring and repairs where needed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
HF.3.1 (Key)		Where concrete slatted floors are in use, current UK legislation on slot and beam widths must be adhered to	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.3.1.a	Class of pig = Piglets Max. permitted tolerance (mm) = 0 Max. width of slots (mm) = 11 Min. beam width (mm) = 50 Class of pig = Weaners Max. permitted tolerance	Core, EWOB		Retained

PROPOSALS

		(mm) = +2 Max. width of slots (mm) = 14 Min. beam width (mm) = 50 Class of pig = Rearing & finishing pigs Max. permitted tolerance (mm) = +3 Max. width of slots (mm) = 18 Min. beam width (mm) = 80 Class of pig = Gilts after service, sows Max. permitted tolerance (mm) = +3 Max. width of slots (mm) = 20 Min. beam width (mm) = 80 Class of pig = Boars Max. permitted tolerance (mm) = +3 Max. width of slots (mm) = 20 Min. beam width (mm) = 80			
HF.3.2 (Key)		All pigs must have access at all times to a solid and bedded lying area	EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.3.2.a	Bedding material is safe, comfortable, absorbent and provides thermal comfort	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.3.2.b	Bedding is provided in sufficient quantity for comfort and hygiene	EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Suitable bedding material includes straw, wood shavings and coarse sawdust. The following materials are not permitted for use as bedding: waste plasterboard and/or waste gypsum, anaerobic digestate, mushroom compost, peat, recycled manure solids (“green bedding”), rubber. This requirement applies to pigs of all age categories, including breeding females in farrowing accommodation					

PROPOSALS

HF.3.3 (Key)		Adult breeding animals during their productive life* and piglets from birth to weaning must be kept outdoors	EWOB,FR		Editorial change
HF.3.3.1 (Key)		All rearing pigs from weaning to slaughter must be kept outdoors	FR		Editorial change
Guidance Outdoor access means in fields on soil with huts/tents/other accommodation available for protection from weather. Pigs are free to roam within defined boundaries. *Where soil types and climate are a constraint, gestating sows may be kept in barns, in groups, on deep straw bedding for a maximum of seven weeks at the start of each production cycle.					
HF.4 (Key)		Conditions must be managed to ensure livestock are able to keep clean	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	HF.4.a	Floors are well-drained or maintained with dry bedding so that all pigs have access to a dry lying area at all times*	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	HF.4.c	Where there is evidence pigs are persistently lying dirty, corrective and preventative measures are being implemented	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	HF.4.d	Surfaces within housing are maintained in a good condition and can be cleaned and disinfected			Retained
Guidance * In exceptional circumstances, it may be acceptable for there to be no dry lying area temporarily in order to mitigate heat stress e.g. when misters/sprinklers are used as part of the Extreme Weather/ Thermal Stress Contingency Plan required at HF.2.1					

Light and dark periods

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status

PROPOSALS

HF.5		Lighting in housing must allow normal behaviours, rest and effective inspection of livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.5.a	Adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) is available to enable inspection of stock at any time	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	HF.5.b	During light periods, pigs have access to an area that is lit to an intensity of at least 40 lux at pig head height	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.5.c	There is a period of at least 8 hours of continuous light per 24 hour period, except where natural daylight period is shorter and where creep lights are used in farrowing pens	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.5.d	There is a period of at least 6 hours of continuous darkness per 24 hour period (except where natural daylight period is longer resulting in a shorter natural period of darkness)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.5.e	Lighting, lighting fixtures and windows are kept clean* and well-maintained	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
Guidance * In hot weather windows may be left uncleaned to reduce the effect of heat from the sun					

Stocking density, usable space and groupings

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.6 (Key)		Growing pigs must be provided with sufficient space	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

PROPOSALS

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.a</td><td><table><tr><th>max average live weight (kg)</th><th>m2</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>0.15</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>0.2</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td>0.3</td></tr><tr><td>50</td><td>0.4</td></tr><tr><td>85</td><td>0.55</td></tr><tr><td>110</td><td>0.65</td></tr><tr><td>130</td><td>1.00</td></tr><tr><td>150</td><td>1.07</td></tr><tr><td>>150</td><td>1.15</td></tr></table></td><td>Core</td><td></td><td>Revised</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.c</td><td>For growing pigs housed indoors, where at least one third of the total area is mucked out at least twice a week, minimum area per pig (m2) is:
USE TABLE IN EXISTING V.5.2 standard</td><td>EWOB</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.d</td><td>For growing pigs in deep litter straw yards, minimum total floor area per pig (m2) is:
USE TABLE IN EXISTING V.5.2 standard</td><td>EWOB</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.e</td><td>For growing pigs in outdoor systems, minimum total floor area per pig (m2):USE TABLE IN EXISTING V.5.2 standard</td><td>EWOB</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.f</td><td>At least 40m2/pig paddock space except where accommodation is moved to new paddocks after each batch when this may be reduced to 12m2/pig*. Minimum lying area in shelters as per HF.6.c</td><td>FR</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.g</td><td>Pigs have enough space to allow all the animals to lie down at the same time</td><td>Core, EWOB, FR</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Guidance
*Total area (but not the lying area) in HF.6.f for free range growing pigs may be reduced for a maximum of three weeks post-weaning to enable pigs to become accustomed to their new paddocks. It is permitted to move finished pigs into accommodation (i.e. no longer free range) for sorting no more than 48 hours prior to collection for transport to the abattoir. In such cases the requirements of HF.6.c and HF.3.2 apply.</td></tr>
<tr><td>HF.6.1</td><td></td><td>Breeding pigs must be provided with sufficient space</td><td>Core, EWOB, FR</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>HF.6.1.a</td><td>Pens used to house a group of sows/gilts have sides longer than 2.8m, except where</td><td>Core</td><td></td><td>Retained</td></tr>
</table>

PROPOSALS

		there are 6 or fewer sows/gilts in which case the sides are no less than 2.4m in length (see Appendix for further guidance)			
	HF.6.1.b	The total unobstructed floor area available to each gilt after service, and to each sow when gilts and/or sows are kept in groups, is at least 1.64m2 and 2.25m2 respectively	Core		Retained
	HF.6.1.c	For gilts after service and pregnant sows, a part of the total unobstructed floor area required (at least 0.952m2 per gilt and at least 1.3m2 per sow) is of continuous solid floor of which a maximum of 15% is reserved for drainage openings	Core		Retained
	HF.6.1.d	Adult boars are provided with a minimum unobstructed floor area of 6m2 for their own use	Core		Retained
	HF.6.1.e	Where boar pens are used for natural service, a minimum of 10m2 floor area is provided and pen design allows adequate movement	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.6.1.f	The total unobstructed floor area available to each gilt after service (first and second parity) and to each mature sow is 2.5m2 and 3.5m2 respectively	EWOB		Retained
	HF.6.1.g	Adult boars are provided with a minimum unobstructed floor area of 7.5m2	EWOB		Retained
	HF.6.1.h	Stocking density must not exceed 30 adult pigs per hectare	EWOB		Retained
	HF.6.1.i	Bedded lying area (shelters) is at least 1m2 for first and second parity animals and 1.5m2 for mature sows	EWOB		Retained

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.6.6		Pigs must always be able to see other pigs, except where the pig is isolated for veterinary reasons, or whilst sows/gilts are in farrowing pens	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
HF.7		Livestock must be kept in appropriate groups	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.7.a	Grouped appropriately by size, age, production status	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.7.b	Sows and gilts must always be kept in groups, except if they are in farrowing accommodation during the period between 7 days before	Core, EWOB		Editorial change

PROPOSALS

		farrowing and the day on which weaning is completed			
	HF.7.c	Weaners and rearing pigs are kept in stable groups with as little mixing as possible	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.7.d	Action is being taken to address any negative impacts of rearing entire males and females together, where present. Demonstrated through either: - splitting pigs by sex* before 50kg liveweight most of the time - sharing with Red Tractor evidence of welfare outcomes (e.g. lameness, skin lesions) and alternative management	EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Where it is not possible to evenly split sex all the pigs whilst still meeting the space requirements of these standards, up to 5% of the herd can be put into mixed sex pens. In all circumstances, any 'smalls' (smaller pigs that are less robust and need separating from other pigs in the main herd) can be put into mixed sex pens, but these must not make up more than 10% of the herd. Hospital pen(s) can contain both sexes at the same time.					

Electric Fencing

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.6.1.1		Where not previously trained, a training area must be used for at least 48 hours to allow each new gilt, sow and boar to become accustomed to electric fencing, if it is used	Core, EWOB,		Editorial change

Grouping

Tethers and stalls

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.7.1		Pigs must not be kept in tethers	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
HF.7.2		Pigs must not be kept in stalls except temporarily in the following circumstances, but never for more than 4 hours: - when undergoing examinations, tests,	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

PROPOSALS

		treatments or operations for veterinary purposes - during service or artificial insemination - while being fed - for the purpose of marking, weighing or washing - whilst cleaning accommodation - while waiting to be loaded for transportation			
HF.7.3		Where self-locking individual feeding stalls are used, certain conditions must be met	Core, EWOB,		Retained
	HF.7.3.a	They can only be included in usable floor area if they are freely accessible (other than in circumstances outlined in HF.7.2)	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.7.3.b	There is a separate place where the pigs can lie together as a group	Core, EWOB,		Retained

Farrowing Facilities

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.8		Conventional farrowing crates* must not be used ˜	EWOB		New
HF.8.1		Where conventional farrowing crates* are used they must have been installed and been in ongoing use prior to October 2027	Core		New

Guidance
'Conventional farrowing crates' is the term used by Red Tractor to mean crates, conventionally used to confine gilts/ sows from a few days before farrowing until weaning, that do not allow her to turn around or walk more than one pace forward and one pace backwards. This requirement supports an industry move away from the use of conventional farrowing crates towards higher welfare alternatives for the sow, whilst maintaining protection for piglets.

˜Red Tractor does not accept new conventional farrowing crates or new use of conventional farrowing crates, but for the safety of workers and livestock, repairs to individual crates are accepted. Temporary use of additional conventional crates is accepted if required during transition to alternative farrowing systems such as flexi or free farrowing.

'Flexi-farrowing' is the term used by Red Tractor to describe where a crate, other than a conventional farrowing crate, may be used flexibly - to temporarily confine a gilt or sow around the time of farrowing when piglets are most vulnerable, then opened up afterwards so she is completely unrestrained.

PROPOSALS

HF.9		There must be appropriate facilities for livestock to give birth	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.9.a	Farrowing environment is designed such that the sow and her piglets stay clean and dry throughout lactation	Core, EWOB,		Retained
	HF.9.b	Outdoor farrowing accommodation is sited on level ground (not excessively sloped or very uneven)	Core, EWOB		Retained
Guidance Producers should avoid routinely placing sows in different types of farrowing accommodation on a litter-by-litter basis					
	HF.9.c	Where gilts/sows are not restrained in conventional farrowing crates during farrowing/ lactation for the protection of their piglets, farrowing rails or other means to protect piglets * from crushing must be in place	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HF.9.d	Non-solid flooring openings must be no greater than 11mm	Core		New
Guidance * Features that can provide piglets with protection also include horizontal or bowed rails, and the sloped internal sides of outdoor farrowing arcs					
HF.9.1		Farrowing accommodation must be of a sufficient size	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.9.1.a	An unobstructed area behind the sow or gilt is available for farrowing	Core, EWOB.		Retained
	HF.9.1.b	Where a crate is used the sow can stand up and lie down at full length, but excessive movement is prevented	Core		Retained
	HF.9.1.c	Where flexi-farrowing * pens were installed or in progress prior to October 2027*	Core		New

PROPOSALS

		HF.9.1.e and HF.9.1.f do not apply			
	HF.9.1.d	Where free or flexi-farrowing systems/pens are used, sows/gilts must be able to turn around unhindered** (other than those times as described in HF.7.2, HF.9.3.a and HF.9.3.b). They must be able to rise, lie down fully on their side, access enrichment material, and access feeding and dunging areas at all times without difficulty	Core		New
	HF.9.1.e	Total flexi-farrowing[x] pen size, excluding the area of any feeding stall provided, must be a minimum of 6.5m2 and must provide a free area for the gilt/sow for nesting, separate functional areas for dunging and feeding[k] and a dedicated piglet creep area of at least 0.70m2 ***	Core		New
	HF.9.1.f	To allow unhindered turning for the sow/gilt, a minimum turning circle of 1.6m must be provided****	Core		New

Guidance

[x]'Flexi-farrowing' is the term used by Red Tractor to describe where a crate, other than a conventional farrowing crate, may be used flexibly - to temporarily confine a gilt or sow around the time of farrowing when piglets are most vulnerable, then opened up afterwards so she is completely unrestrained. Good pen design and operation are critical. Pen size and dimensions directly impact the sow's ability to safely turn when interacting with her piglets, particularly when grouping piglets prior to lying down to nurse. It also affects how well the pen functions: the sow needs sufficient space to turn after feeding to ensure she defaecates away from the feeder and creep, otherwise hygiene will be affected. As well as the minimum sow turning circle of 1.6m, evidence suggests pens need to have at least one-dimension in the sow area of no less than 2.5m long to enable these essential functional behaviours. Farm vets and specialist manufacturers may be able to offer guidance about design and offer support for developing clear management protocols and training staff in new ways of working.

[k]It is acknowledged there can be overlap of functional areas within the sow area for feeding and dunging.

