

# pigs

**codes of practice**  
for the welfare of pigs



The Scottish  
Government

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## **CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF PIGS:**

### ***NOTE***

This Code which has been prepared following consultation, is issued with the authority of the Scottish Parliament pursuant to Section 37 (animal welfare codes) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

The Code applies in Scotland and has been issued by the Scottish Ministers (following approval by the Scottish Parliament).

Any reference in this Code to advisory publications is for information only and does not form part of this Code.

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Scottish Government  
Animal Health and Welfare Division  
P Spur  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh  
EH11 3XD

tel: 0300 244 6673

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This preface is not part of the Code, but is intended to explain its purpose and to indicate the broad considerations upon which it is based. Similarly, the legislation quoted in the boxes throughout the document is not part of the Code but is intended to highlight the relevant legal requirements. The law, as quoted in these boxes, is that in force on the date of publication or reprinting of the Code. You should be aware that any of the legal requirements quoted might be subject to change - you should seek confirmation before assuming that these are an accurate statement of the law currently in force.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Regulation 7, states that:

A person responsible for a farmed animal must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person employed or engaged by the person responsible does not attend to that animal unless that employed or engaged person:

- is acquainted with any relevant animal welfare codes relating to the animal being attended to;
- has access to a copy of those codes while that person is attending to that animal; and
- has received instruction and guidance on those codes.

A person responsible for a farmed animal must not attend to that animal unless that person is acquainted with any relevant animal welfare code and has access to that code while attending to that animal.

In Regulation 2 it states that “animal welfare code” means a code of practice issued under Section 37 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

To cause or permit unnecessary suffering is an offence under Section 19 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. The breach of a Code provision, whilst not an offence in itself, can nevertheless be used in evidence as tending to establish the guilt of anyone accused of causing unnecessary suffering under the Act (Section 37(9)).

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Regulation 5(1), states that:

A person responsible for a farmed animal must ensure that the conditions under which that animal is bred or kept comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 1.

Regulation 5(2) of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No 388), states that:

In relation to the duty in paragraph (1), a person responsible for a farmed animal must have regard to its species, degree of development, adaptation and domestication and physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

Regulation 8 states that:

Where an inspector considers that a farmed animal is being kept in contravention of any provision of these Regulations, the inspector may serve a notice on the person who in the opinion of the inspector is responsible for that animal requiring that person within the period stated in the notice to take any action that the inspector considers to be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with these Regulations and the inspector shall give his reasons for requiring that action to be taken.

Regulation 11 states that:

A person responsible for animals who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of the Regulations or fails to comply with a notice served under regulation 8 within the time specified in the notice or causes or permits any of the above is guilty of an offence.

The Code aims to encourage all those who care for farm animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry. Without good stockmanship, animal welfare can never be adequately protected. If 'stock-keepers' follow this Code, it will help them to meet the necessary welfare standards. No matter how acceptable a system may be in principle, without competent, diligent stockmanship, the welfare of the animals cannot be adequately catered for.

The welfare of pigs is considered within a framework that was developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee and known as the "Five Freedoms". These form a logical basis for assessing animal welfare within any husbandry system, together

with the actions necessary to safeguard animal welfare within the limitations of an efficient livestock industry.

The Five Freedoms are based on an animal's needs as follows:

- **its need for a suitable environment**
  - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
- **its need for a suitable diet**
  - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;
- **its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns**
  - by providing sufficient space and proper facilities;
- **any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals**
  - by providing company of the animals' own kind, if appropriate;
- **its need to be protected from suffering, injury and disease**
  - by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid suffering, including mental suffering.

In acknowledging these freedoms, those people who care for livestock should demonstrate:

- caring and responsible planning and management;
- skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockmanship;
- appropriate environmental design (for example, of the husbandry system);
- considerate handling and transport;
- humane slaughter.

Part 2 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 contains the general law relating to animal welfare. Broadly it is an offence (under Section 19 of the Act) to cause or permit suffering to any domestic or captive animal by anything that is done or omitted to be done, and an offence (under Section 24) to fail to take steps to ensure that the needs of an animal are met.

Section 32 of the Act empowers an inspector or a police constable to take possession of an animal which is considered to be suffering or in danger of suffering. Section 34 gives the courts the power to make a disposal order for seized animals which can allow these animals to be sold, destroyed or disposed of in another manner. The reasonable costs involved, including veterinary treatment can be recovered from any proceeds from the sale of the animal. A disposal order can be made before a charge under the Act has been brought.

Under Section 40 of the Act a court has the power to disqualify a person convicted under the Act from owning, keeping, dealing in, transporting, taking possession or taking charge of animals. The ban can specify a particular kind of animal or all animals for such a period as the court thinks fit.

This Code applies in Scotland only and has been issued by the Scottish Ministers (following its approval by the Scottish Parliament). It replaces (also only in Scotland) the existing Code, which was issued in 1983.

Similar Codes have been produced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## 4 introduction

- 1** This Code (which only applies in Scotland) covers all pigs. The word “pigs” refers to all porcine stock, and includes wild boar kept for farming purposes. A piglet refers to a pig from birth to weaning.
- 2** The Code’s recommendations apply to pigs under all husbandry systems. Section 1 of the Code gives the recommendations that apply to all ages and types of pig. Section 2 covers the recommendations that apply to specific categories of pigs (such as boars or pigs kept outdoors). If these recommendations are followed, they will help to protect the stock’s welfare. The Code’s recommendations are not a complete list and they are not meant to replace expert advice such as from a veterinary surgeon.
- 3** The husbandry system that is used, and the number of pigs kept at any one time, should depend on:
  - the suitability of the farm environment;
  - how many animals the farm can accommodate at one time;
  - the competence of the stock-keeper; and
  - how long the stock-keepers have to carry out their duties.
- 4** Organic pig farming is conducted according to additional, legally enforced standards. However, nothing in those standards affects the legal responsibilities of organic farmers regarding positive animal welfare. Any matters which appear to conflict with organic standards should be discussed with your organic certifying body. In addition, you should seek expert advice, such as from a veterinary surgeon.
- 5** No changes should be made to husbandry, equipment or production until the possible effects on animal welfare have been considered. The possible effect on animal welfare should be considered before installing more complex or elaborate equipment than has previously been used. In general, the greater the restriction imposed on the animal and the greater the complexity of the overall system, the less the animal is able to use its instinctive behaviour to modify the effect of unfavourable conditions. Systems involving a high degree of control over the environment should only be installed where conscientious staff skilled in both animal husbandry and the use of the equipment will always be available.
- 6** The relevant animal welfare legislation applies to owners as well as to anyone looking after pigs on their behalf, wherever the pigs are – either on the farm or during transport. A written contract can be useful in making sure that everyone involved is clear about his or her animal welfare responsibilities. However, the obligations imposed by law will still apply, whether or not a contract exists. Certain aspects of livestock husbandry can present hazards to the health and safety of the stock-keeper (such as the level of dust in the environment). Advice on such matters is available from the local Agricultural Safety Inspector of the Health and Safety Executive.

