



Industry &
Investment

**ANIMAL WELFARE
CODE OF PRACTICE –
COMMERCIAL PIG
PRODUCTION**

Title: Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Commercial Pig Production

**Author: Ross Burton, Director Emergencies and Animal Welfare,
Agriculture, Biosecurity and Mine Safety Division, Orange**

**© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry and
Investment (Industry & Investment NSW).**

**This publication is copyright. You may download, display,
print and reproduce this material provided that the wording
is reproduced exactly, the source is acknowledged and the
copyright, update address and disclaimer notice is retained.**

**For updates to this publication, check
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animal-welfare**

Published by Industry & Investment NSW

First published December 2009

ISBN 978 1 74256 013 7

Disclaimer

**The information contained in this publication is a Code of
Practice prescribed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

(General) Regulation 2006 (the Regulation). People involved in the business of commercial pig production are reminded that compliance with the standards specified in this Code is a requirement under that Regulation. New versions of this Code may be issued from time to time. It is the responsibility of users to ensure the version of the Code on which they rely is current by checking the Industry & Investment NSW website, or the Regulation.

INT09/62024



ANIMAL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE – COMMERCIAL PIG PRODUCTION

CONTENTS

Part 1 Preliminary

- 1 This Code
- 2 Application of this Code
- 3 Definitions

Part 2 Conduct of a commercial pig establishment

Division 1 Competency of staff

- 4 Meaning of ‘direct supervision’
- 5 Competency of stock-persons
- 6 Daily inspection of pigs by competent stock-persons
- 7 Administering vaccinations and other health treatments
- 8 Carrying out elective husbandry procedures
- 9 Carrying out humane destruction

Division 2 Standards of pig accommodation and equipment

- 10 Construction and maintenance of pig accommodation
- 11 Cleanliness and hygiene of pig accommodation
- 12 Ventilation of pig housing
- 13 Equipment and risk management system for the supply of pigs’ needs
- 14 Safety of electrical installations

Division 3 Minimum space requirements for pigs kept in indoor housing

- 15 Application of Divisions 3 and 4
- 16 Pigs in individual housing - minimum space requirements
- 17 Pigs in group housing - minimum space requirements

Division 4 Requirements for pigs confined in stalls or farrowing crates

- 18 Requirements for sows confined in farrowing crates
- 19 Requirements for pregnant sows confined in stalls

Division 5 Special requirements for certain pigs

- 20 Special care requirements for piglets
- 21 Special food requirements for weaners

Division 6 Herd health program and treatment of pigs

- 22 Herd health program
- 23 Use of a dog to move pigs
- 24 Surgical procedures on male pigs
- 25 Humane destruction of pigs

Schedule 1 Minimum space requirements for pigs in group housing

ANIMAL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE – COMMERCIAL PIG PRODUCTION

Part 1 Preliminary

1 This Code

The “Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Commercial Pig Production” (“this Code”) is a relevant Code of Practice for the purposes of Part 3 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006* (“the Regulation”).

2 Application of this Code

This Code applies to the conduct of a commercial pig establishment.

3 Definitions

(1) In this Code:

adult pig means any pig over the age of 9 months.

authorise includes direct and permit.

boar means an uncastrated male pig over 9 months of age.

colostrum means milk secreted by a sow for the first few days after farrowing which is characterised by high protein and antibody content.

commercial pig establishment means a business in the course of which pigs are kept or used for commercial purposes and includes establishments in which pigs are kept using one or more of the following systems:

- (a) an indoor system which includes housing pigs individually or in groups on solid or slatted floors;
- (b) a deep litter system whereby groups of pigs are kept in shelters or sheds on deep litter;
- (c) an outdoor system whereby pigs generally range freely in paddocks or outdoor yards and use an enclosure (such as an ark or hut) for shelter.

creep area means an area for housing piglets in which the piglets are protected from crushing or overlying by the sow.

farrowing means giving birth to piglets.

farrowing crate means an enclosure for housing a sow individually during and after farrowing that closely corresponds to the sow's body size.

farrowing pen means a pen for housing a sow (individually) and her piglets during and after farrowing and may include a creep area and a farrowing crate.

feeder means a trough, hopper or other equipment from which feed may be accessed by a pig.

foster means a management practice whereby a piglet is moved soon after farrowing so that it is fed by a sow that is not its mother.

gilt means a female pig (other than a sow) that has been selected for breeding.

pen means:

- (a) an enclosure (other than a stall) for housing a pig individually in which the pig is able to turn around; or
- (b) an enclosure for housing pigs in groups.