PROPOSALS

* In recognition of early adopters' commitment to improving animal welfare by transitioning away from conventional crates, prior to the Red Tractor specification for flexi-farrowing[x] pens, the specific measurements set out in HF.9.1.e and HF.9.1.f are not required. All other relevant requirements apply. 'In progress' means installed, in the process of installation, ordered from the manufacturer or included in an application that has been made to the relevant authority for planning approval ** The gilt/ sow can make some contact with the pen wall or pen components, but without having to squeeze ***0.7m2 can offer protection for the piglets for around the first 2 weeks of life when they are most vulnerable. This separate creep area is in addition to areas behind/underneath protection features (as required by HF.9.c) in the rest of the pen. Producers may wish to provide larger separate piglet creeps to account for big litters or for whole litters to use for longer, but this space should be in addition to the minimum 6.5m2 total pen size (as required in HF.9.1e), so as not to reduce the sow area. **** Producers may wish to consider providing larger pens with a turning circle of 1.8m for larger sows to turn unhindered, accounting for their biomechanics when turning. Further information can be found here: Frontiers | Sows turned unhindered at less than their own body length - implications for farrowing pen design.					
HF.9.2		Sows must be moved in to farrowing accommodation at an appropriate time	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.9.2.a	Sows should not enter farrowing accommodation more than 7 days prior to their expected farrowing date*	Core. EWOB		Editorial change
	HF.9.2.b	In outdoor and flexi-farrowing systems, gilts/ sows must enter farrowing accommodation at least 3 days prior to their expected farrowing date*	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
HF.9.2.1 Recommendation		Where conventional farrowing crates are in use, it is recommended that sows/gilts enter farrowing accommodation at least 3 days prior to their expected farrowing date*	Core		New
Guidance *Where sows/gilts are grouped in production batches, the period can be measured from the expected farrowing date of the batch					
HF.9.3		Where a crate is used in a flexi-farrowing* system, to temporarily confine the sow,	Core		

PROPOSALS

		it must be opened up to allow her to turn freely as soon as practicable *			
	HF.9.3.a	The initial period of temporary confinement must be for no more than 24 hours prior to expected farrowing and no more than a maximum of 7 days after farrowing **	Core		
	HF.9.3.b	After the period of temporary confinement around farrowing, further confinement of the sow is only permissible • for stockperson safety when working in or around the pen, for a maximum of 1 hour *** • in exceptional circumstances, e.g. for protection of the piglets from an aggressive sow ****	Core		
Guidance *The Defra Code of Practice states that temporary crating systems should usually be opened within four days of farrowing, unless there is an overriding health or welfare reason to alter this. However, further research and commercial experience is needed to identify the optimum time at which to remove confinement and to develop best practice around these systems. ** Where sows/gilts farrow in groups/batches, there can be welfare benefits to opening temporary crates for the whole batch, altogether. It is therefore accepted that these required periods can be measured from the expected farrowing date of the group/ batch rather than the individuals within the group. *** Confinement for stockperson safety should be for the minimum amount of time necessary and other measures should be sought to avoid need for such confinement in the future, e.g. additional stockperson training. **** Exceptional circumstances may include periods of exceptionally hot weather when sows/gilts and their piglets can show climate related behavioural changes to reduce heat stress (e.g. sows/gilts restless posture changes to dissipate heat, piglets lying outside of the creep). Temporary use of confinement during these periods should only be applied where reasonable efforts to mitigate temperature extremes have failed.					
HF.9.4		Farrowing confinement facilities must only be used for a minimum period	Core		Retained

PROPOSALS

	HF.9.4.a	Post-farrowing, sows may only remain confined in a farrowing crate whilst suckling piglets and for a maximum of 5 weeks, except where individual nurse sows are required to suckle additional piglets	Core		Retained
	HF.9.4.b	Nurse sows may only be kept in farrowing accommodation for a maximum of 8 weeks post-farrowing and only where she - fosters a maximum of only one litter - is in suitable body condition throughout the period - has no shoulder sore - shows no sign of lameness	Core, EWOB		Revised
HF.9.5		In addition to enrichment materials, as per the requirements of AH.12, sows/gilts must be given sufficient suitable material* to satisfy nest-building behaviour	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HF.9.5.a	Nesting material* is provided regardless of the slurry system	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.9.5.b	Nesting material is placed where the gilt/ sow can easily access it	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HF.9.5.c	Nesting material must always be available while the sow/gilt is in farrowing accommodation in the pre-farrowing period	Core, EWOB		New
	HF.9.5.d	As a minimum, provided throughout the 24 hour period prior to expected farrowing	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
Guidance					

PROPOSALS

*Acceptable nesting material for Certified Standards (PG) includes, but is not limited to, wood shavings, shredded paper, straw, hessian sack/pieces, natural rope (ideally extending to the floor so the sow can push it along the floor). Acceptable nesting material for Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred (PW) is at least 2kg of long-stemmed or long-cut straw, hay or haylage only. There are separate requirements for all pigs to be permanently provided with enrichment material(s), which are set out at AH. 12.key					
HF.9.6		Indoor free farrowing pens must be designed appropriately	Core		Editorial change

Loading Facilities

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HF.10		Facilities must be available on farm that enable the loading and unloading of livestock with minimal stress and risk of injury to livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.10.a	Adequate lighting* to inspect stock at point of loading	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance * Lighting may be from a fixed or mobile source e.g. torch, vehicle lights					
	HF.10.b	Structurally sound and stable gates/barriers to prevent livestock escaping	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.10.c	Facilities are free from sharp edges or other projections which may cause injury to livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.10.d	If loading ramps are used the angle is not steeper than 20 degrees and risk of slipping is minimised	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
HF.11		Where pigs are not held in their normal accommodation prior to transport, the area must	Core, EWOB. FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

		be managed appropriately			
	HF.11.a	Pigs have access to water	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.11.b	Maximum stocking densities for the relevant enterprise* are adhered to for weaners awaiting transport	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HF.11.c	All other categories of pigs are stocked appropriately for comfort and thermoregulation	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance ** E.g. in pre-loading pens or lairage. The relevant maximum stocking densities are set out in HF.6*					

Resources

WTFH Useful Links:

• AHDB Guidance on transitioning to alternative farrowing systems: Alternative and free farrowing options for pig farms | AHDB

• SRUC – information and resources for pig farmers, veterinarians and other interested parties: www.freefarrowing.org

• Government guidance on keeping farm animals in extreme weather: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/keeping-farm-animals-and-horses-in-extreme-weather

• AHDB factsheets on heat stress: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/avoiding-heat-stress-in-pigs-indoor-herds (indoor herds)

• European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare factsheet on nest building material: https://edepot.wur.nl/516953

• AHDB guidance on farrowing environment: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/indoor-farrowing-environment (indoor)

Addition of SRUC information and resources on free farrowing

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback – HF.2.0 Means of cooling for indoor units

A means of cooling is currently a mandatory requirement for outdoor pigs. Following livestock losses during recent hot weather across all production systems. It is proposed this should be recommended (not mandatory) for indoor pigs. To what extent do you agree this should be a recommendation for indoor pigs (not a mandatory requirement)?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree

PROPOSALS

- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.2.3.b 15 min alarm acknowledgement time
To demonstrate the pig industry's preparedness and ability to respond quickly to ventilation alarms, a 15 minute alarm acknowledgment time is proposed. This would not be applicable to non-critical alarms, such as those caused by brief temperature fluctuations.
To what extent do you agree this is an appropriate length of time?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.2.3.c Record of alarm acknowledgement times
To what extent do you agree that keeping a record of acknowledgement times is proportionate?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.4.a Availability of dry lying
The proposed change accepts that dry lying areas may, in some circumstances, be temporarily unavailable to some or all pigs, for example when managing heat stress.
To what extent do you agree that this temporary exception is acceptable?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.6.a Space provision for big pigs
Given that average slaughter weights in the UK have been increasing year on year and the AHDB reports current finished pig carcase weights over 90kg GB average carcase weight | AHDB, increased space allowances are proposed for finishing pigs in two new weight bands in the core enterprise: from 110kg to 130 kg and over 150 kg. Evidence indicates the additional space would support thermal regulation by allowing larger pigs to move around pen mates more easily and lie slightly further apart during hot weather. (We think this change can be handled by managing sales of the biggest pigs earlier so it will not be necessary to build extra space.)
To what extent do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree

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- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.1.d–f Flexible farrowing pen size

The proposed flexible farrowing pen size draws on producer experience and scientific research into effective pen function, and aligns with countries including Denmark, Spain and Germany. Research also indicates successful conversion to fully free-farrowing accommodation is possible within this footprint, if wished by the farmer in the future.

To what extent do you agree that Red Tractor's space requirements should reflect these considerations?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.1.c Grandfather rights for early adopters of flexible farrowing

Around 6,500 flexible farrowing places are already in use in the UK. As these systems were installed before an industry standard was established, some may not exactly meet Red Tractor's proposed space requirement.

If optional restraint is limited to the period immediately around farrowing and the sow can otherwise turn freely, to what extent do you agree that grandfather rights should apply to systems installed by early adopters?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.8 and HF.8.1 No new conventional crates

To what extent do you agree that new or additional conventional crate places, should not be permitted unless necessary during a site's transition to less restrictive farrowing systems, such as flexible farrowing?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.2.b Time of entry into flexible farrowing accommodation

Currently, outdoor sows must enter farrowing accommodation at least three days before their expected farrowing date to allow time to settle and nest.

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To what extent do you agree the same requirement should apply to indoor flexible farrowing systems?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.2.1 Time of entry into all types of farrowing accommodation
To what extent do you agree with a recommendation, rather than a mandatory requirement, that entry to farrowing accommodation at least 3 days before farrowing, should apply to conventional crates?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.5 Nesting material – period of provision
Gilts and sows have a strong urge to nest before farrowing, typically beginning up to 48 hours beforehand. As some animals in batch-farrowing systems may farrow earlier than others, to what extent do you agree that nesting material should be made available from entry into farrowing accommodation until the time of farrowing, rather than for just the 24 hours before?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.2.1, HF.9.3.a Temporary crate close times in flexible farrowing systems
Scientific evidence indicates that four days of confinement post-farrowing can be sufficient to minimise piglet mortality. However, taking account of EFSA's 2022 opinion, the practicalities of batch-farrowing systems and emerging experience with flexible farrowing within the UK, a maximum post-farrowing confinement period of up to seven days is proposed.
If there is a necessity to confine the sow prior to farrowing, limiting this to no more than 24 hours offers a compromise between enabling the sow to exhibit instinctive nest-building behaviour, whilst reducing the risk to piglet mortality.

To what extent do you agree a maximum period of temporary confinement within the period from one day before until 7 days after farrowing,is workable?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree

PROPOSALS

- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.3.b Flexible farrowing systems and stockperson safety
In addition to restraint during the initial farrowing period, the t the sow can be temporarily confined for up to an hour, where necessary to protect the stockperson - for example when handling piglets, or in exceptional circumstances - for example to protect piglets from an aggressive sow.

To what extent do you agree that one hour is an appropriate length of time?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – HF.9.4.b Nurse sows
Sows usually nurse their own piglets in farrowing accommodation for around four weeks but may remain longer to nurse additional piglets. Given the impact of nursing successive litters, to what extent do you agree that a nurse sow should be limited to one additional litter in each production cycle?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Housing and handling facilities – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Feed and Water (FW)

Aim

Livestock receive suitable clean and palatable feed and water, in sufficient quantity from known sources.

Summary of proposed changes:

Few changes are proposed for this section. The period for which there is back up water provision has been specified, the position on porcine derived hydrolysed protein has been clarified and requirements for the protection of feed in ad-lib feed hoppers (e.g. by hopper lids) has been made less prescriptive.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- FW.3.d Period for which backup water provision should be made is now specified - for at least 24 hours
- FW.4.1 Editorial change to paired guidance to clarify porcine derived hydrolysed protein must not be fed to pigs
- FW.4.3.a has been moved to guidance
- FW.12.b Requirement to minimise contamination of feed stored in ad-lib hoppers by bird activity (e.g. with hopper covers) now specifies the requirement only applies where there is a credible risk of bird activity

PROPOSALS

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section defines the minimum feed and water provision, according to production stage and method of provision. Requirements relating to feed composition and sourcing are also set out that include prohibition of growth promoters, blood products and catering waste. There are detailed requirements for the sourcing of feed, home mixing and the need for mobile feed mixers to hold appropriate certification. Controls must be in place to keep feed palatable and

free from contamination - including protecting feed in ad-lib hoppers, in storage and whilst being handled. Clean substrate must be provided daily to enable foraging behaviour.

Feed provision

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
FW.1		Livestock must be provided with sufficient feed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.1.a	The diet is adequate and suitable for the production status and body condition of the animal, especially pregnant animals which need a high fibre diet to satisfy their appetite	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.1.b	Any sows of very poor body condition (e.g. BCS of 2 or less, see Appendix) have been identified and are receiving additional attention	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
FW.1.1		All pigs must have access to clean substrate to enable expression of foraging behaviour	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.1.1a	Provided on a daily basis	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.1.1.b	Presented in a way that enables easy access for all pigs and does not encourage competition	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
FW.2		Feed must be presented in a way that minimises stress and aggression	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.2.a	Where pigs are not fed ad-lib (food delivery is intermittent or rationed) and they are fed as a group, at least 30cm trough space is provided per pig for pigs over 40kg liveweight so that all pigs can feed at the same time without interference from others	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.2.b	Where pigs are fed ad-lib sufficient feeder space is provided such that there is no	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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		evidence of competition at the feeder, e.g. injurious behaviour			
	FW.2.d	Where pigs are fed ad-lib the maximum number of pigs per individual feed place is as follows: - For dry feeders with no full head barriers between each feeding place – 6 pigs/place - Where there are full head barriers – 10 pigs/place - For wet and dry feeders - 14 pigs/place	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.2.1	Feeders and drinkers must be checked daily to ensure they are working and clean	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Water – provision and quality

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
FW.3		All livestock must be provided with adequate access to a supply of fresh, clean drinking water	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.3.a	The following access to drinkers is provided: - For dry feeding systems - nipples/mini bowls: 1 per 15 pigs (ad lib) or 1 per 10 pigs (restrict fed) - bowls*: 1 per 30 pigs (ad lib) or 1 per 20 pigs (restrict fed) - For wet and dry feeding systems - a total of at least 1 drinker point per 15 pigs - of which at least 1 drinker point per 30 pigs is provided as a separate water source from the wet and dry feeder - For wet feeding systems - in addition to the water provided in the wet feed, at least 1 drinker point per 30 pigs is provided as a separate	Core		Retained

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		water source from the wet feeder - For water troughs, the length of the trough exceeds the following - pigs <15kg: 0.8cm per pig - pigs 15-35kg: 1.0cm per pig - pigs >35kg: 1.2cm per pig			
	FW.3.b	Flow rate is adequate and water pressure is appropriate for the class of pig†	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.3.c	Troughs/drinkers are suitably located and at an appropriate height for the class of pig	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.3.d	Provision is made to ensure emergency supply of suitable drinking water, sufficient for at least 24 hours, if normal supplies were to fail**	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	FW.3.e	The following access to drinkers is provided: - For dry feeding systems ~ nipples/mini bowls: 1 per 10 pigs ~ bowls*: 1 per 20 pigs - For wet and dry feeding systems ~ 1 drinker point per 10 pigs ~ of which at least 1 drinker point per 20 pigs provided as a separate water source from the wet and dry feeder -For water troughs, the length of the trough exceeds the following ~ pigs <35kg: 1cm per pig ~ pigs >35kg: 1.5cm per pig	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
FW.3.1		All pigs over 2 weeks of age must have permanent access to water	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.3.1.a	On outdoor units where water is not provided in the farrowing arc, a documented plan is in place detailing how water will be provided on occasions when the sow's milk may not satisfy unweaned piglets' water requirements, e.g. hot weather or sow/piglet illness	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
FW.3.2		Water quality must be appropriate	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.3.2.a	If using non-mains water, the water is independently tested annually as close	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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		to the source as possible for total viable count (TVC) and coliform levels			
	FW.3.2.b	Where a water test indicates: - coliform levels are >100 colony-forming units (CFU) per 100ml - TVC levels are >1000 CFU per ml there is evidence of action taken to investigate and address bacterial contamination	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance .*A bowl is defined as a self-filling bowl having a design capacity of at least 2 litres with a permanently available reservoir of water (the filling must not be pig-operated) The following is a guide to minimum flow rates through nipple drinkers: † Flow rate (ml/min) Newly weaned 300 ml/min, Wean to 20kg 500ml/min, 21-100kg 1000ml/min Gilts, sows & boars 2000ml/min **Pigs are highly susceptible to dehydration and suffer stress if sufficient resources are not available. Where emergency water supplies are to be sourced from another farm or another location, arrangements for transporting the water should be included in provision plans					