## section 1 – recommendations for all pigs

## stockmanship

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388) define a “person responsible” as “a person responsible for an animal in terms of Section 18 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and includes a keeper and a food business operator.”

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 1, states that:

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

## General

- 7 The stock-keeper has the most significant influence on the welfare of pigs. In general, the larger the size of the unit the greater the degree of skill and care needed to safeguard welfare. The size of a unit should not be increased, nor should a large unit be set up, unless it is certain that the level of stockmanship will be sufficiently high to safeguard the welfare of each individual pig.
- 8 The stock-keeper should draw up a written health and welfare plan with the herd’s veterinary surgeon and, where necessary, other technical advisers. You should review and update your health and welfare plan at least once a year. This plan should set out health and husbandry activities that cover the cycle of production and include strategies to prevent, treat or limit existing disease problems. The plan should include enough records for you to assess the basic output of the herd and monitor the welfare of the pigs.
- 9 Those responsible for managing the farm should make sure that the pigs are cared for by enough well motivated and competent staff. These staff need to be aware of the welfare needs of pigs and be capable of protecting them from all expected problems before they are given any responsibility. This means that the staff need specific knowledge and skills, which they should develop on-farm by working with a skilled stock-keeper who is experienced in the relevant system. Wherever possible, staff should also attend relevant courses run by a suitable training organisation. Ideally, the training should lead to formal recognition of competence. Any contract or casual labour used on the farm should be trained and competent in the relevant activity.
- 10 Stock-keepers should be knowledgeable and competent in a wide range of animal health and welfare skills, which should include:
  - biosecurity (see Paragraphs 23-28 and 112-113);
  - handling skills (see Paragraphs 14-17);
  - preventing and treating lameness (see Paragraphs 30-32);
  - preventing and treating internal and external parasites (see Paragraphs 33-34);
  - giving medicines by injection (see Paragraph 35);
  - providing appropriate care to sick and injured pigs (see Paragraphs 38-44);
  - care of the sow and her litter (see Paragraphs 93-99); and
  - management of pigs to minimise aggression (see Paragraph 101).

# stockmanship

If the stock-keeper is expected to perform specific tasks on-farm (for example, artificial insemination or teeth clipping/grinding), then they should be trained and competent.

## Inspection

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388) Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 2, requires that:

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

- 11** The health and welfare of animals depends on them being regularly inspected. Adequate lighting must be available to enable thorough inspection of the stock. All stock-keepers should be familiar with the normal behaviour of pigs. Badly managed and unhealthy pigs will not thrive, and it is essential that the stock-keeper should watch for signs of distress, disease or aggression towards an animal by other pigs in the group. To do this, it is important that stock-keepers have enough time to:
- (a) inspect the stock;
  - (b) check equipment; and
  - (c) take action to deal with any problem.
- 12** The stock-keeper should always be looking out for signs of ill health in pigs, which include:
- (a) separation from the group;
  - (b) listlessness;
  - (c) swollen navel, udder or joints;
  - (d) rapid or irregular breathing;
  - (e) persistent coughing or panting;
  - (f) shivering;

- (g) discolouration or blistering of the skin;
- (h) loss of body condition;
- (i) sneezing;
- (j) lameness (inspection of the feet and legs is particularly important);
- (k) lack of co-ordination;
- (l) constipation;
- (m) diarrhoea;
- (n) poor appetite; and
- (o) vomiting.

- 13** You should be able to anticipate problems or recognise them in their earliest stages, and, in many cases, they should be able to identify the cause and put matters right immediately. Always consider the possibility that the pigs may be affected by a notifiable disease (see Paragraphs 36-37). If the cause is not obvious, or if your immediate action is not effective, a veterinary surgeon or other expert should be called in immediately – failure to do so may cause unnecessary suffering.

## Handling

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 30, states that:

No person may apply an electrical current to any animal for the purposes of immobilisation.

- 14** Pigs should be moved at their own pace. You should encourage them gently – especially around corners and where it is slippery underfoot. You should avoid too much noise, excitement or force. You must not hit the animals, or put pressure on any

# stockmanship

particularly sensitive part of the body. Anything you use, such as pig boards, to guide the animals should only be used for that purpose and must not have a sharp or pointed end. The use of electric goads on adult pigs should be avoided as far as possible. If goads are used, you should ensure that there is sufficient space for the pigs to move forward.

- 15** You should make sure that all floors and walkways are well maintained and provide a non-slip surface without putting too much pressure on the animals' feet. The floor should not slope too steeply as steeper slopes can cause leg problems.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraphs 3 and 4 state that:

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

4(1) Only tethers designed not to cause injury to the pigs may be used and they must be inspected regularly and adjusted as necessary to ensure a comfortable fit.

(2) Only tethers of sufficient length to allow the pigs to move as stipulated in Paragraph 5(2) and designed, to avoid, as far as possible, any risk of strangulation, pain or injury may be used.

- 16** All stock-keepers must have access to easy to use and efficient handling systems. This is to allow you to routinely manage and treat the animals, and make sure that they are quietly and firmly handled.

## Transport off-farm

Annex 1, Chapter III of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, states that:

It shall be prohibited to:

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

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

Annex 1, Chapter III of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, states that:

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

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

(b) be clean and disinfected.

Ramps shall not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees, that is 36.4% to the horizontal for pigs, calves and horses and an angle of 26 degrees 34 minutes, that is 50% to the horizontal for sheep and cattle other than calves. Where the slope is steeper than 10 degrees, that is 17.6% to the horizontal, ramps shall be fitted with a system, such as provided by foot battens, which ensure that the animals climb or go down without risks or difficulties.

- 17** You must have the facilities on-farm to load and unload pigs onto and from a vehicle, with as little stress as possible. Stock-keepers should know how to handle animals during loading and unloading, including when and how to use pig boards to guide the animal.

## Marking

The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) (Scotland) Order 2011 (S.S.I 2011 No. 327) provides for the identification and registration of pigs.