pig means a pig in a commercial pig establishment.

producer means:

- (a) the proprietor of a commercial pig establishment; or
- (b) a person concerned in the management of a commercial pig establishment.

sow means a female adult pig that has had one or more litters and includes a gilt that is confirmed pregnant, but has not yet given birth.

stall means an enclosure for housing a pig individually that closely corresponds to the pig's body size.

stock-person means a person:

- (a) who is employed by or works in a commercial pig establishment; and
- (b) whose duties include caring for pigs.

suitably qualified – see clause 3(2) of this Code.

veterinary practitioner has the same meaning as in the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*.

waterer means a trough or other equipment from which drinking water may be accessed by a pig.

- (2) For the purposes of this Code, a person is a **suitably qualified** person if the person:
- (a) is a veterinary practitioner; or
 - (b) holds a Certificate III in Agriculture (Pig Production) or an equivalent qualification; or
 - (c) has been assessed by a training organisation registered under the *Vocational Education and Training Act 2005* (or under an equivalent Act in another State or Territory) (being a Registered Training Organisation) to have successfully completed units of competence within the Rural Production Training Package in relation to working in pork production, which include units of competence in at least the following areas:
 - (i) move and handle pigs;
 - (ii) care for health and welfare of pigs;
 - (iii) comply with industry animal welfare requirements;
 - (iv) administer medication to livestock;
 - (v) euthanase livestock; or
 - (d) has, for a period of at least 12 months, cared for pigs in a commercial pig establishment and had on-the-job training and experience in at least the following areas:
 - (i) moving and handling pigs;
 - (ii) inspecting and assessing the health and well-being of pigs;
 - (iii) carrying out vaccinations, health treatments (as described in clause 7 of this Code) and the elective husbandry procedures (described in clause 8 of this Code);
 - (iv) humane destruction of pigs suffering an incurable disease, untreatable injury or painful deformity;
 - (v) maintaining records of inspections and assessments of pigs.
- (3) Notes in this Code do not form part of this Code.

Part 2 Conduct of a commercial pig establishment

Division 1 Competency of staff

4 Meaning of ‘direct supervision’

For the purposes of this Division, a person (including a stock-person) (“the supervised person”) is acting under the *direct supervision* of a suitably qualified person if the suitably qualified person:

- (a) provides instructions and guidance to the supervised person in relation to the subject activity; and
- (b) oversees and evaluates the performance of the subject activity by the supervised person including conducting regular personal progress checks on the performance of the subject activity by the supervised person; and
- (c) is on the same premises as the supervised person while the subject activity is being undertaken; and
- (d) is able to immediately render assistance to the supervised person, if required, at any time during which the subject activity is being undertaken.

5 Competency of stock-persons

From 1 March 2011, a producer must ensure that a stock-person is:

- (a) a suitably qualified person; or
- (b) acting under the supervision of a suitably qualified person.

6 Daily inspection of pigs by competent stock-persons

A producer must ensure that a pig is inspected at least once a day to assess the pig’s health and well-being by a stock-person who is:

- (a) a suitably qualified person; or
- (b) acting under the supervision of a suitably qualified person.

7 Administering vaccinations and other health treatments

(1) A producer must ensure that vaccinations and other health treatments are administered to a pig only by a person (including a stock-person) who is:

- (a) a suitably qualified person; or
- (b) acting under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified person.

- (2) A person (including a stock-person) must not administer vaccinations or other health treatments to a pig unless that person is:
- (a) a suitably qualified person; or
 - (b) acting under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified person.

- (3) In this clause:

health treatment means the administration of any medication by oral dosing, injection, topical application to the skin or any other means.

Note: The *Stock Medicines Act 1989* contains provisions regulating the supply and use of vaccines.

8 Carrying out elective husbandry procedures

- (1) A producer must ensure that an elective husbandry procedure is carried out on a pig only by a person (including a stock-person) who is:

- (a) a suitably qualified person; or
- (b) acting under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified person.

- (2) A person (including a stock-person) must not carry out an elective husbandry procedure on a pig unless that person is:

- (a) a suitably qualified person; or
- (b) acting under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified person.

- (3) In this clause, each of the following procedures is an ***elective husbandry procedure***:

- (a) castration or vasectomy of a pig;
- (b) docking of a pig's tail;
- (c) clipping of a pig's needle teeth;
- (d) nose ringing of a pig;
- (e) application to the pig of identification marks, tags or chips;
- (f) measurement of a pig's back fat;
- (g) diagnosis of pregnancy of a pig;
- (h) tusk trimming of a pig.