Feed suitability, composition & source

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
FW.4		Feed must be suitable	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.4.a	Feed is not stale or contaminated	Core		Retained
	FW.4.b	Only feed materials and additives permitted by the Scheme and UK law are used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.4.c	The composition of all purchased and home mixed feed is known	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.4.d	Antibiotic or hormonal growth promoters are not used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
FW.4.1		Only animal products permitted by the scheme are fed to pigs*	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	FW.4.1.a	If feeding fishmeal on a farm where ruminants are also present, or you are making feed with fishmeal, you are authorised/registered with Defra/DAERA	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.4.1.b	Blood products and pig-derived nutritional products are not used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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Guidance Permitted animal products are: fishmeal*, fish oils, non-ruminant gelatine, di- or tri-calcium phosphate, hydrolysed protein*, milk and milk products, egg and egg products * Hydrolysed protein means: as defined by and manufactured in accordance with relevant UK regulations but porcine derived hydrolysed protein is not permitted					
FW.4.2		Only permitted former foodstuffs may be fed to pigs. Catering waste must not be used for pig feed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.4.2.a	Only permitted former foodstuffs may be fed to pigs. Catering waste must not be used for pig feed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Catering waste is defined as any waste originating from any domestic or commercial catering facilities and kitchens, including used cooking oil Permitted former foodstuffs include (See Appendix for further information): • bakery products, pasta, chocolate, sweets and similar products • dairy products • pasteurised, cooked or processed eggs					
FW.4.3		Diets must not exceed maximum permitted levels of copper	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance 150 mg/kg for pigs up to 4 weeks post-weaning, 100 mg/kg for pigs up to 8 weeks post weaning and 25 mg/kg over 8 weeks post-weaning					
FW.5		Bought-in feed must be from an assured source or in specific circumstances with a warranty declaration	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	FW.5.a	Compounds and blended feed are UFAS assured, or equivalent	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.5.b	Bagged or sealed compounded or blended feed, minerals, mineral blocks/licks (except for rock salt), supplements and milk replacers are sourced from a UFAS merchant or from a non-UFAS merchant by a UFAS, or equivalent, compounder	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.5.c	Straights are assured under UFAS, FEMAS or equivalent; or sourced from a farm that is a member of a combinable crops assurance	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

		scheme accompanied by a completed grain passport			
	FW.5.d	Vegetables and fruit which have not been processed beyond basic grading and washing are sourced from a farm that is a member of a fresh produce assurance scheme (including when sourced via a third party)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.5.e	Processed food by-products are assured under UFAS, FEMAS or equivalent	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.5.f	The following feed materials are sourced with a completed warranty declaration: - farm-to-farm supplies of any feeds unexpectedly in surplus - hay and/or straw supplied by forage merchants - vegetables and fruit not covered by an assurance scheme (e.g. fodder beets) and have not been processed beyond basic grading and washing	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance See relevant appendix for equivalent schemes. Red Tractor warranty declaration template provides details of what information should be included					
FW.6		Records of all feedstuffs purchased must be kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.6.a	Feed records detail: - supplier name - feed type including ingredient composition - date of delivery - quantity - load or batch number	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.6.b	Records are kept for 2 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Home mix

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status

PROPOSALS

FW.7		When mixing two or more feed materials together records must be kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.7.a	For total mixed rations (TMR) that incorporate forages or moist feeds produced on a daily basis, produce a record of the ingredients and quantities and update it when the mix changes	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	FW.7.b	For home mixed compounds, meals or blends based on dry feed ingredients records of every batch mixed are kept detailing ingredients, quantities, mixing dates	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Forage only, (forage top-dressed with concentrates) or single feeds mixed with water do not require records					
FW.8		When the mix formulation changes samples must be kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.8.a	For dry-feed mixes, samples of dry feed ingredients (over 3% inclusion) or samples of finished feed mix are kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.8.b	For wet feed mixes, samples of dry feed ingredients (over 3% inclusion) are kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.8.c	Samples are kept for a minimum of 6 months after last use	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.8.d	Samples are: - representative (small samples from several different points) - of adequate quantity (approx. 0.5 kg) - free from contamination - identifiable (labelled with feed details and date) - stored in a cool, dry area	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
FW.9		If mixing using pre-mixtures, additives or medicated feeds you must have Local Authority	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

		approval and meet any associated obligations			
	FW.9.a	The site has Local Authority Approval	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.9.b	There is a HACCP system in place	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.9.c	There is a Quality Control Plan in place	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.9.d	Additional approval from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is in place if medicated feeds are being incorporated	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Not applicable to the inclusion of bought-in mineral feeding stuffs (labelled as such) used in TMRs Feed additives are substances such as vitamins, trace elements (e.g. copper and zinc) and preservatives. Pre-mixtures are mixtures of additives at high concentrations					
FW.10		Mobile feed mixing contractors must be suitably certified	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.10.a	Contractors certified to the NAAC Assured Land-Based Contractor Mobile Feed Mixing and Processing scheme, or scheme deemed equivalent by Red Tractor	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Contamination

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Record / Template (T)	Change status
FW.11		Controls must be in place to minimise the risk of contamination of feeds by machinery and equipment	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FW.11.a	All feeding and mixing equipment including lorries/trailers/feed boxes/buckets used for transporting feed are maintained in a clean condition and are suitable for purpose	Core, EWOB,FR		Editorial change
FW.12 (Key)		Feed must be stored in a manner which minimises the risk of contamination	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	FW.12.a	Storage facilities protect against feed contamination by domestic animals, wildlife and vermin	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	FW.12.b	Where there is a credible risk of contamination of feed in feed hoppers (indoor or outdoor) from bird activity, measures are put in place to minimise contamination e.g. hopper covers*. This does not apply to the trough/pan itself**	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	FW.12.c	Storage facilities for dry feed are weatherproof	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	FW.12.d	In loose feed storage areas lighting is covered, unless shatterproof bulbs are used	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	FW.12.e	Risk of cross-contamination is minimised by ensuring feed is readily identifiable and keeping different feeds separate	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance * Contamination from birds includes birds or bird droppings on/in feed or feeders. Contamination risk from birds includes the presence of birds or nests within the pig housing **Where hopper covers are used to address this requirement, Red Tractor does not specify the materials to be used, or how they should be positioned or secured. However, they must provide adequate protection against contamination and be checked frequently enough to ensure they remain effective					

PROPOSALS

Resources

- AHDB Guidance including copper levels in feed https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/feeding-growing-and-finishing-pigs
- AHDB guidance on body condition scoring sows: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/body-condition-scoring-sows
- AHDB water guidance for pig farmers: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/water-guidance-for-pig-farmers
- Animal Feed legislation (FSA): https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/animal-feed-legislation

- Government guidance on supplying and using animal by-products as farm animal feed: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supplying-and-using-animal-by-products-as-farm-animal-feed
- AIC Checker to check the assurance status of your feed supplier: https://www.aictradeassurance.org.uk/home/
- FSA guidance for farmers producing animal feed or mixing with additives and pre-mixtures: https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/farmers-producing-animal-feed
- NAAC list of Assured Land-Based Contractors (Mobile Feed Mixing and Processing): https://www.naac.co.uk/listofalbc/
- To find a registered feed adviser and check the Feed Adviser Register registration of your adviser using their membership number visit https://www.agindustries.org.uk/feed-adviser-register.html

PROPOSALS

Animal Health (AH)

Aim

Proactive care and accountable management of pig health and welfare supported by regular checks, provision of environmental enrichment and veterinary oversight.

Summary of proposed changes:

Notable proposed changes include increased livestock checks from once to twice daily, a requirement for familiarity with welfare codes of practice and the PVS Casualty Pig document, alignment of shoulder sore and injurious behaviour management for all pigs, updated guidance on methods of euthanasia and additional requirements for cleaning euthanasia equipment.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- A.2.d Editorial change to the required contents of mortality records
- AH.2.g Editorial change - now explicit the requirement to keep slaughterhouse data only applies where it is available to finisher units
- AH.5 Requirement that livestock must be checked regularly made into a key standard, due to importance
- AH.5.a Number of daily livestock checks increased and paired guidance added
- AH.5.b New requirement to keep a record of livestock checks (in any format, to include date, approximated time and name)
- AH.7.1 Requirement for the relevant Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs to be available has been revised to also require familiarity with the document (detailed knowledge not required)
- AH.8.3.a Editorial change - cross reference added to the audit point that requires the referenced plan
- AH.9.1 & HF.9.1.a Revision of euthanasia training and euthanasia policy requirements to additionally include cleaning of equipment

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- AH.9.1.c Requirement to record any emergency circumstances where a non-permitted method of euthanasia was necessary, has been made into an audit point for greater visibility (currently in guidance to AH2.d)
- AH.9.2 Requirement that everybody who euthanises pigs must be familiar with the latest version of the Pig Veterinary Society Casualty Pig document has been revised to also include the person named in the veterinary health plan (VHP) as responsible for overseeing animal welfare
- AH.9.3 Existing requirement for mechanical devices for euthanasia of piglets to be appropriate and used humanely, revised to require sufficient and appropriate euthanasia equipment for pigs (not only piglets) which is readily available. (Appropriate use of equipment for euthanasia is covered in other standards e.g. vet's training as set out at AH.9.a)
- AH.9.3.a New explicit requirement - euthanasia equipment to be maintained and cleaned
- AH.9.3.b New requirement for there to be back-up euthanasia equipment available
- AH.9.3 c No change to requirement. Just moved from AH.9.3.a
- AH.9.3.b (existing) Removal of requirement to restrain piglets for euthanasia according to equipment manufacturers' instructions. Restraint methods are covered in vet's training (as set out at AH.9.a) and manufacturer's instructions may not align with UK regulations or best practice
- AH.9.7 Editorial - new guidance added to reflect current legal position on where WATOK licenses are needed for commercial pig farms
- AH.12.c Editorial change and updated paired guidance to emphasise the importance of enrichment materials having characteristics that are sufficiently interesting to pigs (supported by information in appendix)
- AH.14 Editorial - explicit that supplementary rearing accommodation must not be used routinely

PROPOSALS

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

Each unit must have a Veterinary Health Plan, drawn up with their designated vet who has oversight of the unit and sees the livestock on quarterly farm visits. Requirements are set out for regular review of health and production records, weaning and nursing, grouping and mixing, regular routine welfare checks, prompt action for compromised pigs, and provision of enrichment material for all pigs in all production systems. Above all, trained and diligent stock people who take proactive action, are essential to ensuring high standards of health and welfare.

Requirements specific to moving and handling pigs are set out separately in the Moving and Handling Pigs (MH) section.

Plans, records & livestock checks

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.1 (Key)		A Veterinary Health Plan (VHP) to proactively manage and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.a	The plan is unit specific	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.b	Plan is easily accessible to all persons involved in the care and management of the pigs	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.c	Reviewed at least quarterly by the designated vet (or another vet from the same practice) to ensure it is up to date	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.d	Contains a Salmonella control plan	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.e	Details the husbandry procedures performed on the unit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.f	Contains an action plan for dealing with injurious behaviour (e.g. tail, flank, vulva damage), which details: - treatment and management of injured pigs - short-term measures to be taken to limit further injurious behaviour	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	AH.1.g	Contains a policy for treating and managing shoulder sores (indoor breeding units only)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.1.i	The VHP is being followed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Vets may choose to create a new Veterinary Health Plan each quarter or retain the same VHP whilst indicating the dates on which they have reviewed it. New units should have a Veterinary Health Plan in					

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place from the first arrival of pigs, rather than wait until the first quarterly vet visit. The required elements of the VHP may be contained in one document or in multiple documents. An injurious behaviour action plan and shoulder sore action plan is required on relevant farms regardless of whether there is a history of injurious behaviour or shoulder sores on the unit.					
AH.2		Records of the health and performance of livestock must be maintained	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.2.a	Records of breeding and/or rearing herd performance are kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.2.b	Incidents of injurious behaviour (e.g. tail, flank, vulva damage), possible causes and interventions taken are recorded	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	AH.2.c	Incidents of facial scarring/udder damage are recorded	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.2.d	Mortality records for breeding and post-weaning growing stock are kept, detailing: - date - pig type (e.g. sow, finisher) - identity/location (e.g. sow number; e.g. house A pen 5) - dead or euthanased - suspected reason	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	AH.2.e	Mortality records for suckling pigs include summary of daily deaths only	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	AH.2.f	Overall mortality figures are recorded including (where relevant): - pre-weaning mortality - sow and gilt mortality - rearing/finishing mortality	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	AH.2.g.	Where available, records include slaughterhouse data regarding: - dead-on-arrivals - condemnations - tail damage (where reported)	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	AH.2.h	Health and performance records are kept for at least 2 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance					

PROPOSALS

*A tail biting incident of injurious behaviour is defined as a minimum of one pig with a tail wound, or two pigs with bite marks in a pen.					
AH.3		Health and performance records must be regularly reviewed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.3.a	Records are reviewed by the producer at least quarterly	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AH.3.1 (Recommendation)		It is recommended to participate in a scheme that monitors and reports carcase conditions	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AH.5 (Key)		The health and welfare of livestock must be checked regularly	Core, EWOB, FR		Upgraded
	AH.5.a	All stock is inspected as frequently as necessary* and at least twice a day	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AH.5.b	A record of checks must be kept**	Core, EWOB, FR		New
AH.5.1 (Key)		Actions must be taken to rectify all issues/recommendations raised by vets in Quarterly Veterinary Reports (QVR)	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance * Frequent livestock checks are essential for identifying emerging problems early and ensuring prompt care for sick or injured animals. More frequent checks may be appropriate at specific times e.g. around the time of farrowing, or when livestock has been weaned or mixed **The records, in any format, must include the date, approximate time and initials.					

Welfare oversight

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.7		There must be a designated person who has oversight of animal welfare on the unit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.7.a	Person is named in the VHP	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.7.b	Person oversees compliance with scheme requirements and best practice in relation to:	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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		- husbandry procedures - handling and moving of pigs - identification and management of sick and injured pigs - euthanasia			
AH.7.1		All persons involved in the care and management of pigs must be acquainted* with, and have access to, the relevant government Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs when attending to the animals.	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance Animal welfare legislation applies to owners as well as to anyone who is responsible for a pig, whether on the farm, during transport (including loading and unloading) and at the point of slaughter. This includes anyone given temporary responsibility for pig care, including a veterinary surgeon. * 'Acquainted' means sufficiently familiar with the Code to use it effectively as a go-to reference. Detailed knowledge of the full document is not required.					