- 18** Permanent marking of pigs by, for example, ear or body tattooing or ear tagging, should be carried out only by a trained and competent operator using properly maintained instruments and under hygienic conditions. Ear tags should be suitable for use in pigs. Slapmarking is an acceptable method where identification is required immediately prior to transporting the pigs to slaughter. Where, for herd management purposes, ear marking is by notching or punching, you should use appropriate equipment.
- 19** When ear tagging, notching or tattooing, you must properly restrain the animals. Take care to position and insert tags correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions, avoiding main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage.
- 20** If you are using aerosols or paints for temporary marking, make sure only non-toxic substances are used.

## General

- 21** Maintenance of good health is the most basic requirement affecting the welfare of the pig. Measures to protect health include good hygiene, good husbandry and effective ventilation. Vaccinations may be appropriate against certain diseases. You should ensure that only authorised veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, are used. Useful information on the health status of the herd can be obtained from feedback at meat inspection in the abattoir.
- 22** The written health and welfare plan (see Paragraph 8) should also, as a minimum, look at:
- (a) biosecurity arrangements on-farm and during transport;
  - (b) purchased stock procedures;
  - (c) any specific disease control programmes, such as salmonella, erysipelas, E. coli, mycoplasma and parvo virus;
  - (d) vaccination policy and timing;
  - (e) isolation procedures;
  - (f) mixing and grouping of pigs;
  - (g) external and internal parasite control;
  - (h) lameness monitoring and foot care;
  - (i) routine procedures, such as ear tagging; and
  - (j) prevention and control of vices such as tail biting.

The health and welfare plan should make sure that animals get any necessary medical treatment at the correct time and in the correct dose.

## Biosecurity

- 23** Biosecurity means:
- (a) keeping farm units secure from the introduction of infectious diseases;
  - (b) minimising the spread of any diseases on the unit; and
  - (c) preventing the spread of disease off the farm.
- If you and your stock-keepers take proper precautions when you move within the farm or you move animals and equipment, you can greatly reduce the chance of spreading any disease.
- 24** Incoming stock presents the greatest risk to the health of the herd as regards infectious disease. You should ask the vendor to provide you with information on the health of the herd and routine vaccination. You should have isolation facilities so that you can isolate and test incoming stock for a period when they arrive, before they join the rest of the herd.
- 25** Only essential visitors should be allowed onto the unit and they should follow cleansing and disinfection procedures and wear unit clothing and footwear. A visitor book should be provided and visitors asked to sign to say they have not been near other pigs or livestock for an agreed period, as stipulated in your herd health and welfare plan. A system should be provided to alert staff of visitors at the gate.
- 26** Loading facilities and, where possible, feed bins should be sited at the unit perimeter. Vehicles should be kept off the unit wherever possible but where entry is essential they must be cleansed and disinfected thoroughly.

# 10 health

**27** A programme of pest control should be in place for rodents etc. Every effort should be made to make housing proof against birds, such as starlings. Domestic pets, feral cats and other wild animals should be discouraged.

**28** It is not possible to prevent all airborne infections from entering a unit but when planning new units these should be sited as far as is practicable from other pig units as this will reduce the risk of spread of airborne infectious diseases.

Further detailed guidance on biosecurity can be found in Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Animal Health and Biosecurity (see the appendix). This document also includes guidance for official visitors and recreational users of farmland. There is also a biosecurity website: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/15721](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/15721)).

## Condition scoring

**29** Body condition scoring can contribute greatly to good husbandry and help to avoid costly welfare problems. Condition scoring is an easy technique to learn. Basically, it means that you can quickly assess the body reserves (i.e. fat) of individual animals. The technique will be of benefit if you use it as a routine management tool to check that sows are in the target body condition for the various stages of the breeding cycle. This will be particularly useful at:

- (a) mid-pregnancy;
- (b) farrowing/early lactation; and
- (c) at weaning/drying off.

You should adjust feeding as necessary for animals that are too fat or too thin.

## Lameness

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

**31** If lame pigs do not respond to treatment, you need to call a veterinary surgeon immediately. Lameness can have a number of causes and early and accurate diagnosis of the specific type of lameness affecting the herd will enable you to take rapid and appropriate action.

**32** If a lame animal does not respond to the veterinary surgeon's treatment, you should have it culled rather than leave it to suffer. If you cannot transport lame animals without causing them more pain, you should slaughter them on the farm (see Paragraphs 40-42). Also, you must not transport any pig off-farm that cannot stand up unaided or cannot bear their weight on all four legs when standing or walking.

## External parasites

**33** You should control diseases caused by external parasites – especially where the animal’s skin is irritated and it is rubbing the area – with the appropriate parasiticides. You should treat your animals for parasites in accordance with veterinary advice and ensure that control and treatment regimes form part of your herd health and welfare plan.

## Internal parasites

**34** You should control internal parasites by using effective anthelmintics or vaccines. You have to base your treatment on the life cycle of the particular parasites you are tackling. You should treat your animals for parasites in accordance with veterinary advice. Organic producers in particular should seek veterinary advice on this aspect of their herd health and welfare plan.

## Equipment for vaccination and treatment

**35** You must make sure that all the equipment you use for vaccinating and treating the animals is in good working order. You should regularly clean and sterilise any equipment you use for injections, to avoid infections and abscesses and, ideally, use disposable needles. Any dangerous objects should be disposed of safely.

## Notifiable diseases

**36** If you suspect that any animal is suffering from a notifiable disease, you have a legal duty to notify a Veterinary Leader (replacement for DVMs) as soon as possible.

**37** The following are the main notifiable diseases which affect pigs (please note that this is not a complete list):

African swine fever

Anthrax

Aujeszky’s disease

Classical swine fever

Foot and mouth disease

Rabies

Swine vesicular disease

Teschen disease

Vesicular stomatitis

For more information on these diseases contact your veterinary surgeon or local Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency Divisional Office.

## Sick and injured animals

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 5 states that:

any animals which appear to be ill or injured:

- must be cared for appropriately without delay; and

- where they do not respond to such care, veterinary advice must be obtained as soon as reasonably practicable.