9 Carrying out humane destruction

- (1) Where a pig is required to be destroyed on welfare grounds in accordance with this Code:
- (a) a producer must ensure that a pig is destroyed only by a person (including a stock-person) who is:
 - (i) a suitably qualified person; or
 - (ii) acting under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified person.
 - (b) a person (including a stock-person) must not destroy a pig unless that person is:
 - (i) a suitably qualified person; or
 - (ii) acting under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified person.
- (2) Clauses 9(1)(a) and (b) do not apply if, due to urgent circumstances:
- (a) the services of a suitably qualified person are not reasonably available; and
 - (b) destruction of the pig is necessary in order to prevent undue suffering by the pig.

Note: See clause 25 of this Code in relation to the humane destruction of pigs.

Division 2 Standards of pig accommodation and equipment

10 Construction and maintenance of pig accommodation

A producer must provide accommodation for pigs which is constructed and maintained in such a way that it protects the pigs from adverse weather, injuries, predators and any other threats to the welfare of the pigs.

11 Cleanliness and hygiene of pig accommodation

A producer must not allow the faeces and urine from the pigs to build up in the pigs' housing to a level which may affect the health and well-being of the pigs.

12 Ventilation of pig housing

- (1) In respect of pig housing that is ventilated by an electronically controlled ventilation system (for example, shutter or fans controlled by temperature sensors) – a producer must ensure that in the event of a power failure or a malfunction of the ventilation system that affects the operation of the ventilation system:
 - (a) there is an alternative source of power to operate the electronically controlled ventilation system; or
 - (b) the pig shed is able to be opened up to allow natural ventilation to occur.
- (2) In respect of pig housing that is naturally ventilated by means of automatic ventilation equipment - a producer must ensure that:
 - (a) the automatic ventilation equipment is inspected twice daily; or
 - (b) alternative ventilation equipment is installed that will function automatically in the event of a failure or malfunction of the automatic ventilation equipment; or
 - (c) an alarm system is installed that will provide a warning of a failure or malfunction of the automatic ventilation equipment.

13 Equipment and risk management system for the supply of pigs' needs

- (1) A producer must ensure that a commercial pig establishment is equipped with:
 - (a) feeders and waterers for the pigs that:
 - (i) are kept in good working order; and
 - (ii) are designed and positioned so as not to pose a risk of injury to a pig;
 - (b) backup equipment or a system that may be relied on to provide feed or water to the pigs in the event of a failure or malfunction of a regular feeder or waterer.
- (2) A producer must ensure that each feeder, waterer and ventilation system (where applicable) in a commercial pig establishment and any equipment that is essential to the proper functioning of such a feeder, waterer or ventilation system is, unless otherwise specified in this Code, inspected at least once a day.

- (3) A producer must have a risk management system in respect of feeders, waterers and the ventilation system (where applicable) in a commercial pig establishment.
- (4) For the purposes of clause 13(3), a *risk management system* means a documented procedure (including work instructions and recording forms) for identifying, monitoring and managing hazards to the supply of feed and water to the pigs and (where applicable) to the temperature and air quality of pig housing.
- (5) For the purposes of clause 13(3) and (4):
 - (a) a producer must ensure that the following written records are kept as part of a risk management system:
 - (i) a record of any inspection of a pig required under this Code (including a record of any concern regarding a pig's health or welfare detected by the inspection); and
 - (ii) a record of any inspection of equipment required under this Code (including a record of any equipment failure or malfunction detected by the inspection); and
 - (b) a producer must keep the records referred to in clause 13(5)(a) for 3 years from the day on which the record is made.
- (6) For the purposes of clause 13(5), a record may be kept in electronic form.

14 Safety of electrical installations

A producer must ensure that electrical installations at mains voltage are properly earthed and inaccessible to the pigs.

Division 3 Minimum space requirements for pigs kept in indoor housing

15 Application of Divisions 3 and 4

- (1) Divisions 3 and 4 do not apply in relation to a pig that is generally allowed to range freely in a paddock or outdoor yard and uses an enclosure (such as an ark or hut) for shelter, feeding or drinking.
- (2) A reference in this Division to a minimum area of floor space required for housing a pig is a reference to the total floor space that is to be available to the pig in the housing and does not, unless otherwise specified, include any area occupied by fixtures or fittings.