Sick and injured

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.8 (Key)		Sick or injured livestock must receive prompt attention in order that suffering is not prolonged	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.8.a	There is evidence of systems in place to ensure sick and injured livestock are identified and managed appropriately. Where required they are promptly treated and/or moved* to recovery or segregation facilities or humanely euthanased	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance * In some circumstances, pigs with minor ailments may be treated within their usual pen group; however, the suitability of this arrangement should be reviewed regularly. Sick or injured pigs may be unable to compete effectively for resources or benefit from an environment that supports recovery if they remain in the group. Alternative suitable accommodation (treatment or hospital pens) should provide a dry comfortable lying area and appropriate flooring, along with easy access to water, food, treatment and nursing appropriate treatment.					
AH.8.1		Appropriate facilities must be provided for the segregation or isolation of sick or injured livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	AH.8.1.a	Facilities are managed and maintained in accordance with the Scheme standards for housing and facilities, feed and water	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.8.1.a.a	If not permanently available, facilities can be set up within 1 hour	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.8.1.b	Unless passageways are adapted to become a non-thoroughfare and to meet Scheme standards, they may only ever be used as a short-term isolation facility for up to 1 hour	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.8.1.c	Lame pigs that have been segregated from the main pen and pigs with a traumatic injury have bedding or some other form of cushioning to prevent slipping and pressure sores	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.8.1.d	Cleaned, washed and disinfected between batches (for batch systems) or at least twice a year	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AH.8.2		Pigs with shoulder sores must be identified and managed	Core		Retained
	AH.8.2.a	Managed in accordance with the shoulder sore policy required within the VHP for indoor breeding units (as set out at AH.1.g)	Core		Retained
AH.8.3		Issues with injurious behaviour (e.g. tail, flank, vulva damage) must be identified and managed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.8.3.a	Managed in accordance with the injurious behaviour action plan (as requried at AH.1.f) in the VHP	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change

Euthanasia

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.9		Persons conducting euthanasia of livestock must be trained and deemed competent	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.a	Training covers the following learning outcomes: - the recommendations of the latest version of the PVS Casualty Pig - the handling and restraint of pigs before they are euthanised	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

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		- the acceptable methods of emergency euthanasia of pigs of different sizes - the parameters for the different methods (e.g. position of shot) - the signs of an effective stun/kill and what to do if the method is ineffective - cleaning and maintenance of equipment - emergency procedures			
	AH.9.b	Training in euthanasia includes theory and practical elements and can be delivered by: - experienced vet registered with the RT scheme - Humane Slaughter Association On-Farm Killing or Slaughter of Red Meat Animals – - Theory course (supplemented with supervised practical training)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.c	Whilst persons are being trained, they are always under direct supervision when undertaking euthanasia, of either a vet or a suitable trained and competent person as signed off by a vet	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.d	Competence is assessed and signed off by an experienced vet registered with the RT scheme	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.e	Competence of all persons that carry out euthanasia is reassessed by the vet at least every 2 years and documented in training records	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Initial sign-off of a person's competency by a Red Tractor registered vet must include practical demonstration of euthanasia. However, the method of subsequent reassessment of competency should be as determined by the designated vet and may or may not include practical demonstration of euthanasia, depending on the person's knowledge and skills.					
AH.9.1		There must be a documented euthanasia policy	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	AH.9.1.a	Policy includes: - methods used for all classes of pigs - names of persons signed off as	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised

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		competent in each method (may be listed separately in VHP) - details of checks for effectiveness of euthanasia - actions to be taken in the event of an ineffective kill - contingency procedures in the event of equipment failure or unavailability of a trained and competent person - equipment maintenance and cleaning requirements, including frequency, and record of checks			
	AH.9.1.b	Only legally permitted methods are used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.1.c	In an exceptional emergency (e.g. failure of equipment or unusual traumatic injury) if a permitted method cannot be used but euthanasia is the only practical possibility to alleviate severe pain or suffering – details of the circumstances and alternative method (which must render the pig immediately unconscious as required in law) should be recorded **	Core, EWOB, FR		New
	AH.9.1.d	Policy is signed by: - the designated person responsible for animal welfare to confirm understanding - the farms designated vet to confirm it is appropriate	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.1.e	Policy is followed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Guidance
*Red Tractor accepts the following methods of euthanasia, where they are permitted under the national law of the country in question:
• Chemical euthanasia by overdose of an anaesthetic drug carried out by veterinary surgeon
• Free bullet
• Shot gun
• Penetrative captive bolt (PCB) followed swiftly by pithing or bleeding such that the animal dies without regaining consciousness
• For piglets [1], a non-penetrative captive bolt (NPCB) - provided the device is capable of delivering the force required by legislation (as set out at AH.9.3.c)

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[1]Maximum weight of piglets for which this method can be used must be in accordance with vet's training and national legislation (as required at AH.9.1.d and AH.9.1.e) **This requirement aims to support members if they need to demonstrate the use of any non-permitted method was in an exceptional emergency, where there was no practical alternative to fulfil the overriding obligation to alleviate severe pain or suffering, and the alternative method used rendered the pig immediately unconscious as required in law					
AH.9.2		All persons who euthanase pigs, and the person named in the VHP as responsible for overseeing animal welfare under AH.7.a, must be familiar* with the latest version of the Pig Veterinary Society Casualty Pig document	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AH.9.2.a	All persons who euthanase pigs, and the person named in the VHP as responsible for overseeing animal welfare under AH.7.a, must be familiar* with the latest version of the Pig Veterinary Society Casualty Pig document	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Familiar means sufficiently familiar with the document to use it effectively as a go-to reference. Detailed knowledge of the full document is not required * * Confirmation may be provided in either hard copy or electronic format					
	AH.9.3	There must be readily available, sufficient and appropriate equipment for euthanasia	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AH.9.3.a	Equipment must be maintained and cleaned in line with training and the euthanasia policy (AH.9 and AH.9.1)	Core, EWOB, FR		New
	AH.9.3.b	Back-up equipment must be available *	Core, EWOB, FR		New
	AH.9.3.c	Only devices delivering a minimum of 27.7 joules (J) energy (as described in manufacturers specification) are used	Core, EWOB. FR		Moved
Guidance * Back up equipment can be equipment for the same method or another method					
AH.9.4		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	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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	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	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AH.9.5		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			Retained
	AH.9.5.a	Checks are carried out promptly after stunning/euthanasia to ensure loss of consciousness and no signs of life	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.9.5.b	Euthanasia is performed again immediately should the first attempt fail	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AH.9.6		A person with training and competence in relevant methods of euthanasia must be present on the unit or able to attend within 60 minutes	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AH.9.7		A Welfare at the Time of Killing (WATOK) licence must be held where required*	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AH.9.7.a	Outside contractors who carry out euthanasia on the unit (excluding vets) hold a WATOK licence	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Where requried by the Welfare at the Time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations, currently applicable to commercial pig farms in England and Wales that carry out relevant methods. Methods include the use of a captive bolt. Exemptions apply if the method used is free bullet or is in the case of exceptional emergencies in circumstances that are not routine e.g. severe traumatic injury. For clarity -where commercial farms routinely euthanase pigs, it is not currently considered an emergency or series of emergencies, by the legislator. To apply for a licence or certificate of competence, or check the methods covered, see the Where to Find Help panel at the end of this section.					

Designated vet, visits and QVR

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.10		The unit must retain the services of a designated veterinary surgeon that has	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

		overall responsibility for the veterinary care of the pigs			
	AH.10.a	Only vets registered with Red Tractor Assurance and with current Pig Veterinary Society membership can assess farms against relevant aspects of these Standards	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.10.1 (Key)	The designated vet (or nominated vet from the same practice) must undertake quarterly visits to the unit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.10.1.a	A Quarterly Veterinary Report (QVR) is completed by the vet for each visit and submitted to the farms Certification Body	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.10.1.b	Quarterly vet visits are never more than 20 weeks apart	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Enrichment

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.12 (Key)		Pigs must have permanent access to environmental enrichment in order to satisfy their investigation and manipulation behavioural requirements	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.12.a	All pigs, including sows and piglets in farrowing pens, dry sows and boars, have access to enrichment	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.12.b	Enrichment is permanently available	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.12.c	Enrichment materials that are classed as optimal may be used alone, while suboptimal enrichment must be used in combination with additional different enrichment from any category*	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	AH.12.d	The following marginal interest* object/materials s are only permissible when optimal*or suboptimal* objects/materials are also provided: - chains - ball/footballs - hard plastic - soft plastic piping - rubber	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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	AH.12.e	Pig interaction with environmental enrichment is not compromised by the amount provided, positioning, or size	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.12.f	Enrichment is not hazardous to pigs, and root vegetables and other feed materials provided as enrichment are sourced in accordance with Scheme feed standards. Mushroom compost, peat and recycled manure solids ('green bedding') are not permitted	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AH.12.g	Enrichment is not heavily soiled	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Enrichment materials must have characteristics that are sufficiently interesting to pigs. Classifications of enrichment (optimal, suboptimal and of marginal interest) can be found in the latest Defra Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Pigs and RT Appendix. In addition to ongoing permanent provision of enrichment materials, the gilts/sow's needs for nesting material around the farrowing period must be provided for, as set out in HF.9.5.					

Weaning

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AH.13		Piglets must not be weaned from the sow at an age less than 28 days unless under certain circumstances	Core, EWOB		Retained
	AH.13.a	Piglets may be weaned up to 7 days earlier only if moved into specialised housing which: - has been emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected - is separate from housing where sows are kept	Core, EWOB		Retained
	AH.13.b	Removal of piglets from a sow at an age earlier than 21 days is only permitted if the health and welfare of the piglets or dam would otherwise be adversely affected	Core, EWOB		Retained
AH.14		Routine use of supplementary rearing accommodation for early weaning of piglets is prohibited. Where it must be used to protect piglet or dam health and welfare, it must be managed appropriately	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	AH.14.a	Declaration to this effect signed by the vet on the QVRs	Core, EWOB		Retained

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Resources

• Check operations covered by WATOK : https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-a-certificate-of-competence-or-licence-to-slaughter-or-kill-animals#slaughter-outside-a-food-standards-agency-fsa-approved-slaughterhouse
• Apply for a WATOK license: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-welfare-of-animals-at-the-time-of-killing-watok-licence.
• DEFRA Code of Practice for the welfare of pigs: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pigs-on-farm-welfare
• DAERA Codes of Practice for farmed animals: Codes of Practice for farmed animals | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
• Welsh Government Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pig welfare: code of practice | GOV.WALES
• AHDB Pig Health Scheme: https://ahdb.org.uk/pig-health-scheme
• AHDB guidance on moving and handling pigs: https://ahdb.org.uk/moving-and-handling-pigs
• Pig Veterinary Society resources including PVS Casualty Pig: https://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/media_categories/view/13/page:2
• Humane Slaughter Association guidance and services – https://www.hsa.org.uk/training-education/training-education (training) – https://www.hsa.org.uk/downloads/on-farm-killing-of-new-born-livestock-november-2020.pdf (on-farm human killing of neonate pigs) https://www.hsa.org.uk/downloads/publications/emergencyslaughterdownload-updated-2020.pdf (emergency killing)
• To check PVS membership status of vet visits: https://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk//membership-checker • AHDB guidance on environmental enrichment for pigs: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/environmental-enrichment-for-pigs
• AHDB guidance on weaning and small pig management: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/weaning-and-small-pig-management

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Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback – AH.5.a Twice a day livestock checks
Frequent checks help identify problems early so that sick or injured animals receive prompt care. To what extent do you agree that increasing mandatory health and welfare checks from once to twice each day would be feasible for your business?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – AH.5.b Record of livestock checks
Recording key activities can be a useful management tool and help maintain focus on important tasks. To what extent do you agree that recording livestock health and welfare checks (date, approximate time, name of person) would be proportionate?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – AH.7.1 Codes of recommendations for the welfare of livestock
The current requirement is for stock people to have access to the relevant government Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs. The proposed revision clarifies there should be familiarity with the contents. A requirement for detailed knowledge is not proposed, rather sufficient familiarity to use it as a reference when needed. To what extent do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – AH.9.2 The PVS Casualty Pig
The requirement for anyone who euthanases pigs to be familiar with the PVS Casualty Pig document, is extended to also include the person named in the veterinary health plan as having overall responsibility for animal welfare.
To what extent do you agree with this proposal?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

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Specific Feedback – AH.9.1.a, AH.9.3.a Cleaning euthanasia equipment
Functionality of euthanasia equipment is affected by its condition. New requirements specify that in addition to maintenance, euthanasia equipment must be kept clean, and this should be included in the euthanasia policy.
To what extent do you agree with this addition?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – AH.9.3.b Back up equipment for euthanasia
A new requirement is proposed that backup euthanasia equipment is available. This reflects the Protection of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations which state that business operators must ensure appropriate back-up equipment is available. To what extent do you agree the requirement wording and guidance is clear?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Animal Health – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Husbandry Procedures (HP)

Aim

Responsible and competent undertaking of husbandry procedures.

Summary of proposed changes:

A single requirement change is proposed, setting a maximum amount of tail that can be removed where length must be reduced.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- HP.1.d Editorial - 'procedures changed to 'husbandry procedures'
- HP.1.g has moved to HP.3.0
- HP.2.5 New. Was HP.1.g. Reworded for clarity
- HP.3, HP.3.a, HP.3.b - editorial change
- HP.3.1.a , HP.3.1.b, HP.3.a.c, HP.3.a.d and paired guidance - editorial change
- HP.3.2.d, PH.3.2.e - editorial change
- HP.3.2.f Revised - Requirement now includes that where tail docking is being carried out as a last resort, the maximum amount of tail that is removed, should be no more than half its length
- HP.4.a, HP.4.b - editorial change
- HP.4.1.e – New standard
- HP.3.2.3 - new audit point added for completeness, no change to requirements

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

Husbandry procedures have significant implications. This section sets out some key requirements focusing on protecting pig welfare. Efforts must be made to identify and manage

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the underlying causes of injurious behaviours, rather than relying on procedures as the control measure. Routine tail docking and teeth reduction are prohibited. Any exceptional use must be by veterinary approval and subject to evidence of farm-specific need and veterinary review.

Permitted Procedures

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HP.1		Husbandry procedures must be carried out appropriately	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HP.1.a	Ear tagging/notching, slap marking, tattooing and tusk trimming are only performed by demonstrably competent persons	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HP.1.b	Records are kept of the persons who perform specific husbandry procedures	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HP.1.c	Only husbandry procedures detailed in the VHP are carried out	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HP.1.d	Husbandry procedures other than those specifically listed in the Red Tractor Pigs Scheme* are only carried out under veterinary direction, details of which are outlined in the VHP	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	HP.1.e	Multiple notching is only carried out as a last resort in pedigree breeding where pig colouring prevents the use of tattooing. Otherwise, only a single ear notch is permitted (1 notch in 1 ear)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HP.1.f	Ear notching is only carried out on pigs up to 7 days of age	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Husbandry procedures listed in the Red Tractor Pigs Scheme are as follows: ear tagging/notching, slapmarking, tattooing, tusk trimming, tail docking, teeth reduction and nose-ringing. 'Under veterinary direction' means that the veterinary surgeon instructs the farmer/stockperson as to the task(s) to be performed, but is not necessarily present when it is carried out A person is considered "competent" when they can demonstrate they understand the tasks they are required to do and how to undertake them correctly, e.g. how to use equipment.					