## 12 health

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388) Schedule 1, Paragraph 6 states that:

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

- 38** You should take action immediately if any pigs are injured or appear ill or distressed. It is important to exclude the possibility of notifiable diseases. If you are in any doubt about the cause of the ill health or the most effective treatment consult your veterinary surgeon. Likewise, if an animal you have treated does not respond to treatment, seek your veterinary surgeon's advice.
- 39** Your health and welfare plan should specify a procedure for isolating and caring for sick or injured animals. Hospital pens should be available for each category of pig on the unit. These pens should be easily reached so that you can regularly check on the animal. When moving sick or injured pigs to the hospital pens, you should ensure that unnecessary suffering does not occur. In these hospital pens, you should make sure that drinking water is freely available, and that there are feeding facilities. Particular care is needed where recumbent animals are isolated to ensure that there is easy access to water and feed and that the animals are eating and drinking.
- 40** If an unfit animal does not respond to treatment, it should be culled or humanely killed on-farm. You should cull any animals suffering from painful

and incurable conditions (such as severe lameness), as soon as possible after diagnosis. You should not leave them to become extremely thin and too weak to stand.

Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, states that:

No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them.

In addition, the following conditions shall be complied with:

- (a) all necessary arrangements have been made in advance to minimise the length of the journey and meet the animals' needs during the journey;
- (b) the animals are fit for the journey;
- (c) the means of transport are designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals;
- (d) the loading and unloading facilities are adequately designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals;
- (e) the personnel handling animals are trained or competent as appropriate for this purpose and carry out their tasks without using violence or any method likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury or suffering;
- (f) the transport is carried out without delay to the place of destination and the welfare conditions of the animals are regularly checked and appropriately maintained;

(g) sufficient floor area and height is provided for the animals, appropriate to their size and the intended journey;

(h) water, feed and rest are offered to the animals at suitable intervals and are appropriate in quality and quantity to their species and size.

However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:

(a) slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause them additional suffering: in cases of doubt veterinary advice shall be sought;

(b) transported for the purpose of Council Directive 86/609/EEC if the illness or injury is part of a research programme;

(c) transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned;

(d) animals that have been submitted to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices such as dehorning or castration, provided that wounds have completely healed.

**41** You can only transport an unfit animal if you are taking it to a veterinary surgeon for treatment or diagnosis, or to the nearest available place of slaughter – and then, only provided they are not likely to be subject to unnecessary suffering during the journey by reason of their unfitness.

**42** In an emergency, you may have to slaughter an animal immediately to prevent its suffering. In such cases, you should destroy the animal humanely and, where possible, it should be done by someone who is suitably trained and competent both in slaughter methods and use of the equipment. Under these emergency circumstances, a slaughter licence is not required.

It is a general offence under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 731) as amended by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 (S.S.I. No. 610), to cause or permit any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering to any animal during slaughter or killing (Regulation 4(1)).

The general offence applies in all cases, but the detailed provisions in respect of the method of slaughter or killing do not apply when an animal has to be killed **immediately** for emergency reasons (Regulation 13(2)).

**43** If you have to slaughter the animals on-farm in a non-emergency situation, you must do so using a permitted method that is in line with current welfare at slaughter legislation (see box below).

The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 731) as amended by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999 No. 400) states that when an animal is slaughtered or killed on-farm, this must be done using a permitted method. The animal could be:

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– stunned using a captive bolt pistol, concussion stunner or electrical stunner after which it must be followed by bleeding – or pithed – without delay (Regulation 14 and Schedules 5 (Part II) and 6). If the animal is stunned and bled, the operation must be carried out by a slaughterman licensed for these operations (Schedule 1), unless the owner is slaughtering an animal for his own consumption; or

– killed by a free bullet (Regulation 15 and Schedule 5 Part III).

**NB The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (as amended) will be repealed when Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing comes into effect on 1 January 2013.**

- 44** After slaughter, you must dispose of the carcass by a suitable method (see box below).

Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 laying down rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption, requires that fallen stock are disposed of by:

- despatch to a knackers yard, hunt kennel or similar premises;
- incineration;
- rendering; or
- in certain areas, burial in such a way that carnivorous animals cannot gain access to the carcass, or burning.

This provision applies to the disposal of stillborn piglets and foetuses, as well as to older pigs.

Burial or burning is only permitted in limited areas. The Animal By-Products Regulations, ban the on-farm burial of animal carcasses, other than in designated remote areas in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

## Record keeping

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 7 states that:

A record shall be maintained of:

- any medicinal treatment given to animals; and
- the number of mortalities found on inspection of animals

Schedule 1, Paragraph 8 states that:

The record referred to in Paragraph 7 must be retained for a period of at least 3 years from the date on which the medicinal treatment was given, or the date of the inspection, as the case may be, and must be made available to an inspector on request.

- 45** Only authorised veterinary medicinal products should be used. You must keep full records of all medicines used, including where it was bought. You must also keep records for at least 3 years of:
- the date you treated the animals;
  - the identity and quantity of medicine used; and
  - which animal or group of animals you treated.

It is a requirement under the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 (S.I. 1997 No. 1729), Part V, Paragraph 32, that you keep a record of:

The name and address of the supplier of the veterinary medicinal product.

- 46** In terms of individual animal management, you may find it useful, as part of the health and welfare plan, to note specific cases of mastitis, lameness and other disorders, and where appropriate, the relevant treatment given.

# 16 accommodation

## General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraphs 5 and 6 state that:

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

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

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

(b) have a clean, comfortable and adequately drained place in which it can rest;

(c) see other pigs, unless the pig is isolated for veterinary reasons;

(d) maintain a comfortable temperature; and

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

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

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a female pig for the period between 7 days before the predicted day of its farrowing and the day on which the weaning of its piglets (including any piglets fostered by it) is complete.

**47** You should seek appropriate welfare advice when new buildings are to be constructed or existing buildings modified. Some specialised buildings use complex mechanical and electrical equipment which require additional technical and management skills to ensure that husbandry and welfare requirements are met.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraphs 11 and 12 state that:

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

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

**48** The internal surfaces of housing and pens should be made of materials that you can easily clean and disinfect regularly, and easily replace when necessary.

**49** If you are going to treat these surfaces, use paints or wood preservatives that are safe to use with animals. There is a risk of lead poisoning from old paintwork, especially if you use second-hand building materials.

## Floors

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraphs 12 and 13 state that:

Where pigs are kept in a building, floors must –

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

On and after 1st January 2013, when concrete slatted floors are used for pigs kept in groups:

- (a) the maximum width of the openings between the slats must be:
  - (i) 11 mm for piglets;
  - (ii) 14 mm for weaners;
  - (iii) 18 mm for rearing pigs;
  - (iv) 20 mm for gilts after service and sows; and
- (b) the minimum width of the slats must be:
  - (i) 50 mm for piglets and weaners; and
  - (ii) 80 mm for rearing pigs, gilts after service and sows.