16 Pigs in individual housing - minimum space requirements

- (1) The minimum floor space requirements for pigs in individual housing set out in clause 16(2) apply to new housing, or a substantial alteration to existing housing:
 - (a) in respect of which a development application is made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* after the commencement of this Code; or
 - (b) in respect of which:
 - (i) no development application has been made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*; and
 - (ii) the building work begins after the commencement of this Code.
- (2) A producer who keeps a pig in individual housing must ensure that:
 - (a) in the case of a sow kept in a stall - the floor space of the stall is not less than 0.6 metres wide and not less than 2.2 metres long; and
 - (b) in the case of a sow kept in a farrowing pen - the floor space of the pen is not less than 5.6 square metres; and
 - (c) in the case of a sow kept in a farrowing crate adjacent to a creep area (whether or not within a farrowing pen):
 - (i) the floor space of the farrowing crate and creep area, when aggregated, is not less than 3.2 square metres; and
 - (ii) the floor space of the farrowing crate (which may include space occupied by a rear anti-crush rail, appropriately placed) is not less than 0.5 metres wide (when measured to within 450 millimetres of the floor of the crate) and not less than 2 metres long; and
 - (d) in the case of a boar kept in a stall - the floor space of the stall is not less than 0.7 metres wide and not less than 2.4 metres long; and
 - (e) in the case of a boar kept in a pen - the floor space of the pen is not less than 6 square metres.
- (3) A producer who keeps a pig in individual housing must ensure that:
 - (a) the pig is managed in such a way as to avoid harm to the pig (including aggressive or threatening behaviour) from a pig in a neighbouring area; and
 - (b) the pig is able to stand and lie down without being obstructed by fixtures or fittings; and

- (c) if the pig is kept in a stall:
 - (i) the pig is able to stand without simultaneously touching opposite ends or sides of the stall; and
 - (ii) the pig is able to lie down without its snout and hindquarters simultaneously touching opposite ends of the stall; and
 - (iii) the pig's back does not touch any bars along the top face of the stall when standing or when it has its head down while feeding or drinking; and
- (d) in addition, in the case of a sow kept in a farrowing crate:
 - (i) during and after farrowing, the sow and her piglets are provided with sufficient space to minimise the risk of the piglets being crushed, trapped or otherwise injured; and
 - (ii) when lactating, the sow is able to lie and extend her limbs freely and position herself so that both sides of her udder are accessible to her piglets.

17 Pigs in group housing - minimum space requirements

- (1) From 1 July 2012, a producer who keeps a pig in group housing must ensure that:
 - (a) for each sow kept in the housing - the floor space of the housing is not less than 1.4 square metres;
 - (b) for each gilt weighing more than 100 kilograms kept in the housing - the floor space is not less than 1 square metre;
 - (c) in any other case - the floor space of the housing is not less than the number of square metres calculated in accordance with the following formula: $0.030 \times (P^{0.67})$ where **P** is the average weight in kilograms of each pig kept in the housing, as set out in Schedule 1 to this Code.
- (2) A producer who keeps a pig in group housing must ensure that the pig is managed in such a way as to avoid harm to the pig (including aggressive or threatening behaviour) from other pigs in the housing.

Division 4 Requirements for pigs confined in stalls or farrowing crates

18 Requirements for sows confined in farrowing crates

- (1) A producer must not:
 - (a) confine a sow, or

(b) authorise a sow to be confined,

in a farrowing crate for more than 6 weeks in any one reproductive cycle.

- (2) Clause 18(1) does not apply in emergency or exceptional circumstances including where a sow is required to foster a second litter of piglets after her own piglets have been weaned.
- (3) Where a sow is required to foster a second litter of piglets after her own piglets have been weaned:
- (a) the sow must not be required to foster more than one additional litter of piglets; and
 - (b) a producer must ensure that the sow receives such exercise, nutrition and supervision as may be necessary in order for the sow to maintain good health and vitality.

19 Requirements for pregnant sows confined in stalls

(1) From 1 July 2017, a producer must not:

- (a) confine a pregnant sow, or
- (b) authorise a pregnant sow to be confined,

in a stall for more than 6 weeks in any gestation period.

(2) Clause 19(1) does not apply if a pregnant sow is:

- (a) under the treatment of a veterinary practitioner; or
- (b) receiving special care from a stock-person who is:
 - (i) a suitably qualified person; or
 - (ii) acting under the supervision of a suitably qualified person.

(3) In clause 19(2):

special care includes:

- (a) an individual nutritional regime required for a limited period to restore health and body condition to the sow; or
- (b) administration of health treatments to the sow that require her to be confined, such as treatment of injuries or poor body condition resulting from bullying by herd mates.