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Castration & immunological products

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HP.2 (Key)		Surgical castration is not permitted	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	HP.2.a	Use of immunological products that temporarily suppress testicular function is permitted, but only upon receipt of permission in writing from the member's processor customers	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Tail docking

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HP.2.5 (Key)		Tail docking is prohibited for outdoor bred sows*, outdoor bred breeding gilts* and all free-range pigs*	EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance * Where participating in the Enhanced Welfare Outdoor Bred (PW) or Free Range (PF) enterprise					
HP.3		Routine tail docking is prohibited	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	HP.3.a	Where tail docking must be carried out as a last resort, this must be with written veterinary approval, given at least on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Vets Report (QVR)	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HP.3.b	Veterinary approval for tail docking must be supported by documented evidence to justify the need including a written review, conducted on a quarterly basis, taking into account: • farm-specific risks[1] • measures undertaken to minimise risk of biting[2] (other than docking) • records of tail biting [3]	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
Guidance [1] detailed in the tail biting risk assessment required at HP.3.1.a [2] as set out in the strategy to minimise risk of tail biting and need for tail docking, required at HP.3.1.c [3] records of injurious behaviour are required at AH.2.b					
HP.3.1 (Key)		Measures must be in place on all units to minimise risk of tail biting and avoid the need for tail docking	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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	HP.3.1.a	For all units, there must be a written tail biting risk assessment* to identify farm-specific risk factors	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	HP.3.1.b	The tail biting risk assessment must be carried out at least annually	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	HP.3.1.c	Where tail-docked pigs are being reared, there must be a written strategy to minimise risk of tail biting and need for docking*, including an outline of measures and timescales for implementation	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HP.3.1.d	The strategy to minimise risk of tail biting and need for docking must be implemented	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
Guidance *The written documented tail biting risk assessment, and the written documented strategy to minimise risk of tail biting and need for docking (where applicable) may be separate or within the Veterinary Health Plan (VHP)					
HP.3.2		Tail docking must be carried out appropriately	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.3.2.a	Only persons deemed competent to by a vet perform tail docking, unless supervised by a trained and competent person	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.3.2.b	Only carried out on pigs up to 72 hours old	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.3.2.c	Tails must be docked to a uniform length	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.3.2.d	Tail docking equipment is cleaned and disinfected between each litter of pigs	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HP.3.2.e	Tail docking equipment is different to that used to carry out teeth reduction	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HP.3.2.f	Only the minimum amount of tail is removed that is necessary to effectively limit tail biting (which should not be more than half its length), as discussed and agreed with the vet	Core, EWOB		Revised

Tooth Reduction

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HP.4		Routine teeth reduction is prohibited	Core, EWOB		Retained

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	HP.4.a	Where tooth reduction must be carried out as a last resort, this must always be with written veterinary approval, given at least on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Vets Report (QVR)	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
	HP.4.b	Veterinary approval for tooth reduction must be supported by a written review, conducted on a quarterly basis, taking into account: - records of facial scarring and udder damage	Core, EWOB		Editorial change
HP.4.1		Teeth reduction must be carried out appropriately+	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.4.1.a	Only persons deemed competent to by a vet perform teeth reduction, unless supervised by a trained and competent person	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.4.1.b	Only carried out on pigs up to 72 hours old	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.4.1.c	A smooth intact surface is left and the pulp cavity is not exposed	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.4.1.d	Equipment is cleaned and disinfected between each litter of pigs	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.4.1.e	Tooth reduction equipment is different to that used to carry out tail reduction	Core, EWOB		New
HP.4.2 Recommendation		*It is recommended to grind rather than clip teeth*	Core, EWOB		Retained

Nose ringing

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
HP.5		Nose ringing must only be carried out by demonstrably competent persons	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.5.a	Only persons deemed competent to by a vet carry out nose-ringing, unless supervised by a trained and competent person	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.5.1	Nose-ringing may only be carried out in accordance with the Scheme requirements	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.5.1.a	Only breeding animals with access to paddocks (for all or some of the production cycle) may be ringed	Core, EWOB		Retained

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	HP.5.1.b	Only a single septum ring is permitted. Disc rings (also known as clip or boss rings) are not permitted	Core, EWOB		Retained
	HP.5.1.c	Nose ringing is only carried out to prevent damage to paddocks and/or protect pig welfare	Core, EWOB		Retained

Resources

• AHDB's Tail Biting WebHAT (Web-based Husbandry Advisory Tool) provides information about the key risks for tail biting and practical suggestions to help reduce them on farm. There are a range of templates available for recording risk factors, incidents of tail biting, early warning signs and likely causes https://webhat.ahdb.org.uk/

• AHDB guidance on teeth reduction for piglets: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/teeth-reduction-for-piglets

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback - HP3.2.f Maximum tail dock length

Where tail docking is necessary as a last resort, removing more of the tail than needed will unnecessarily increase pain because pain receptors increase towards the base of the piglet's tail. It will also reduce the protective function of the tail. The existing requirement limits docking to the minimum necessary to effectively limit tail biting but gives no parameters. An update to the requirement is proposed which specifies no more than half the tail is removed - preserving sufficient remaining length for protective function while minimising the impact of the procedure.

To what extent do you agree with this update?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Husbandry Procedures – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Moving and Handling (MH)

Aim

Careful and skilled moving and handling.

Summary of proposed changes:

Existing requirements have been grouped together and relocated in this short, new section comprising 9 individual requirements.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- MH.1 is a new requirement
- MH.2 was AH.6
- MH.3 was AH.6.a
- MH.4 is new - explicit about specific unacceptable handling behaviours
- MH.5 is new - extends the current requirement in AH,.9.4.a for non-ambulatory pigs to be euthanased are moved only with full body support and without causing further suffering, to all non-ambulatory pigs
- MH.6 is new explicit requirement and paired guidance about lifting piglets with car
- MH.7 was AH.6.c
- MH.8 was AH.6.d
- MH.9 was AH.6.b - editorial change to clarify goad use is not permitted on the farm, during loading and unloading and during transport

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

Pigs are naturally cautious animals with limited vision. The way they are approached and moved directly influences their behaviour and welfare outcome. Good handling helps pigs move safely and confidently. Poor handling can cause stress and injury, and increased risk to stock people. Calm, patient and considerate handling is essential and is a demonstration of the connection between conscientious stockmanship, good welfare and the high standards expected of the UK pig industry. This section sets out some key requirements for the action of moving and handling pigs and piglets. Related requirements are set out in the most relevant section, e.g. those

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relevant to loading facilities are set out in the Housing and Handling Facilities (HF) section and relevant training requirements are set out in the Personnel (PL) section.

Moving and Handling

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
MH.1 Key		Stock people must handle animals in a calm and compassionate manner at all times	Core, EWOB, FR		New
MH.2 Key		All livestock must be handled in a way that avoids unnecessary pain, injury and stress	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
MH.3 Key		Pigs are handled and moved without excessive force	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
Guidance Supported by knowledge and skills (required at PL.1) and completion of the Moving and Handling Pigs module of the AHDB Training Platform (required at PL1.1) which includes information and demonstration of how pigs move and respond to the position of humans.					
MH.4 Key		Pigs must never be pulled or dragged by the tails, ears, limbs or any other part of the body	Core, EWOB, FR		New
MH.5 Key		Non-ambulatory pigs, which are unable to stand or rise unaided, are moved with full body support and without causing further suffering	Core, EWOB, FR		New
MH.6 Key		If piglets are lifted they must be lifted with care*	Core, EWOB, FR		New
Guidance * As outlined for piglets under 10kg in the AHDB WI for Handling and Restraining Pigs (weblink in the WTFH panel at the end of this section): · Lift the pig by a back leg, taking care not to 'snatch' or 'swing' the piglet as you lift it · Support the chest with your other hand when moving with the piglet over any distance, to avoid undue pressure on the leg joints · Lower the piglet back to the ground, ensuring both front legs have contact with the surface · Then gently lower the back legs to the floor and release your grip · Only lift one piglet at a time in each hand					
MH.7 Key		Movement boards are only used to encourage pigs in the right direction and for blocking gaps	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
MH.8 Key		Attempts to move pigs should only be made when there is a clear area for them to move into	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved

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MH.9 Key		Goads must not be kept or used on the pig site, or during the loading, unloading or transport of pigs	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial

Resources

• AHDB Pig Industry Training Platform: https://pigwelfaretraining.ahdb.org.uk/login/index.php .
• AHDB Humanising Gilts and Young Boars: https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fprojectblue.blob.core.windows.net%2Fmedia%2FDefault%2FPork%2FDocuments%2FWork%2520instructions%2FWI%2520-%2520Humanising%2520animals.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK
• AHDB Work Instruction Handling and Restraining Pigs: https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fprojectblue.blob.core.windows.net%2Fmedia%2FDefault%2FPork%2FDocuments%2FWork%2520instructions%2FWI%2520-%2520Restraining%2520pigs.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK.
• AHDB Work Instruction Loading and Unloading Pigs: https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fprojectblue.blob.core.windows.net%2Fmedia%2FDefault%2FPork%2FDocuments%2FWork%2520instructions%2FWI%2520-%2520Loading%2520and%2520unloading%2520pigs.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK .
• AHDB Pig Health Scheme: https://ahdb.org.uk/pig-health-scheme
• AHDB guidance on moving and handling pigs: https://ahdb.org.uk/moving-and-handling-pigs
• https://redtractorassurance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/AH.6-Pigs-Appropriate-methods-of-handling.pdf

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback: MH.1 – MH.9 New moving and handling section
This new, dedicated section consolidates existing and new requirements applicable when moving and handling pigs – providing a framework to showcase good practice. New additions include that pigs are not pulled or dragged by body parts, tails or ears, all non-ambulatory pigs are moved with full body support, piglets are lifted carefully in line with the AHDB work instruction, and stockpeople handle animals calmly and compassionately.

To what extent do you agree that these requirements should be grouped in a dedicated section and that the additions are appropriate?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Moving and handling – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree

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- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Biosecurity (BI)

Aim

Site protection and disease prevention.

Summary of proposed changes:

Changes are proposed to strengthen the focus on biosecurity, particularly in response to the growing ASF risk. These include more detailed visitor records, wild animal control plans for indoor as well as outdoor units, new showering and site clothing requirements, and a recommendation that all sites complete biosecurity assessments.

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Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- BI.0- BI.0.d were BI.9, a, b and c
- BI.0.d, BI.0.e new requirements for showers and site provided clothing/PPE
- BI.0.1 Recommended new requirement for all site to conduct a quantitative biosecurity assessment with their designated vet
- BI.1 editorial
- BI.1 b Biosecurity policy contents revised to additionally cover risks from wild animals. Paired guidance added
- BI.2 Editorial - exchange of 'visitor' for 'all people and vehicles', and 'visitor record' renamed 'site access record' to reflect breadth of cover. Guidance staff who are based permanently at the site need not be included
- BI.2.a Revised to require capture of additional details such as recent overseas visits, last pig contact, times and vehicle registrations
- BI.4 and BI.4.a editorial and requirements merged
- BI.5.b Editorial - re-emphasis that provision of farm dedicated clothing/PPE should be made available at the point of entry to the biosecure area.
- BI.9 is now BI.0
- BI.12.e Revised wording to make explicit that when used bedding from farrowing is removed but not destroyed, it should be removed to a place where pigs cannot access it.
- BI.13 Requirement for a documented Wild Animal Control Plan now applicable to indoor units as well as outdoor units.
- BI.13.a and BI13.b have been deleted as duplicated with the standard

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

The threat of disease continues to risk severe welfare impacts and cause significant disruption to the livestock industry. Every site must adopt biosecurity measures to protect against disease entering the site and limit any spread. Effective traceability of animals, people, vehicles and other fomites is critical to support quick containment and limit further transmission.
This section sets out requirements for plans and controls - including risk assessment, recording and managing access to biosecure areas, good hygiene, PPE, and controlling risks from incoming stock, people, vehicles and wild animals. Requirements set out in the Transport (LT) and Traceability (TI) sections additionally require livestock vehicles to be properly cleansed and disinfected, and maintenance of detailed animal movement records.

General provisions

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
BI.0		General site biosecurity measures are in place	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
	BI.0.a	Toilets, offices, stores and break rooms are kept clean and tidy	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
	BI.0.b	There is no smoking or consumption of food within pig areas	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
	BI.0.c	Pigmeat products are not brought into the overall site biosecure area	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
	BI.0.d	Showers must be hygienic, available for individual use and securable/lockable by the user	Core, EWOB, FR		New
	BI.0.e	Sites requiring visitors to change into site-provided clothing/PPE must supply clean, suitable items. Where a full change of clothing is required, underwear must be included	Core, EWOB, FR		New

Biosecurity policy and risk assessment

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
BI.0.1 **Recommendation**		It is recommended that a quantitative biosecurity assessment should be undertaken annually for all sites,	Core, EWOB, FR		New

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		in conjunction with the designated vet			
Guidance Carrying out a quantitative biosecurity assessment is a mandatory requirement for all sites that are identified as persistently high users (PHUs) of antibiotics, and all sites identified as amber users for 4 consecutive quarters, as set out at AM8.3. It is a recommendation for all sites. Producers may find benefit in choosing a quantitative biosecurity assessment tool, such as Biocheck which includes benchmark performance and trend monitoring output.					
BI.1		A documented biosecurity policy must be in operation	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	BI.1.a	Policy is specific to the farm	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.1.b	Policy details measures to prevent and minimise the spread of disease on farm and between farms, including risks from: - incoming stock - equipment - vehicles - visitors - wild animals**	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	BI.1.c	The policy is being implemented	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance **Measures relating to wild animals may be documented within the biosecurity policy or set out separately in a Wild Animal Control Policy which is required at BI.13. The risk from wild animals, including but not limited to badgers, birds, deer, feral pigs, foxes, should be considered for both indoor and outdoor units. Only wild animals that present a risk to biosecurity and are likely to be present in the area need to be included.					