**50** Good floor design and adequate maintenance is essential. Poorly constructed floors, slats that are not properly matched to the weight/size of pig and surfaces that are worn and/or damaged, can cause injury to the feet and legs of pigs. Excessive gaps should

be avoided as they can trap the feet/claws and may cause physical damage. Damaged floors must be repaired immediately.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 11 requires:

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

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

## Ventilation and temperature

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 13 states that:

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

**52** All new buildings should be designed with the animals' comfort in mind, and with the aim of preventing respiratory diseases. The buildings should provide enough ventilation throughout the year for the type, size and number of stock to be housed in them. In addition to meeting the ventilation requirements, the system should be designed to avoid draughts affecting the pigs' living space.

# 18 accommodation

- 53** Effective ventilation is essential to the well-being of the stock as it provides fresh air, removes noxious gases and aids in controlling temperature. Excessive heat loss should be prevented either by the structural insulation of the external walls, roof and the floor in the lying area, or by the provision of adequate bedding. Heat gain to buildings in hot conditions will be minimised by the insulation in the walls and roof.
- 54** Pigs have a very limited ability to sweat and are acutely susceptible to heat stress. Possible cooling methods including blowing air over the pigs in a part of the pen, providing water spray/misting systems or simply wetting floors with a hosepipe, can be used to ensure that pigs in buildings do not become overheated in hot weather. There should always be some dry lying area available as a matter of choice so that the pigs can move away from the cooler conditions.
- 55** Liveweight, group size, floor type, air speed and feed intake markedly affect temperature requirements and you must take these factors into account when determining the minimum temperature appropriate in each case. Slatted floors and low feed levels generally increase temperature requirements whilst straw bedding, high feed levels and higher body weights decrease requirements. For most circumstances, an appropriate temperature can be found within the range given opposite:

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

- 56** You should avoid wide or abrupt fluctuations in temperature in housing systems within any 24-hour period. Wide fluctuations in the daily temperature regime can create stress that can trigger outbreaks of vice, such as tail biting, or disease such as pneumonia. You should maintain a higher than normal level of vigilance at these times.
- 57** When pigs are moved to new accommodation, the possibility of cold stress occurring as a result of sudden changes in the thermal environment can be reduced by the provision of bedding, such as straw, or by preheating the building.
- 58** When you are removing slurry from under slats, you must take special care to avoid fouling the air with dangerous gases (such as ammonia), which can kill both humans and animals. Buildings should be well ventilated during this procedure.

## Lighting and noise levels

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraphs 3 and 16 state that:

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

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

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraphs 7 and 18 state that:

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

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

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

**59** You should have enough fixed or portable lighting available at any time if you need to inspect any animals, for example, during farrowing.

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

## Automated and mechanical equipment

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraphs 18-21, state that:

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

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

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

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

## 20 accommodation

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

21 The back-up system referred to in paragraph 20(a) must be thoroughly inspected and the alarm system referred to in paragraph 20(b) tested, in each case not less than once every 7 days in order to check that there is no defect in it, and, if any defect is found in such system or alarm (whether or not on it being inspected or tested in accordance with this paragraph), it must be rectified forthwith.

- 61 All mains electrical equipment should be properly earthed, safeguarded from rodents and out of the pigs' reach.
- 62 All equipment, including feed hoppers, drinkers, ventilating fans, heating and lighting units, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, must be cleaned and inspected regularly and kept in good working order.
- 63 All automatic equipment used in intensive systems must be inspected by the stock-keeper, or other competent person, not less than once each day to check that there are no defects. Any defect must be rectified immediately.

## Fire and other emergency precautions

- 64 There should be plans in place to deal with emergencies at your farm, such as fire, flood or disruption of supplies. The owner should make sure that all the staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action.
- 65 It is important that you get advice about design when you are building or modifying a building. You need to be able to release and evacuate livestock quickly if there is an emergency. You should consider installing fire alarms that can be heard and responded to at any time of day or night.
- 66 You can get expert advice on all fire precautions from fire prevention officers at your local fire brigade and from the Fire Prevention Association.

# feed, water and other substances

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraphs 22-23 state that:

- Animals must be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health, to satisfy their nutritional needs and to promote a positive state of well-being.
- Animals must not be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor must such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 26 states that:

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

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388) Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 14 states that:

- All pigs must be fed at least once a day.
- Where pigs are housed in a group and do not have continuous access to feed, or are not fed by an automatic feeding system for feeding the animals individually, each pig must have access to the food at the same time as the others in the feeding group.

- 67** All pigs need a balanced daily diet to maintain full health and vigour. You should plan any changes in the diet and introduce them gradually.
- 68** When introducing pigs to unaccustomed housing, you should make sure that the animals are able to find the feed and water points. When newly weaned piglets are moved to pens where water is provided through nipple drinkers unfamiliar to the piglets, it is good practice to provide alternative water sources for the first few days.
- 69** Where pigs are fed on a rationed feed level to control intake, you should ensure that adequate trough space is provided to ensure that all pigs can receive their allocation. The following guidelines for trough space per pig apply:

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

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

# 22 feed, water and other substances

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 15 states that:

All pigs over 2 weeks of age must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water.

- 71** There are several factors you should take into consideration when looking at the provision of water to pigs:
- the total volume required;
  - the total volume available;
  - the flow rate (pigs will not spend a long time taking water);
  - the method of provision, e.g. the type of drinker; and
  - its accessibility to all stock.

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

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

- 72** Waste water and excessive flow rates can be detrimental, particularly for sows in farrowing accommodation and very young pigs.

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

- 74** Where nipple drinkers are used, a drinking point should be available for each 10 pigs on rationed feeding. On unrestricted feeding, one nipple drinker should provide adequate supply for 15 pigs given sufficient flow rates. Where trough systems are used, the following guidelines should be applied:

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

- 75** If you use a wet feeding system, pigs must have access to a separate fresh water supply.
- 76** Feed and water should not be completely withdrawn from sows which are being dried off.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 27 states that:

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

## General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 17 states that:

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

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 10 states that:

- Housing, pens, equipment and utensils used for pigs must be properly cleaned and disinfected as necessary to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease-carrying organisms.
- Faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food must be removed as often as necessary to minimise smell and avoid attracting flies or rodents.