Division 5 Special requirements for certain pigs

20 Special care requirements for piglets

A producer must ensure that, within 24 hours of birth, a piglet:

- (a) is inspected to ascertain whether it is feeding; and
- (b) has had an opportunity to receive colostrum or has been provided with an appropriate substitute.

21 Special food requirements for weaners

A producer must ensure that a weaner pig is provided with access to food at least twice a day.

Division 6 Herd health program and treatment of pigs

22 Herd health program

- (1) A producer must have a herd health program in place to manage the risk of disease to a pig.
- (2) For the purposes of this clause, *herd health program* means a documented management program that identifies potential health and biosecurity risks to pigs and specifies actions to prevent or minimise those risks.

23 Use of a dog to move pigs

- (1) A producer must not:
 - (a) use a dog to move a pig, or
 - (b) authorise the use of a dog to move a pig.
- (2) A person (including a stock-person) must not use a dog to move a pig.
- (3) Clauses 23(1) and (2) do not apply if:
 - (a) the dog is under the effective control of the person who is responsible for moving the pig; and
 - (b) in the case of a dog that has a history of biting humans or other animals – the dog is wearing a muzzle.

24 Surgical procedures on male pigs

A producer must ensure that a surgical procedure to render a male pig sterile is not performed on a male pig over the age of 21 days unless the procedure is performed:

- (a) under anaesthesia; and
- (b) by a veterinary practitioner.

25 Humane destruction of pigs

- (1) A producer must ensure that a pig with an incurable disease, an untreatable injury or a painful deformity is:
 - (a) provided with veterinary care; or
 - (b) humanely destroyed.
- (2) For the purposes of this clause, the method by which a pig is *humanely destroyed* must cause a sudden unconsciousness with death occurring while the pig is unconscious.

Note: See clause 9 of this Code in relation to carrying out the humane destruction of pigs.

Notes:

- 1. Section 10(2) of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* provides that it is an offence to tether a sow in a piggery. That offence has a maximum penalty of 250 penalty units in the case of a corporation and 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both, in the case of an individual.
- 2. Section 16(2) of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* and clause 10 of, and Schedule 1 to, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006* provides that it is an offence to use an electric stock prod upon a pig other than a weaned pig when it is being loaded or unloaded onto or from a vehicle for transportation purposes. That offence has a maximum penalty of 250 penalty units in the case of a corporation and 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both, in the case of an individual.
- 3. Clauses 20(3)(a) to (h) of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006* set out other requirements in relation to the conduct of a commercial pig establishment.

**SCHEDULE 1 MINIMUM SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR PIGS IN
GROUP HOUSING**

(Clause 17(1)(c))

LW(kg)*	m ²	LW (kg)	m ²	LW (kg)	m ²	LW (kg)	m ²
1	0.03	31	0.30	61	0.47	91	0.62
2	0.05	32	0.31	62	0.48	92	0.62
3	0.06	33	0.31	63	0.48	93	0.63
4	0.08	34	0.32	64	0.49	94	0.63
5	0.09	35	0.32	65	0.49	95	0.63
6	0.10	36	0.33	66	0.50	96	0.64
7	0.11	37	0.34	67	0.50	97	0.64
8	0.12	38	0.34	68	0.51	98	0.65
9	0.13	39	0.35	69	0.51	99	0.65
10	0.14	40	0.36	70	0.52	100	0.66
11	0.15	41	0.36	71	0.52	101	0.66
12	0.16	42	0.37	72	0.53	102	0.67
13	0.17	43	0.37	73	0.53	103	0.67
14	0.18	44	0.38	74	0.54	104	0.67
15	0.18	45	0.38	75	0.54	105	0.68
16	0.19	46	0.39	76	0.55	106	0.68
17	0.20	47	0.40	77	0.55	107	0.69
18	0.21	48	0.40	78	0.56	108	0.69
19	0.22	49	0.41	79	0.56	109	0.70
20	0.22	50	0.41	80	0.57	110	0.70
21	0.23	51	0.42	81	0.57	111	0.70
22	0.24	52	0.42	82	0.57	112	0.71
23	0.25	53	0.43	83	0.58	113	0.71
24	0.25	54	0.43	84	0.58	114	0.72
25	0.26	55	0.44	85	0.59	115	0.72
26	0.27	56	0.45	86	0.59	116	0.72
27	0.27	57	0.45	87	0.60	117	0.73
28	0.28	58	0.46	88	0.60	118	0.73
29	0.29	59	0.46	89	0.61	119	0.74
30	0.29	60	0.47	90	0.61	120	0.74

*LW – live-weight