Biosecure areas and access

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
BI.2		Access to pig areas must be controlled and records kept	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	BI.2.a	A record is kept of all people and vehicles accessing the site *(including vets, field staff and	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Revised

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		deliveries/collections), detailing: - Date - Time of arrival and departure - Name - Organisation - Vehicle registration number (whether driver or passenger) - Purpose of visit - Contact with pigs/ access to pig housing - Date of last contact with pigs - Location of last contact with pigs - Confirmation of no vomiting, diarrhoea or flu-like symptoms in the last 24 hours - Visits overseas in the last 2 weeks (country and dates) - Next contact with pigs (date and location) if known			
	BI.2.b	Any person that poses a significant risk to the health and welfare of the pigs is refused entry	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance * But not applicable to staff based permanently at the site					
BI.3		The biosecure areas on the farm must be defined	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.3.a	Biosecure areas indicated on farm map(s)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.3.b	There is an overall site biosecure area and within that there are specific biosecure areas including, but not limited to, each pig area, feed stores	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.3.c	There are visible markers at vehicle entry points into biosecure areas	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *The overall site biosecure area should encompass wider areas of the unit, such as the yard, which are accessed by persons involved in the care of the pigs and which pigs may be moved to or through. The overall site biosecure area may or may not be defined by the farm's perimeter boundary. Visible markers at entry points into overall site and other biosecure areas may take the form of a line on the*					

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ground, a sign, and/or other similar physical indicators to alert the driver they are entering a biosecure area.					
BI.4 Recommendation		It is recommended that livestock collection/delivery is done at the perimeter of the site biosecure area on sites where breeding stock are present and/or growers or finishers are not collected on an All-In-All-Out basis	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial
	BI.4.1	Fallen stock collection vehicles must not enter the site biosecure area			Retained

Hygiene – personnel and clothing/ PPE

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
BI.5		On entry to a biosecure area all staff and visitors must be wearing clean footwear and clean clothing	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.5.a	Staff clothing and/or overalls are not excessively soiled	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.5.b	Visitors are provided with farm-dedicated clothing/overalls or new disposable overalls, and footwear or new robust overshoes for use from the point of entry to the biosecure area	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
BI.7		Hand cleanliness must be maintained	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.7.a	Means to clean and disinfect hands are available	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.7.b	Hands are washed or sanitised prior to starting work, after handling deadstock, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Disease transmission

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status

PROPOSALS

BI.11		All units must be a member of the AHDB Significant Diseases Charter or Scottish Pig Health Charter and report in line with the Terms and Conditions	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.11.a	Evidence that the site is signed up to the Charter	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.11.b	Vet declaration on QVRs confirms diseases have been reported in line with the T&Cs of the Charter	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
BI.12		Measures must be in place to minimise disease transmission between batches	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.12.a	Indoor farrowing accommodation is cleaned and disinfected between occupancies	Core		Retained
	BI.12.b	Outdoor farrowing arcs, tents, kennels and associated enclosing runs for growing pigs must be moved * to fresh land after each farrowing cycle or batch [k]unless sited on a concrete base and cleaned and disinfected between batches	Core, EWOB		Retained
	BI.12.c	Sites are only used for farrowing paddocks for a maximum of 2 years, or 2.5 years for single parity herds	Core, EWOB		Retained
	BI.12.d	Farrowing sows are not placed on land previously used for farrowing paddocks for at least 6 months	Core, EWOB		Retained
	BI.12.e	After weaning, used bedding from farrowing accommodation should be removed to a place where pigs cannot access it, or be destroyed	Core, EWOB		Revised
BI.13		A documented wild animal control plan must be implemented to minimise wild animal access to pigs on outdoor units and indoor units *	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance *Either set out in a separate Wild Animal Control Plan or included in the Biosecurity Policy required at BI.1. Wild animals include but are not limited to badgers, birds, deer, feral pigs, foxes. The plan need only consider access by wild animals that present a risk to biosecurity and are likely to be present in the area.					
BI.14		The Food Standards Agency risk assessment tool for Trichinella is applied annually to relevant units to determine controlled housing status	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	BI.14.a	The designated vet completes the FSA Trichinella risk assessment tool at least annually and after any significant change to the unit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	BI.14.b	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	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance: The controlled housing status determined by the FSA Trichinella risk assessment tool must be correctly declared on movement licenses as required at TI.2.d					

Resources

• AHDB guidance on biosecurity on pig farms: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/biosecurity-on-pig-farms
• AHDB Significant Diseases Charter: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/significant-diseases-charter
• AHDB information and practical guidance on vehicle cleaning and disinfection https://ahdb.org.uk/muckfreetruck
• AHDB Muck Free Truck SOP 7 Cleaning and Disinfection of Vehicles: https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Pork/Documents/sop-pedv-sop-7-master-june-2018-reduced-colour.pdf
• DEFRA approved disinfectants: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it
•Biocheck quantitative biosecurity assessment tool: https://biocheckgent.com/en

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback – BI.0.d and BI.0.e Showers and site provided clothing

These are new requirements to support personal safety, health and hygiene: showers must be clean, lockable and suitable for individual use; where visitors are required to wear site clothing, clean and suitable garments should be provided, including underwear if a full change is necessary.

To what extent do you agree that these are reasonable new requirements?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – BI.0.1 Recommendation for a Quantitative Biosecurity Assessment – all sites

Given the continuing need to prevent and limit disease spread, and the increasing threat of African Swine Fever, an annual quantitative biosecurity assessment that covers the farm's specific biosecurity practices is proposed for all sites as a recommendation, rather than a mandatory requirement.

To what extent do you agree with this recommendation?

PROPOSALS

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – BI.2.a Visitor records
In the event of disease outbreak, authorities must be able to trace movements to and from a site quickly - to limit costs to the individual farm business, disruption to the industry and animal health and welfare impacts. It is therefore proposed that visitor records include arrival and departure times, vehicle registrations, if pig housing is accessed, previous and planned contact with pigs, and any recent overseas travel.
To what extent do you agree that these details should be recorded in order to support rapid identification of potential disease routes?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback – BI.13 Wild Animal control Plan
It is proposed that the current requirement for outdoor units to have written Wild Animal Control Plan should also apply to indoor units. (Wild animals include badgers, birds, deer, feral pigs and foxes.)
To what extent do you agree where wild animals present a biosecurity risk to indoor units, there should be a plan for control?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Biosecurity – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Animal Medicines (AM)

Aim

Responsible and correct use of veterinary medicines.

Summary of proposed changes:

A small number of important changes are proposed, including a requirement for familiarity with the farm's broken needle policy, an amended level of producer responsibility for antibiotic administration, and guidance on correct medicine storage and withdrawal period management. Sites identified in the latest eMB report as persistently high users of antibiotics, or in the new amber category for four consecutive quarters, must complete a quantitative biosecurity assessment. This aligns with forthcoming eMB changes, which will categorise the highest 10% of users as PHUs and the next 10% as amber. Use of a benchmarking tool such as Biocheck is suggested, supported by free licences provided to vets via AHDB. Further eMB changes mean more information will appear on the front page of the latest report, removing the need to provide the previous four quarterly reports to the assessor.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- AM.4 Guidance added about importance of correct medicine storage
- AM.4.e Editorial change to requirement about checking fridge temperature and explicit that a record of checks is kept.
- AM.6a , AM.10.a Additional guidance about clear identification of animals in medicine withdrawal for the full period, and accurate records.
- AM.7.1, AM.7.a.a, AM.7.1.b moved to AM.2.2, AM.2.2.a, A M.2.2.b
- AM.8.2.c Editorial change
- AM.8.3 Aligned with changes to RUMA TTF3
- AM.9.2 Producer responsibility for administering antibiotics changed to responsibility for administrating as prescribed by the vet, rather than ultimate responsibility for correct antibiotic use on the unit
- AM.11 Editorial change
- AM.11.b Reworded to include requirement for stock people to be familiar with the broken needle policy.

PROPOSALS

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section sets out requirements for the safe and legal use of veterinary medicines - protecting animal health and welfare whilst preserving food safety.

Veterinary medicines must be administered by trained and competent stock people, and records must be kept that fulfil legal obligations. Sharps, in-date and expired medicines are amongst items for which there must be specific storage and disposal arrangements, and medicine withdrawal periods must be carefully managed.

Regular reporting of antibiotic use in the electronic medicine book (eMB) continues to demonstrate responsible use by the pig sector. The principle to use "as little as possible and as much as necessary" underpins responsible, targeted use - whilst preserving the pig sector's ongoing access to this important antimicrobial treatment option when it is needed.

Authorised and safe medicines

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.1 (Key)		Only authorised veterinary medicines are used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.1.a	POM-V products are prescribed by a vet	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.1.b	POM-VPS products are prescribed by a vet, pharmacist or Suitably Qualified Person (SQP)/Registered Animal Medicines Advisor (RAMA)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.1.d	Prescriptions for medicated feed detail all legally required information, including: - The species of animal, the number of animals and their ID - The diagnosed disease to be treated or prevented - Name, active substance and amount of product prescribed and inclusion rates (medicinal premix and active ingredient) - Overall amount of feed to be supplied under the prescription	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AM.2 (Key)		Veterinary medicines must be used appropriately	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.2.a	Prescription-only medicines are used in accordance with the prescription	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.2.b	General Sales Medicines (AVM-GSL) (non-prescription) are used in accordance with manufacturers or veterinary instructions	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	AM.2.c	Expired medicines and open medicines not used within specified timescale (in-use shelf-life) are not used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance A Veterinary Medicinal Product is legally defined as • any substance or combination of substances presented as having properties for treating or preventing disease in animals • any substance or combination of substances that may be used in, or administered to, animals with a view either to restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions by exerting a pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action, or to making a medical diagnosis. Veterinary medicinal products used to treat and prevent disease in farm animals include, but are not limited to, vaccines, ecto and endoparasiticides, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and anaesthetics. POM-V stands for 'Prescription Only Medicine – Veterinarian' and these veterinary products may only be supplied upon prescription by a veterinary surgeon for animals under their care. All antibiotics for food-producing animals are classified as POM-V. POM-VPS stands for 'Prescription-Only Medicine – Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Suitably Qualified Person (SQP, also known as RAMA – Registered Animal Medicines Advisor)' and these products may be prescribed by these registered qualified persons. The use of antibiotics as growth promoters is illegal. 'Medicines' includes medicinal premix (a veterinary medicinal product authorised for incorporation into feeding stuffs) and medicated feed. Subject to their professional obligations to ensure the health and welfare of animals under their care, vets are not permitted to prescribe antibiotics for routine use, or to compensate for poor hygiene, inadequate animal husbandry or poor farm management practices."				

Training and competence

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.3		Veterinary medicines must only be administered by demonstrably competent persons	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.3.a	Persons that inject pigs are deemed competent by a vet	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AM.3.1		At least one person that is responsible for overseeing use of medicines on the unit must have undertaken training and must hold a certificate of competence/attendance from training undertaken since January 2018	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.3.1.a	Training course covers at least: - medicine types - antibiotic classes - medicine handling, administration & storage - recording requirements - avoiding residues	Core, EWOB, FR		

PROPOSAL

		- antimicrobial resistance - responsible use of antibiotics			
Guidance Courses include, but are not limited to, City & Guilds, NOAH/Lantra Antimicrobial Best Practice (Pig modules) and veterinary led training courses, as approved by Red Tractor. A list of approved courses can be found on the Red Tractor Assurance website. Certificates obtained from courses undertaken between 1st January 2018 and 31st October 2021 are acceptable as evidence of compliance, regardless of whether approved or not. Fields people attending contract sites may be considered as a person responsible for overseeing use of medicines on the unit, however if there is someone on the unit that is responsible for management of medicines that person must also have undertaken training.					

Storage

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.4		Veterinary medicines must be stored appropriately*	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AM.4.a	Kept in a locked storage facility/room	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.4.b	Stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.4.c	Medicated feed is kept in separate clearly labelled bulk storage or bags	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.4.d	Medicines are not stored in the same refrigerator as food/drink	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.4.e	The temperature of refrigerators that are in use for temperature control of medicines, must be checked and recorded at least weekly **	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	AM.4.f	Refrigerator temperature is kept within the appropriate range for the products stored within	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Every medicine has its own specific storage instructions, which can be found on the label or in the packaging insert. These should be followed closely because many medicines are sensitive to light and temperature. The active ingredient in the medicine will be compromised if it is not stored correctly, causing it to be less effective, if not completely ineffective. **It is important to check fridge temperature at the location of the medicines within. The middle of a fridge generally has the most constant temperature, so may be the best place to store temperature sensitive medicines.					

PROPOSALS

Records of administration, purchase and prescriptions

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.5		Purchase records for all veterinary medicines must be kept	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	AM.5.a	Records detail: - identity of medicine - quantity - date of purchase - supplier name & address - batch number(s) and assigned bottle number if using for administration records - expiry date(s)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.5.b	Medicine purchase records are kept for 5 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.5.c	Medicated Feeding Stuff Prescriptions (MFSPs) are kept for 5 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Assigned bottle number allows members to assign a bottle number in the purchase records and note the assigned number in the administration records and for those bulk buying medication so individual bottles can be accounted for in records.*					
AM.6 (Key)		Records must be kept of all administered veterinary medicines (paper and/or electronic)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.6.a	Records detail: - identity of medicine - date of administration - quantity administered - length of withdrawal period for meat - identification of the animal or group of animals administered* - batch number or assigned bottle number linked back to purchase records - number of animals treated - date treatment finished - date animal becomes fit for human consumption - name of person administering medicine - reason for treatment	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AM.6.b	Medicine administration records are kept for 5 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

Guidance
The required information does not need to be in a single location (e.g. a medicine book); it can be stored in a combination of documents. However, a farm must be able to demonstrate how the information can be collated to correlate administration of particular medicines to specific groups of pigs so as to ensure the food chain is protected and any use of medicines is traceable. For example, medicines administered routinely to groups of animals, such as vaccines, need not be individually entered in the medicine book – a list in the VHP, medicine book or other document covering the necessary information will suffice as long as it can be correlated against other farm records such as farrowing/service records and associated medicine purchase records.
*Physical marks to identify animals may be useful but are not mandatory. However, if they are relied on, they must be accurately described in the record, and visible for the duration of withdrawal as set out in AM.10.a

Disposal - medicines, containers & administration equipment

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.7		Veterinary medicines, their containers and administration equipment must be disposed of responsibly	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	AM.7.a	Expired and unusable medicines awaiting disposal are stored separately to in-use medicines	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.7.b	Used needles and blades are stored in a dedicated sharps container pending disposal	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.7.c	Records of medicine disposal are kept, detailing: - Identity of medicine - Batch/bottle number - Quantity - Date of disposal - Route of disposal	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.7.d	Medicines, their containers and administration equipment are disposed of through the supplier, a registered waste disposal contractor or local authority, referring to the product literature for further guidance	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.7.e	Unused AI packs, which contain antibiotics, are disposed of as pharmacy waste and not in the general waste	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

Antibiotic use, reduction and reporting

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.7.1		Prophylactic administration of antibiotics is only permitted in exceptional circumstances	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Moved
	AM.7.1.a	The rationale for prescribing a product for prophylaxis is clearly recorded by the vet	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
	AM.7.1.b	When an antibiotic is prescribed for administration to a group of animals for prophylaxis a management review is carried out by the vet to identify factors and implement measures for the purpose of eliminating the need for any future such administration	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
AM.8 (Key)		Total antibiotics* used must be collated and uploaded onto AHDB Pork's electronic medicine book (eMB)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.8.a	Data is uploaded on a quarterly basis, within 6 weeks from the last day of each quarter	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance **only required for antibiotics, not other medicines or feed additives. It is not a requirement to use eMB as a daily record of medicines administered, although producers are free to do this if they wish*					
AM.8.1		Collated antibiotic data must be reviewed at least annually with the designated vet	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.8.1.a	As part of the review the vet makes recommendations for alternative disease prevention and control measures to minimise prophylactic use of antibiotics, where possible	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AM.8.2		Persistent high users of antibiotics* must develop and implement an Antibiotic Reduction Plan, in conjunction with their designated vet *as defined, and kept under review, by the Pig Health and Welfare Council; indicated on the most recent eMB report	Core, EWOB. FR	T	Retained
	AM.8.2.a	The Pig Health and Welfare Council's template Antibiotic Reduction Plan is used to outline actions and monitor progress	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.8.2.b	Antibiotic Reduction Plan outlines actions to be taken to reduce antibiotic use, with clear timescales for delivery	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	AM.8.2.c	Implementation of the antibiotic reduction plan is indicated by the vet on the QVR	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
AM.8.3		Persistently High Users (PHUs)* of antibiotics, and users placed in the amber category for 4 consecutive quarters* must undertake a quantitative biosecurity assessment ** in conjunction with the designated vet *as defined, and kept under review by the Pig Health and Welfare Council (PHWC) and indicated on the most recent electronic medicine book (EMB) report	Core, EWOB, FR		New
Guidance ***Producers may find benefit in choosing a quantitative biosecurity assessment tool such as Biocheck, which includes output suitable for benchmarking performance and trend monitoring*					
AM.9 (Key)		Use of HP-CIA antibiotics (i.e. those belonging to Category B Restrict, as defined by the European Medicines Agency), must only be as a last resort, under veterinary direction	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.9.a	Use is supported by a veterinary statement outlining the justification for use, including sensitivity testing and/or diagnostics (this can occur parallel with treatment)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AM.9.1		The vet must at all times prescribe antibiotics in accordance with the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS) Prescribing Principles for Antimicrobials, which reflect RUMA guidelines	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	AM.9.1.a	Declaration to this effect signed by the vet on the previous four QVRs	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
AM.9.2		Antibiotics must be administered as prescribed by the vet	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AM.9.2.a	Declaration to this effect signed by the producer on the previous four QVRs	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Medicine residues and needle precautions