- 77** You should keep all buildings, fields and paddocks clear of debris, such as wire, plastic and sharp objects, that could injure the pigs or rip out their ear tags and damage their ears.
- 78** You should take all practical measures to remove all pigs from areas that are in imminent danger of flooding.

## Environmental enrichment

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 16 states that:

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

- 79** Environmental enrichment provides pigs with the opportunity to root, investigate, chew and play. Straw is an excellent material for environmental enrichment as it can satisfy many of the pigs' behavioural and physical needs. It provides a fibrous material which the pig can eat; the pig is able to root in and play with long straw; and, when used as bedding, straw can provide the pig with physical and thermal comfort.
- 80** Objects such as footballs and chains can satisfy some of the pigs' behavioural needs, but can quickly lose their novelty factor. The long-term use of such items is not, therefore, recommended unless they are used in conjunction with materials such as those listed above, or are changed on a weekly basis.

## 24 management

### Castration

The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I 2010 No. 387), Schedule 2 states that:

Castration may only be performed by means other than the tearing of tissues.

Where pigs are older than 7 days of age the procedure must be performed under anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia and only by a veterinary surgeon.

This should also be done in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954.

- 81** Stock-keepers should consider carefully whether castration is necessary. Castration is a mutilation and should be avoided wherever possible. If it cannot be avoided, it must be carried out in accordance with the law by a trained and competent operator, or a veterinary surgeon.

### Tail docking

The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I 2010 No. 387), Schedule 2 permits the docking of farmed pigs kept on agricultural land only under the following conditions:

- a) where there is evidence that injuries to the tails of other pigs have occurred and where other measures to improve environmental conditions or management systems have been taken in order to prevent tail-biting; and
- b) by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed.

Where pigs are older than 7 days of age the procedure must be performed under anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia and only by a veterinary surgeon.

This should also be done in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954.

- 82** Tail biting and other vices, such as ear and flank biting, are associated with some form of stress. They can be triggered by a wide range or combination of factors, including: overstocking, feed deficiencies, incorrect temperature levels, fluctuating temperature levels, inadequate ventilation, draughts, high levels of dust and noxious gases (i.e. ammonia) and lack of environmental enrichment. Sometimes changes in external weather conditions can also trigger an outbreak.
- 83** If tail biting does occur, it can spread quickly through the pen and the degree of injury increases very quickly. You should ensure that affected pigs are removed to a hospital pen and treated without delay. If possible, you should try to identify the instigator and remove the animal to a separate pen.
- 84** Routine tail docking is not permitted. Tail docking is only permitted as a last resort after improvements to the pigs' environment and management have proved ineffectual. Where it is necessary to tail dock, it must be carried out in accordance with the law by a veterinary surgeon or by a competent, trained operator. All equipment used must be cleaned and disinfected between pigs.

**85** As part of your herd health and welfare plan (see Paragraphs 8 and 22), you must have a strategy for dealing with outbreaks of vice such as tail biting. Although much has been learnt from research and practical on-farm experience, it is not possible to produce a definitive solution for all cases. A thorough assessment and planned approach is therefore recommended to identify the particular cause of an outbreak on the unit and to find the appropriate solution to the problem.

- **Quantify the problem**
  - Note the position of pens and numbers of pigs affected, check records of previous incidents.
- **List possible causes**
  - Such as interruption or inadequate supply of feed or water, lack of environmental enrichment, inadequate ventilation, draughts, incorrect temperature levels, overstocking, competition at feeding, excessive light levels, elevated dust/noxious gas levels. Different causes may be found in different pens on the same unit.
- **Modify health and welfare plan**
  - Having identified areas for improvement, in consultation with the herd's veterinary surgeon and other technical advisers, modify your health and welfare plan to implement the necessary changes with a view to preventing future outbreaks of tail biting.

## Teeth clipping/grinding

The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I 2010 No. 387), Schedule 2 states that:

- Uniform reduction of the corner teeth of farmed piglets kept on agricultural land aged 7 days or less by grinding or clipping to leave an intact smooth surface:

- May only be performed where there is evidence of injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails and when other measures have been taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices have been exhausted.

- 86** Routine clipping or grinding of teeth is not permitted. Tooth reduction to the upper and lower corner teeth ("eye" or canine teeth) of piglets should only be used as a last resort. Your health and welfare plan should identify circumstances where tooth reduction may be necessary. These might include large litter size, cross fostering, gilts and poor milk let down such as mastitis.
- 87** Where tooth reduction is to be carried out, it may not always be necessary for the whole litter. Where it is necessary, it should be carried out before the seventh day of life, in accordance with the law, by a trained and competent operator or by a veterinary surgeon. Suitable sharp, clean clippers or an appropriate grinder should be used. All equipment used should be cleaned and disinfected between pigs. Teeth grinders are recommended as there is a reduced risk of shattering the teeth.

## 26 management

### Natural service

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388) Schedule 1, Paragraph 28, provides that:

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

This does not preclude the use of natural or artificial breeding procedures which are likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury or that might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury.

- 88** All boars should have good and safe service conditions. Slatted floors and slippery conditions underfoot are not suitable for mating animals. As part of your health and welfare plan, you should discuss with the herd's veterinary surgeon how to avoid injury to boars and sows through excessive mating activity.

### Artificial insemination, vasectomy and electro-ejaculation

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 6(3) lists certain exemptions from the requirement that a pig shall be free to turn round without difficulty at all times, including:

- for the purposes of service, artificial insemination or collection of semen;

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

- 89** You should keep the sows in their groups until insemination, at which time they can be moved to an appropriate stall or pen and inseminated. Sows should be allowed time to settle down in the stall or pen, and then exposed to a boar in order to encourage the standing reflex before artificial insemination takes place.
- 90** Sows should be left undisturbed, to allow uterine contractions, for up to 30 minutes after artificial insemination (and natural service), but they should then rejoin their group in order to minimise bullying within the group hierarchy. When double insemination is used, sows may be penned separately until 30 minutes after the second insemination, but pens must allow the animal to turn round easily.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988 No. 526) prohibits the performance of a vasectomy or the carrying out of electro-ejaculation by anyone other than a veterinary surgeon.

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

## section 2 – specific recommendations

# farrowing sows and piglets

27

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 4, Paragraphs 22-27 state:

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

23 If they are placed in farrowing crates, pregnant sows and gilts must be thoroughly clean.

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

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

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

27 In the week before the expected farrowing time and during farrowing, sows and gilts may be kept out of sight of other pigs.

- 92** You should manage the feeding of sows and gilts so that they are in a suitable body condition at the time of farrowing. A target score of 3.5 – 4 should be aimed at just prior to farrowing. You should then gear the feeding regime to minimising any loss in body condition during lactation.
- 93** Nesting material should be provided, whenever possible, particularly in the 24 hours prior to farrowing to satisfy the sow's need to nest build and therefore minimise stress.

- 94** The environmental requirements of the sow and litter are considerably different. In an environmentally controlled farrowing house a heated creep area – up to 32°C – should be provided for the piglets. This can be by artificial heating, for example, overhead infra-red lamps, a heat pad or underfloor heating or alternatively by providing a well-bedded lying area. The sow, however, has different environmental requirements. The temperature in the farrowing room as a whole should be around 18°C – 20°C. High temperatures for the sow can impair feed intake and her milking ability.
- 95** Where overhead lamps/heaters are used they should be securely fixed and should be protected from interference by the sow or piglets.
- 96** Farrowing accommodation should be so constructed and sufficiently large to allow the sow to rise up and lie down again without difficulty. You should be experienced and competent in the techniques of farrowing and should pay particular attention to hygiene, especially at assisted farrowings. Mechanical farrowing aids should only be used by a trained, competent operator.

## 28 farrowing sows and piglets

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 5, Paragraphs 35-39 state:

35 If necessary, piglets must be provided with a source of heat and a solid, dry and comfortable lying area away from the sow where all of them can rest at the same time.

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

37 Where a farrowing crate is used, the piglets must have sufficient space to be able to be suckled without difficulty.

38 Piglets must not be weaned from the sow at an age of less than 28 days unless the welfare or health of the sow or piglets would otherwise be adversely affected.

39 Piglets may be weaned up to 7 days earlier if they are moved into specialised housings which are emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before the introduction of a new group and which are separate from housing where sows (other than weaners) are kept.

- 97** Problems associated with weaning are related to the age at weaning. Earlier weaning ages require better systems of management and nutrition to avoid welfare problems. Piglets should not be weaned at less than 28 days, except for orphaned, sick and surplus piglets requiring special attention. The all-in-all-out system of pig housing reduces the possibility of disease introduction

or spread on a unit. If at weaning, piglets are moved into specialised housing which has previously been completely emptied of pigs, cleaned and disinfected, piglets may be weaned up to 7 days earlier.

- 98** It is particularly important that you watch piglets carefully for signs of diarrhoea or respiratory disease, such as coughing or rapid or laboured breathing, both of which can spread rapidly. If the piglets do not respond to treatment promptly or properly, you should seek veterinary advice.

### Weaners and rearing pigs

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 6, Paragraph 44 states:

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

- (a) 0.15m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is 10 kg or less;
- (b) 0.20m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is more than 10 kg but less than or equal to 20 kg;
- (c) 0.30m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is more than 20 kg but less than or equal to 30 kg;
- (d) 0.40m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is more than 30 kg but less than or equal to 50 kg;

# farrowing sows and piglets

(e) 0.55m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is more than 50 kg but less than or equal to 85 kg;

(f) 0.65m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is more than 85 kg but less than or equal to 110 kg;

(g) 1.00m<sup>2</sup> for each animal where the average weight of the animals in the group is more than 110 kg.

- 99** The figures in the box above are minimum requirements, the type of housing and its management may mean that greater space allowances are necessary. The total floor space should be adequate for sleeping, feeding and exercising. The lying area, excluding the dunging and exercise areas, should be of sufficient size to allow all the pigs to lie down on their sides at the same time.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 6, Paragraphs 40-43 state:

40 Weaners and rearing pigs must be –

(a) placed in groups as soon as possible after weaning; and

(b) kept in stable groups with as little mixing as possible.

41 (1) If weaners and rearing pigs unfamiliar with one another have to be mixed, this should be done at as young an age as possible, and, where reasonably practicable, no later than one week after weaning.

(2) When weaners and rearing pigs are mixed they must be provided with adequate opportunities to escape and hide from other pigs.

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

43 When signs of severe fighting appear among weaners and rearing pigs, the causes must be immediately investigated and appropriate measures must be taken.

- 100** Your herd health and welfare plan should include a strategy for managing mixing and establishing groups of pigs. Plenty of space, sufficient environmental enrichment and using shower sprays/sprinklers can all help to minimise aggression at mixing. Wherever possible, pigs for fattening should be in same sex groups to avoid unnecessary sexual activity as gilts come into oestrus.

## Dry sows and gilts

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 4, Paragraphs 28-34 state:

28 Sows and gilts must be kept in groups except during the period between 7 days before the predicted day of farrowing and the day on which the weaning of piglets (including any piglets fostered) is complete.

29 On and after 1st January 2013 the pen where the group is kept must have sides greater than 2.8m in length, except when there are less than 6 individuals in the group, when the sides of the pen must be no less than 2.4m in length.

## 30 farrowing sows and piglets

30 On and after 1st January 2013 –

(a) The total unobstructed floor area available to each gilt after service and to each sow when such gilts or sows are kept in groups must be at least 1.64m<sup>2</sup> and 2.25m<sup>2</sup> respectively.

(b) When gilts after service or sows are kept in groups of fewer than 6 individuals the unobstructed floor area must be increased by 10%.

(c) When gilts after service or sows are kept in groups of 40 or more individuals the unobstructed floor area may be decreased by 10%.

31 On or after 1st January 2013, for gilts after service and pregnant sows, a part of the area required in Paragraph 29 equal to at least 0.95m<sup>2</sup> per gilt and at least 1.3m<sup>2</sup> per sow must be of continuous solid floor of which a maximum of 15% is reserved for drainage openings.

32 Sows and gilts kept on holdings of fewer than 10 sows may be kept individually provided that their accommodation complies with the requirements of Paragraphs 5 and 6.

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

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

**101** Innate aggressiveness can present a severe problem where sows and gilts are kept in groups. Much depends on the temperament of individual animals. Adequate space is particularly important at the time of mixing sows so that animals can escape from aggressors. First parity sows and sows that have lost body condition should be managed as separate groups. Stock-keepers should ensure that persistent bullying, which could lead to severe injury or deprivation of food, does not take place. Separate penning may be required for affected animals if persistent bullying occurs.

**102** Feeding facilities in which animals can be fed individually and thereafter released are recommended. However, if sows are fed using a system that does not include some form of protection during feeding, such as floor feeding, then feed must be distributed widely and in such a way to ensure that all members of the group can obtain their allocation.