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
AM.10		Prescribed withdrawal periods must be correct and complied with	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	AM.10.a	Treated livestock are identifiable for the entire withdrawal period	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Physical marks to identify animals may be useful but are not mandatory. However, if they are relied on, they must be visible for the duration of withdrawal and accurately described in the record required at AM.6*					
AM.11		Procedures must be in place to deal appropriately with needles or part needles remaining in livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	AM.11.a	Broken needle policy must be documented and include details of: - how the animal should be identified - procedures around informing the abattoir if sent for slaughter - records to be kept	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	AM.11.b	Stock people must be familiar with and follow the policy	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	AM.11.c	Livestock containing broken needles may only be sold for slaughter if the animal is identifiable up to the time of slaughter	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Resources

• AHDB - New Biosecurity Tool Available – Biocheck: https://ahdb.org.uk/news/new-biosecurity-tool-available-to-support-pig-producers-and-vets
• .Biocheck: https://biocheckgent.com/en
• • .AHDB Livestock Medicine Labelling and Storage: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/livestock-medicine-labelling-storage
• NOAH Compendium of authorised veterinary medicine datasheets: https://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/
• Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance: https://www.ruma.org.uk/
• Pig Health & Welfare Council practical guide to responsible use of antibiotics on pig farms: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/phwc-antimicrobial-usage
• eMB electronic medicine book for pigs: https://emb-pigs.ahdb.org.uk/
• PVS Prescribing Principles for Antimicrobials: https://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/resources/pvs-documents
• European Medicines Agency categorisation of antibiotics used in animals: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/report/infographic-categorisation-antibiotics-use-animals-prudent-responsible-use_en.pdf

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback - AM.8.3 Mandatory quantitative biosecurity assessments
Since launch of the electronic medicine book (eMB) in 2016, there has been a 72% reduction in antibiotic use in the pig sector. In 2027, the threshold for Persistently High Users (PHUs) will be increased to the top10% (from 5%), with the next 10% classified as Amber. PHUs and units classified as Amber for four consecutive quarters will be required to complete a quantitative biosecurity assessment with their farm vet to evaluate biosecurity status and identify weaknesses and targeted improvements. These changes are reflected in the proposed standards.
Reference: UK pig sector set 'ambitious' new 20% antibiotic reduction target - National Pig Association

PROPOSALS

To what extent do you agree that Red Tractor should support this industry initiative with this proposed standard?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Animal Medicines – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Fallen Stock (FS)

Aim

Timely and diligent management of fallen stock

Summary of proposed changes:

Requirements in this section remain largely unchanged but are strengthened in relation to fallen stock storage and screening from view. Requirements to keep EA exemption documentation for spreading ash, and incinerator service paperwork, have been removed.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- FS.1.b, FS.1.c New requirements for timely storage of fallen stock and were transfer is overlooked, carcass to be protected from sight.
- FS.2..1 Recommendation that fallen stock is marked with indelible dye, made into a mandatory requirement
- FS.2.b Revised to be explicit that fallen stock stores should protect the contents from view
- FS.3.a -c Editorial change
- FS.3.e - f Deleted - non-conformance data shows unnecessary
- FS.3.g Editorial

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

Fallen stock should be managed in such a way as to prevent the risk of environmental contamination, spread of disease, and limit reputational risk. This section includes requirements for carcase storage, prompt removal and timely disposal.

Fallen Stock

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
FS.1		Fallen stock must be removed from housing/pens/fields	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	FS.1.a	Evidence that checks for fallen stock are regularly conducted and any found are promptly removed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FS.1.b	Following prompt removal, fallen stock must be transferred to secure storage as soon as practicable	Core, EWOB, FR		New
	FS.1.c	Where transfer of fallen stock may be overlooked from outside the site, carcases should be protected from view	Core, EWOB, FR		New
FS.2 (Key)		Fallen stock must be stored securely and in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FS.2.a	Fallen stock is stored in a manner that prevents access by vermin and other animals and ensures any effluent is contained	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FS.2.b	Containers used to store fallen stock must protect the contents from view, and be kept locked or within a locked facility unless empty	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	FS.2.c	Where it is not possible to store fallen adult breeding stock in a container a dedicated area within a building, locked when unattended, may be used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FS.2.d	Where an incinerator is used as storage, additional storage facilities are available for when the incinerator is running and/or malfunctional	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
FS.2.1		Carcases of fallen stock are marked with indelible dye when placed into fallen stock storage	Core, EWOB, FR		Upgrade
FS.3		Carcasses must be disposed of correctly, either by a licensed collector or by approved on-farm incineration	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FS.3.a	Fallen stock must be disposed of before they present an infestation/health risk	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	FS.3.b	Fallen stock must be collected by or taken to a licensed fallen stock collector	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	FS.3.c	No evidence of fallen stock being disposed of by burning or burying (other than by incineration)	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	FS.3.d	On-farm incinerators are covered by species approval document issued by the relevant competent authority	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	FS.3.g	Collection/ disposal records are kept for 2 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance					

PROPOSALS

Fallen stock includes the carcases of animals that have died and been euthanased, still births and afterbirths

Resources

- Government guidance on fallen stock and safe disposal of dead animals: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fallen-stock
- National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo) collection and disposal service for farmers: http://www.nfsco.co.uk/
- AHDB guidance on disposal of fallen stock: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/disposal-of-fallen-livestock
- Government guidance on incineration of animal by-products: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-by-products-how-to-burn-them-at-an-incinerator-site.

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback - FS 1.b Timely transfer
Footage of fallen stock appears on social media, effecting public perception. New requirements would ensure it is moved promptly to secure storage. This would reduce delaying the task until the end of the day when time may be limited, and the risk of footage being recorded and used against the farm or wider industry.

To what extent do you agree that these new requirements are appropriate?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback - FS.2.1 Fallen stock marked with indelible dye
It is proposed that the recommendation to mark fallen stock with indelible dye becomes a mandatory requirement. This would help identify any carcase removed from storage and misused by intruders to discredit pig farmers.
To what extent do you agree this proposal is proportionate?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback - FS.2.b Protection of fallen stock store contents from view
Although many UK sites use practical, fit-for-purpose bespoke or adapted containers, the revised requirement would clarify that translucent containers, such as converted IBCs, are not acceptable.

PROPOSALS

To what extent do you agree this requirement is proportionate?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific Feedback - FS.1.c Screening fallen stock during transfer to storage
In view of increased public interest in pig farm practice, to what extent do you agree that fallen stock should be screened from view during transfer to storage, if visible from outside the site?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Fallen Stock – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Livestock Transport (LT)

Aim

Well planned and managed livestock transportation.

Summary of proposed changes:

To support disease containment readiness, vehicle C&D record requirements have been revised. A proposal is included that allows the use of trailers without roofs for transporting livestock within the farm, if weather is pleasant. For the sake of completeness, animals with open wounds or prolapses have been added to the list of those not considered fit for transport. And some editorial changes have been made to aid clarity.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references added where helpful
- LT.1.c Editorial
- LT.1.h Editorial
- LT.1.k Revised so as not to exclude the use of suitable trailers without roofs for moving livestock internally in pleasant weather (e.g. weaners from paddock to yard). Guidance added to explain 'internal journeys'
- LT.3.b Revision to make it explicit that the space required for animals to stand up means when standing in their natural position
- LT.3.c has been removed and moved to guidance
- LT.4 has absorbed audit points LT.4.and LT.4.b and been split into a standard and related guidance. Examples of animals not considered fit for transport has been revised to include animals with prolapses and open wounds, in line with legislation.
- LT. 4.0, LT.4.0.a, LT.4.0.b combined. Editorial change to clarify feed withdrawal is not mandatory
- LT.6.c Revised - all delivery delays to be notified to destination, not only those expected to be over one hour
- LT.9 Clarification that the C&D specific requirements set out apply to off-site transport
- LT.9.d C&D record details revised to include the ID of trailers

PROPOSALS

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section sets out requirements for the safe transport of pigs - reinforcing animal welfare and supporting disease control. Only fit pigs can be transported by competent personnel. Journey times should be kept to the minimum, and contingency plans made for unforeseen events. Vehicles must be well maintained, have appropriate flooring, good ventilation, weather protection and partitions where appropriate. Stocking density must comply with legal requirements and be adjusted for specific conditions such as hot weather, and to prevent disease spread, vehicles must be cleansed and disinfected.

Vehicles

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
LT.1 (Key)		Vehicles used maintain the health and welfare of livestock being transported	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.a	Headroom that allows livestock to stand in a natural position	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.b	Non-slip flooring	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.c	Flooring should be maintained to minimise leakage of faeces and urine (as far as practicable)	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	LT.1.d	No sharp edges, projections or other hazards which may cause injury	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.e	Adequate ventilation	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.f	Partitions are appropriately designed, constructed and positioned	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.g	For journeys over 8 hours, partitions are provided For journeys less than 8 hours, partitions are provided as necessary to allow segregation of stock and prevent individuals or small groups of animals from injury	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.h	The vehicle is secure and there are side gates on loading ramps	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
	LT.1.i	Loading ramps have foot batons to reduce risk of slipping	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.j	The internal and external ramp angles do not exceed 20 degrees	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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	LT.1.k	Vehicles must be fitted with a roof, except for internal* journeys of less than 0.5 km if weather protection is not necessary at the time of travel	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.1.m	Lighting (either fixed or portable) is available for inspection of livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance *Internal journeys mean journeys within the unit/ farm/ site not including travelling along any public roads					
LT.2		Pigs must be provided with bedding during transport	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Stocking density

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
LT.3		Legally required stocking densities must be followed in order to minimise stress and risk of injury	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.3.a	Adjustments made when required to allow for current weather conditions, type of vehicle and size and category of livestock	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.3.b	There is sufficient space for pigs to be able to lie down and stand up in their natural position	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance * EC council directive 2005/5 states that in order to comply with these minimum requirements the loading density for pigs of around 100 kg should not exceed 235 kg/m2					

Fitness to travel & feed withdrawal

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
LT.4		Livestock transported off farm must be fit** for the intended journey	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance **The following are included in animals that are not considered fit for transport: - livestock with a prolapse or open wound - livestock that are unable to bear weight on all four legs and walk onto the vehicle unaided - sick or injured livestock where moving them would cause additional suffering - heavily pregnant females (where more than 90% of the gestation period has passed) unless being					

PROPOSALS

transported for veterinary treatment - females who have given birth during the last 7 days - piglets less than 3 weeks old					
LT.4.0		If feed is withdrawn before transport, it must not be withdrawn more than 8 hours prior to transport or 12 hours prior to planned arrival at destination	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance This standard does not require feed withdrawal to be practiced, but where it is, time off-feed is kept within the above prescribed limits					

Journey time

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
LT.4.1		Journey times (from time of first pig being loaded, to last pig being unloaded) must be kept to a minimum	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.4.1.a	Piglets less than 10 kg are not transported for more than 8 hours	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.4.1.b	Pigs are unloaded without delay on arrival at farm			Retained
	PW.LT.4.1.c	Maximum transport time is 8 hours for all pigs	EWOB, FR		Retained

Competency & transport contingency plan

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
LT.5		Livestock transported by a trained and competent person	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.5.a	Drivers have an understanding of handling and driving livestock to avoid injury, minimise stress and express normal behaviours	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.5.b	Drivers hold the relevant Species-Specific Certificate of Competence for the journeys they undertake	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Information and demonstration of moving and handling pigs is included in the AHDB Industry Platform Moving and Handling Pigs module, and in the Moving and Handling Pigs (MH) section of this manual.					

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	LT.6	Emergency plans and facilities must be in place for own transport	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Retained
	LT.6.a	Driver equipped with a mobile phone and emergency contact numbers	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.6.b	A written transport contingency plan* outlines actions to be taken in the event of an emergency during transport of pigs off-farm	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.6.c	Deviations from scheduled arrival times are notified to the receiving slaughterhouse or farm	Core, EWOB,FR		Revised
Guidance *A transport contingency plan template is available on the Red Tractor website for optional use					
LT.7		A valid transporter authorisation is held for the journeys undertaken	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
LT.8		Vehicles and trailers used for journeys in excess of 8 hours must be approved by the relevant competent authority Vehicle cleaning & disinfection	Core, EWOB		Retained

Vehicle cleaning & disinfection

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
LT.9		Vehicles used to transport pigs off site must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected with Defra-approved disinfectants	Core, EWOB, FR	T	Editorial change
	LT.9.a	Vehicles are cleansed and disinfected before leaving the site, after each delivery, where pigs are delivered to a market, collection centre or abattoir	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	LT.9.b	Vehicles are cleansed and disinfected after every load and within 24 hours of delivery where there are no effective wash facilities	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.9.c	Only disinfectants approved by Defra/DAERA are used, applied at the approved dilution rates for General Orders	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	LT.9.d	Records of vehicle cleaning and disinfection are kept, which include the identification of the load compartment in which the animals were carried e.g. registration of rigid box wagons, trailer ID for livestock trailers or arctic trailers	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised

PROPOSALS

Resources

Government guidance on animal welfare during transport:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare#animal-welfareduring-transport

- AHDB information and practical guidance on vehicle cleaning and disinfection
https://ahdb.org.uk/muckfreetruck
- AHDB Muck Free Truck SOP 7 Cleaning and Disinfection of Vehicles:
https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Pork/Documents/sop-pedv-sop-7-master-june-2018-reduced-colour.pdf
- DEFRA approved disinfectants: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it
- DAERA approved disinfectants: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-disinfectants
- https://www.tillypass.co.uk - 18 point check 'return to manufacturer's spec' with in between checks by farm. Certificate that can be used when selling and show due diligence. Recommended by NFU Mutual

PROPOSALS

Environmental Protection and Contamination Control (EC)

Aim

Potential pollutants are correctly handled, applied and stored in a manner that prevents contamination and pollution.

Summary of proposed changes:

This section includes requirements relevant to crop production and has been reviewed to give greater prominence to pig enterprises and reduce record-keeping requirements where possible. Oil tank bunding requirements have been aligned across all nations to include smaller and older tanks, and warning signs are proposed for slurry lagoons and pits.