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

**104** The provision of bedding in loose housing systems for sows and gilts is strongly recommended.

# farrowing sows and piglets

## Boars

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 3, Paragraphs 19-21 state that:

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

20 The lying area must be dry and comfortable.

21 (1) The minimum unobstructed floor area for an adult boar must be 6m<sup>2</sup> save as set out in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) When boar pens are also used for natural service the floor area must be at least 10m<sup>2</sup> and must be free of any obstacles.

**107** As a guide, individual accommodation for an adult boar should have a floor area of not less than 7.5m<sup>2</sup> if used for living purposes only. Bedding should be provided in the lying area. In a pen intended for living purposes only, bedding should be provided in the lying area. In a pen intended for mating purposes, the whole floor area should be kept dry or sufficient bedding provided to give adequate grip during service. The use of small quantities of coarse sand on floors will reduce the risk of slipping.

The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 387), Schedule 2 permits:

Tusk trimming for the purpose of handler safety or herd welfare.

**105** Walls between pens should be high enough to prevent boars climbing and/or jumping into adjacent pens. Pens should be sited so that boars can see other pigs. You should not enter boar pens without a pig board and they must be able to escape easily from the pen if the boar becomes aggressive.

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

## 32 Pigs kept in outdoor husbandry systems

### General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 1, Paragraph 17 states that:

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

- 108** Sites for outdoor pig enterprises must be chosen carefully. Land prone to flooding, poorly drained sites, stony (especially flinty) soils and sites with heavy soils (especially in areas with high rainfall), are generally unsuitable for outdoor systems. Free-draining soils in low rainfall areas, with low frost incidence are most suitable.
- 109** Field stocking densities must reflect the suitability of the site and the system of management. A guideline of 25 sows per hectare overall is reasonable for suitable sites. You may need to reduce stocking densities on less ideal sites or in extreme circumstances during periods of adverse weather.
- 110** Stock selected for outdoor production must be suitable for outdoor conditions. Most breeding companies provide lines that have been developed for outdoor use.
- 111** Your herd health and welfare plan should include a strategy for dealing with emergency situations such as, water provision in freezing conditions and feed provision to the site and to the paddocks in snow or severe wet weather.

### Biosecurity

- 112** If you and your stock-keepers take proper precautions when you move within the farm or you move animals and equipment, you can greatly reduce the chance of spreading disease (see Paragraphs 23-28). As stipulated in your herd health and welfare plan, you should have isolation facilities so that you can isolate and test incoming stock for a period when they arrive, before they join the rest of the herd. Incoming replacement stock may also need to be acclimatised to outdoor conditions as they will often have been bred in indoor conditions. It is especially important to provide warm comfortable accommodation for these animals.
- 113** To prevent the build-up and transfer of disease organisms, arks should be resited between batches of pigs and the straw aftermath should be removed or burned.

Further detailed guidance on biosecurity can be found in Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Animal Health and Biosecurity (see the Appendix). There is also a biosecurity website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/15721>).

# Pigs kept in outdoor husbandry systems 33

## Accommodation

- 114** All arks and huts used for housing outdoor pigs should be liberally provided with bedding and have a warm, draught-free lying area. This is especially important for the sow and litter at farrowing and during the suckling period and for newly weaned pigs.
- 115** You should properly maintain arks and huts, especially to ensure that damage through handling does not produce sharp edges that may injure the animals.
- 116** Adequate shelter must be provided to protect the animals from extreme weather conditions. Arks should be well fixed to the ground, particularly in cold windy conditions and should be sited so that the doorways can be adjusted to allow for changing weather circumstances. Wet conditions create greater welfare problems than the cold, as moisture is easily carried into the arks on feet and bodies, causing chilling in small piglets, and provides the ideal environment for micro-organisms to flourish.
- 117** Adequate shelter must also be provided to protect the animals from the sun in summer. Wallows should be provided for breeding stock to allow them to cool themselves and to produce mud which can prevent sunburn.

## Feed and water

- 118** Food should be distributed widely and evenly to minimise aggression between animals, unless an alternative method is used to ensure even consumption.
- 119** You should carefully monitor the body condition of pigs during extremes of weather and adjust feed provision if necessary.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 2, Paragraph 15 states that:

All pigs over 2 weeks of age must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water.

- 120** Arrangements should be in place to ensure the supply of water to stock in all weathers. Particular attention is needed at times of freezing conditions.

## Fences

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

## 34 Pigs kept in outdoor husbandry systems

- 122** New breeding animals are unlikely to have been trained to electric fencing. You should have a training paddock with secure fencing, such as pig netting, outside the electric fencing to help the animals see the fencing and to ensure that they cannot escape from the unit.
- 123** Every effort should be made to protect pigs, particularly young piglets, from predation. Steps such as a predator control programme and possibly fox fencing should be considered.

### Farrowing sows and piglets

- 124** In hot conditions, lactating sows may leave the ark to seek more comfortable conditions outside, effectively abandoning her litter. Farrowing arks should be insulated and have provision for some degree of extra ventilation such as manually controlled flaps.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 388), Schedule 6, Part 4, Paragraph 26 states that:

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

- 125** Farrowing arks should be sited on level ground to reduce the risk of overlying. Suitable restrainer boards should be used to prevent very young piglets from straying during the post-farrowing period.

### Nose ringing

The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (S.S.I 2010 No. 387), Schedule 2 states that:

Nose rings must not be put in animals kept continuously in indoor husbandry systems.

- 126** Nose ringing is a mutilation and should be avoided wherever possible. It is usually carried out to deter excavation of the paddocks and damage to the cover vegetation through excessive rooting. Nose ringing can reduce the risk of environmental pollution where there is a risk of soil erosion and leaching of nutrients from faeces. Where it is necessary to nose ring pigs, it should only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or a trained, competent operator. All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between pigs.

You can get copies of the legislation quoted in this Code from:

**TSO Publications**

**Telephone orders: 0870 600 5522**

**Website: <http://www.tsoshop.co.uk>**

## Further information

For further information and copies of the Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Animal Health and Biosecurity contact your local Animal Health Divisional Office or the Scottish Government, Tel: 0300 244 9151.

If you would like any more information or advice about this Code, please contact your local Animal Health and Veterinary laboratories Agency Divisional Office or the Scottish Government's Animal Welfare Team on 0300 244 9382.



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Scottish Government  
Animal Health and Welfare Division  
P Spur  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh  
EH11 3XD

tel: 0300 244 6673

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