Changes in detail

- Section introduction added for context and content
- Subheadings added to aid navigation
- Reordered and cross references to related standards added where helpful
- EC.1.a Tanks storing agricultural fuel oil that are older than 1991 and smaller than 1500 litres now included in requirement to be bunded, not only those in Wales
- EC.1.3 Revised - in addition to fencing around slurry pits and lagoons, warning signs to be displayed
- EC.1.4 .a has been merged with EC.1.4 Editorial - absorbed audit point and guidance added
- EC.2, EC.2.a EC.2.b have been merged and moved to EC.1.f
- EC.4 Editorial
- EC.4.a Merged into EC.4
- EC.5.a Additon of guidance including examples of ‘area of high pollution risk'
- EC.7.a Editorial - additional linked guidance about test/checks of knapsacks/ handheld and pedestrian PPP application equipment
- EC.7.b - removed - overlap with PA training and NSTS. Calibration of pesticide application equipment is covered within the relevant PA (NPTC/Lantra) operator qualifications, and NSTS testing provides periodic independent verification that the equipment is operating correctly legislation does not require calibration to be annual
- EC.8 Editorial change to link new guidance that in NI, DEARA requires spray records to be kept electronically
- EC.8.a and EC.8.b - current standard split - no change to required record for crops but fewer if spot spraying with knapsacks

PROPOSALS

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

This section covers pollution prevention and responsible resource management. Requirements are set out for the assessment of site suitability before placing outdoor pigs, safe storage and use of potential pollutants including fuel, muck and slurry. Also required are relevant competencies, careful planning, record-keeping and responsible waste disposal.

Storage of potential pollutants

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
EC.1 (Key)		Potential pollutants must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution to crops, feedstuffs, animals, soils, groundwater and watercourses	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.a	All in-use fuel tanks must be bunded	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	EC.1.b	Agrochemicals are kept in a well-maintained store which allows for containment of any spillages	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.c	Manufactured fertiliser is stored on a hard, dry surface	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.d	Fertilisers that pose a combustion or oxidiser hazard are stored in accordance with the Safety Data Sheet	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.e	Liquid feed is contained. Storage tanks, drums and containers are bunded or sited in such a way that any spillage cannot enter any clean drainage system	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Potential pollutants include, but are not limited to, plant protection products (PPPs)*, manufactured fertilisers, fuel oil, empty containers, disinfectants, rodenticides and silage effluent *PPPs are defined as any product with a current MAPP number					
	EC.1.f	In the case of packaging breakages potential pollutants must be transferred to a suitable container with an appropriate safe closure cap or bag ties and original label information displayed	Core, EWOB, FR		Moved
EC.1.1 (Key)		Organic manures must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution to crops, feedstuffs, animals, soils, groundwater and watercourses	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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	EC.1.1.a	Organic manures (not including storage within a building) are not stored: - within 10m of inland freshwaters or coastal waters - within 50m of a spring, well or borehole - where there is significant risk of runoff entering watercourses	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance Watercourse includes, water courses (ditches, streams, rivers), ponds, lakes, reservoirs, canals, estuaries, coastline Organic manure = livestock manures, sewage sludge/ biosolids, compost, digestates, organic industrial wastes Risk factors which could lead to runoff, which should be taken into account are: slope (especially if greater than 12 degrees), ground cover, proximity to watercourses or wetlands, weather conditions and forecasts, soil type and condition, presence and condition of land drains Useful slurry storage calculation tools include AHDB Slurry Wizard and CAFRE Nutrients Calculator.					
	EC.1.1.b	Manure heap (not including field heaps) effluent runoff does not enter a watercourse, either directly or through land drains, roads, tracks or other pathways	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.1.c	Where manure is stored in temporary field heaps, these must be moved at least every 12 months	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.1.d	Slurry tanks, reception pits, pipes and channels are impermeable	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.1.e	Above ground slurry stores with a pipe for emptying are fitted with at least two functioning valves (one of which can be the nozzle), locked when not in use	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.1.f	Reception pits can hold 48 hours' production including likely rainfall on all surfaces draining into the pit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.1.g	The combined available capacity of slurry tanks, pits, compounds and lagoons have sufficient capacity for slurry storage of: - at least 4 months in non-NVZ areas (England) - at least 6 months in NVZ areas (England) - at least 26 weeks in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.1.1.h	There is a documented up-to-date calculation of slurry storage requirements	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

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EC.1.3		Slurry pits/lagoons must be fenced for animal and personnel safety and warning signs displayed prominently*	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
Guidance * AHDB and the Health and Safety Executive information and guidance can be found here: - AHDB Slurry Stores: Health and Safety https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/slurry-stores-health-and-safety - Health and Safety Executive Information Sheet 9: Managing slurry on farms https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais9.pdf					

PROPOSALS

Outdoor pigs – assessment of site suitability

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
EC.1.4		Land for outdoor pig production must be assessed for site and soil suitability and any identified actions implemented before pigs are placed on the land	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance Ground conditions have significant impact on the ability to carry out daily operations, limit risks to the environment, and maintain good pig health and welfare. Assessment of site suitability should be made when considering prospective stocking areas. Assessment could involve the use of the AHDB Good Soil Practice Management Guide for Outside Pig Keepers, a link to which can be found in the WTFH panel at the end of this section					
	EC.1.5	Injurious weeds (e.g. ragwort) which pigs may access must be controlled	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Plant protection products (PPPs) – application, equipment, records & operator qualifications

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
EC.4 (Key)		PPPs must be appropriate for their intended use	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.4.a	Manufacturer's instructions are followed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.4.b	PPPs are approved for use	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.4.c	Unapproved product is kept in a segregated area of the pesticide store, pending collection for disposal at the earliest opportunity; clearly marked with signs/labels stating that it must not be used	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
EC.5 (Key)		PPPs must be applied in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.5.a	PPP application does not occur in areas of high pollution risk*, as identified on a farm/site map(s)**	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change

PROPOSALS

	EC.5.b	PPP application does not occur in unsuitable conditions e.g. when there is a risk of drift or where soil conditions are unsuitable e.g. waterlogged, flooded or snow-covered soil or where the soil has been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.5.c	Buffer zone requirements of the PPP being applied are complied with	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance * Examples of areas of high pollution risk would include: steep slopes, in particular if the angle is greater than 12 degrees, land prone to runoff, proximity to inland freshwaters, coastal waters, wetlands, springs, wells, boreholes, land drains **This can be on a separate map or part of the map required by DP.1.1 in the Documents and Procedures (DP) section of this manual					
EC.6		PPP application must be undertaken by competent operators	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.6.a	NPTC Pesticide Application Certificates/Lantra Awards Level 2 Pesticides qualification	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
EC.7		All PPP application equipment must be maintained and tested	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.7.a	Frequency of testing is carried out as follows: - all new trailed/mounted/self-propelled sprayers are NSTS tested before they are 5 years old - subsequently trailed/mounted/self-propelled sprayers with a boom width over 3m are NSTS tested once every 3 years - subsequently trailed/mounted/self-propelled sprayers with a boom width of 3m or under and other application equipment (slug pellet, micro-granular applicators, weed wipers) are NSTS tested once every 6 years - knapsack, handheld and pedestrian equipment does not require an NSTS test but should be checked by the operator* at least annually	Core, EWOB, FR		Editorial change
Guidance *Visual checks by a competent operator for wear, leaks, damaged hoses, faulty nozzles and pressure problems are sufficient					

PROPOSALS

EC.8		Records must be kept of all PPP applications *	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.8.a	Where only spot spraying with a knapsack e.g. weeds around pig housing, records must include **: -Location -Product name and authorisation number (MAPP) -Date and time of application -Dose applied -Area treated -Crop or situation (e.g. weeds around House 2/ Blue Shed) -Name of person	Core, EWOB, FR		Revised
	EC.8.b	Where applying to crops/ cropped areas including grass/ green covers on land used for outdoor pigs, records must also include: -Sowing or planting date, where applicable -Justification/target for application -Rate of application -Water volume -Wind direction and speed -Grazing/harvest interval, where applicable -First permissible harvest date, where applicable	Core, EWOB, FR		New
Guidance *In Northern Ireland, records must be kept electronically ** Producers who wish to meet PPP application record requirements of more than one assurance scheme with a single record, should check the specific requirements of the other scheme(s) as they may require additional details					
	EC.8.c	Records are kept for at least 3 years	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
EC.8.1		Where PPPs are used on crops an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan must be completed	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Fertiliser & soil amendments

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
EC.9		Manufactured fertilisers and organic manures must be applied in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.a	Any materials, including waste materials, that are applied to land should have agricultural benefit	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

	EC.9.b	Exemptions/permits to use waste materials are held	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.c	A Manure Management Plan (MMP) is kept and followed when applying organic manures to land	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.d	MMP includes, at least: - where and when manure can/cannot be applied (detailed on a map) - calculations of total area required to apply volume of organic manure produced by stock at legal application rate - details of Total Spreadable Area available and outlets for any excess organic manure	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.e	Before application the following factors are considered: - NVZ restrictions - soil type - soil condition - crop requirements - slope - weather conditions - the location of watercourses - water supplies and abstraction points (including on neighbouring land)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.f	Applications are not carried out during high-risk times e.g. on waterlogged, flooded or snow-covered soil or where the soil has been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.g	Biosolids are assured under the Biosolids Assurance Scheme	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.h	Untreated sewage sludge, untreated abattoir or catering derived animal by-products are not applied	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.9.i	Applications are made in accordance with Appendix (closed periods)	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
EC.10		All manufactured fertiliser application equipment must be maintained and calibrated at least annually	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

Waste disposal & recycling

Standard reference	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status
EC.11 (Key)		All wastes which cannot be utilised are disposed of in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.11.a	Wastes are disposed of by a registered waste carrier	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.11.b	Wastes are not burnt, with the exception of vegetation and untreated wood	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.11.c	Empty PPP containers are: - cleaned using an integrated pressure rinsing device, or triple rinsed appropriately and the rinsate returned to the spray tank - stored securely - not reused - returned to the supplier or where non-returnable, disposed of via a registered waste carrier	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.11.d	Redundant PPPs are disposed of via the supplier or a registered waste carrier	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
Guidance In order to transport you own waste you must be registered (free of charge) as a low tier waste carrier: https://www.gov.uk/register-renew-waste-carrier-broker-dealer-england					
	EC.12	Systems are in place to manage waste responsibly	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	EC.12.a	Opportunities are considered for: - reducing the production of waste - re-using waste - recycling waste, plastics in particular	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

Resources

AHDB Slurry Stores : Health and Safety https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/slurry-stores-health-and-safety

•Health and Safety Executive Information Sheet 9: Managing slurry on farms https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais9.pdf

• Protecting our Water, Soil and Air: A Code of Good Agricultural Practice https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air

• HSE guidance on storing, transporting and using pesticides and other agrochemicals safely: https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/pesticides.html

• AHDB guidance on water regulations for pig farms: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/water-regulations-for-pig-farms

• AHDB guidance on slurry storage: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/slurry-and-manure

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• AHDB Good Soil Management Practice for Outside Pig Keepers: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/good-soil-management-practice-for-outside-pig-keepers , consulting soil scientists, agronomists, ecologists, environmental consultants and/or soil and geological data
• Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) for making the most of organic materials and balancing the benefits of fertiliser use against economic and environmental costs: https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209
• NFU and Voluntary Initiative template IPM plan: https://www.nfuonline.com/ipm/
• City & Guilds Land Based Service pesticide application certificates of competence: https://www.nptc.org.uk/
• National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS): https://www.nsts.org.uk/
• Pesticides Register of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Authorised Products: https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg/
• GB authorised biocidal products (including rodenticides): https://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/uk-authorised-biocidal-products.html
• Public registers of waste carriers, brokers and dealers: – https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers (England) – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/registered-waste-carriers-transporters (Northern Ireland) – https://www2.sepa.org.uk/wastecarriers/ (Scotland) – https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/waste-carriers-brokers-and-dealers-public-register/?lang=en (Wales)
• Environment Agency resource efficiency and waste - key actions for farmers: https://projectblue.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Pork/Documents/Key%20Actions%20for%20Farmers_Resource%20Efficiency%20and%20Waste.pdf

Give Feedback:

Specific Feedback - EC.1.a Bunding fuel oil tanks
Current requirements align with the SSAFO regulations, or equivalent, requiring bunding for tanks used to store agricultural fuel oil. But these regulations don't require bunding of tanks under 1500 litres or older than 35 years in England, or tanks under 1250 litres or older than 13 years in Northern Ireland and Scotland.
Older tanks may pose an equal or greater risk of leaking than newer tanks, and even small quantities of fuel oil can cause significant environmental damage.
To what extent do you agree it is proportionate to require bunds for these smaller and older tanks? (This does not apply to domestic, mobile and underground tanks.)

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Specific Feedback - EC.1.3 Warning signs
Slurry pits and lagoons pose well-established risks to people and animals. The HSE make it clear that slurry stores present serious risks including falling in to stores and exposure to gases. In addition to the existing requirement for fencing, to what extent do you agree that warning signs should also be displayed?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Environmental protection and contamination control – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards? [multiple choice]

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

PROPOSALS

Urea (UR)

Aim

Fertilisers containing urea must only be applied where the following requirements are met

Summary of proposed changes:

Introduction added for context and content.

Proposed Standards

Section Introduction

By demonstrating that urea fertilisers are only used where appropriate, the agricultural industry can provide evidence of responsible nutrient management through a voluntary stewardship approach. This industry-led approach was developed to offset a proposed ban on unprotected urea fertilisers, helping retain access to an important fertiliser option without the need for further regulatory intervention. As agriculture is a devolved matter, the requirements relating to unprotected/uninhibited fertiliser containing urea currently apply only in England.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Standard	Template (T)	Change status:
UR.1		Fertiliser containing urea must only be applied where the following requirements are met	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	UR.1.a	Protected/inhibited fertilisers containing solid urea can be applied within any product use by/best before dates	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	UR.1.b	Protected/inhibited fertilisers containing liquid urea can be applied with the prescribed rate of protector/inhibitor for the application, and within any product use by/best before date	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	UR.1.c	In England, unprotected/uninhibited solid fertiliser containing urea can only be applied between 15th January and 31st March	Core, EWOB,FR		Retained
	UR.1.d	In England, unprotected/uninhibited liquid fertiliser containing urea can be applied between 15th January and 31st March	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained
	UR.1.e	In England, unprotected/uninhibited liquid fertiliser containing urea can be applied between 1st April and last application in autumn only if agronomic justification is provided by FACTS-qualified farm personnel or advice specific for the crop has been	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

		provided by a FACTS-Qualified Adviser and been followed (see EC 9.1)			
	UR.1.f	In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales fertiliser containing urea (solid and liquid) can be applied as per relevant legislation	Core, EWOB, FR		Retained

PROPOSALS

Your feedback on the wider proposals

Questions in the consultation focus on sections where significant changes to standards have been proposed. This document contains the proposed standards in full, including sections where no changes or only minor editorial changes are proposed.

Thank you for taking the time to review the proposals. All feedback is appreciated. Your feedback will be considered by the Sector Boards and Technical Advisory Committees before any changes are made in 2027.

Find out more about the proposals and what happens next at https://redtractor.org.uk/pigs-consultation/.

PROPOSALS