

Pigs

Draft for
Consultation

TITLE

Code of Welfare: Pigs

COMMENCEMENT

This Code of Welfare comes into force on [Effective Date].

Revocation deleted on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Code of Welfare is issued by the Minister of Agriculture, by a notice published in the *Gazette*, under section of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, after having complied with the matters specified in ...

AMENDMENTS

This Code of Welfare has been amended by:

- *Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020*
- *Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589*

Amendments inserted on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

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Introduction

This introduction and any appendices are not part of the Code of Welfare but are intended to indicate its general effect.

Introduction amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to provide information to the owners and persons in charge of pigs about the standards they must achieve to meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

This Code encourages all those responsible for pigs to adopt the highest standards of husbandry, care and handling, and to equal or exceed the minimum standards.

Adequately maintaining the welfare of pigs requires experience, training and the observance of high standards.

Background

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 provides for the welfare of animals in New Zealand. It puts obligations on people who own or are in charge of animals to provide for the welfare of their animals.

The Act establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals and provides for the development and issue of codes of welfare.

Codes of welfare expand on the basic obligations of the Act by setting minimum standards and recommending best practice for the care and management of animals.

This Code of Welfare also references regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Regulations are prescribed under the Animal Welfare Act and impose enforceable requirements on owners and persons in charge of animals. For ease of reference, regulations relevant to this Code are set out in an appendix to this Code. Penalties for failure to comply with the regulations are specified in the relevant regulations. The appendix to this Code is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all obligations under the Act or regulatory requirements. Owners and persons in charge of animals are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of and understand all Act and regulatory requirements that are relevant to them.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, a “significant surgical procedure” may only be carried out by a veterinarian or their supervised student, unless there are regulations that say otherwise. The regulations clarify who can carry out certain procedures and how they should be done. For ease of reference, regulations relevant to this Code are set out in an appendix to this Code.

Who should read this Code of Welfare?

This Code of Welfare is intended for all persons responsible for the care and welfare of pigs.

Under the Act the “owner” and every “person in charge” of an animal are responsible for meeting the legal obligations for the welfare of animals under their care.

The owners of some pigs may place the animals in the care of others who become the persons in charge, but this does not derogate from their responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the Act and animal welfare regulations are met.

Who should read this code of Welfare? amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Why is this important?

Failure to meet a minimum standard in this Code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act. A person who is charged with an offence against the Act can defend him or herself by showing that he or she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in this Code.

This Code of Welfare includes information and example indicators for each minimum standard. The list of indicators is not exhaustive but is given to provide guidance on ways in which a minimum standard may be met.

Owners and persons in charge of animals are not required to comply with the recommendations for best practice in this Code, but are encouraged to do so to provide higher standards of welfare.

Legislative background

This Code does not provide an exhaustive list of the Act's requirements, and owners and those in charge of animals should note that they must comply with the minimum standards in this Code, the general provisions of the Act, and any regulations issued under the Act. A copy of the Act and animal welfare regulations are accessible at: www.legislation.govt.nz.

Legislative background amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Other information

Other codes of welfare should be consulted where appropriate, including codes of welfare for transport, commercial slaughter and painful husbandry procedures (see <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/welfarecodes>).

Codes of welfare must be accompanied by a report that sets out the deliberations that the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) undertook when developing the codes of welfare including the standards and recommendations for best practice, the nature of any significant differences of opinion during drafting and consultation, and any matters that should be dealt with by regulation. Code reports can be accessed online (see www.mpi.govt.nz/welfarecodes).

Although efforts to include relevant regulations within this Code have been made, there may be other regulations which are relevant to you. The full list of all animal welfare regulations should be consulted where appropriate (see www.legislation.govt.nz).

Owners and persons in charge of pigs need to be aware of all relevant requirements including the Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005 (see www.legislation.govt.nz) and any standards set by local or regional councils.

Part 1: General Requirements

1.1 Application

This Code of Welfare applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of all pigs in all types of management systems regardless of the reasons for which they are kept (i.e. including pigs owned by non-commercial operators).

1.2 Interpretation and Definitions

Refer to Schedule I – Interpretation and Definitions.

Part 2: Stockpersonship

Introduction

Pigs are sentient animals and therefore have emotions, feelings, perceptions, and experiences that matter to them. The care of these animals requires expertise, a good understanding of the relationship between stockpeople and pigs, and the observance of minimum standards as outlined in this Code.

It is important for people in charge of pigs to ensure that they have their basic needs met to maintain optimal health and to be comfortable (for example, by providing appropriate shade and shelter). In addition, good animal welfare, and a good life, can be achieved when animals have experiences that they find rewarding and positive. People in charge of pigs should aim to make sure they have appropriate social companions; provide opportunities for exploration and mental stimulation; and allow animals to make their own choices.

Continuous welfare improvement and new management developments are strongly encouraged to enhance the welfare of pigs.

Good stockpersonship is the most important determinant of good animal welfare. The knowledge, skills, abilities and attitude of the stock handlers are integral to the standard of welfare experienced by the pigs. Stockpersonship is the ability to identify an animal's needs and ensure that action is taken to address those needs in a way that demonstrates an affinity with and empathy for the animal concerned.

Regardless of the pig production system employed, there will be inherent problems and particular welfare risks which the stock handler needs to manage for the benefit of the animals. Stock handlers need to be familiar with the risks that are characteristic of the production system in which they work. Good stockpersonship is particularly important to ensure the welfare of pigs in larger groups, group housing or in outdoor conditions because it is more difficult to observe pigs individually in those systems.

Those responsible for the care of pigs need to be competent and well trained with an understanding of aspects of pig behaviour to ensure pig welfare when handling the animals and their own safety. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of pigs is essential for monitoring their health and welfare. It is important that those in charge of pigs are able to recognise early signs of distress, disease or aberrant behaviours so that prompt action is taken or expert (e.g. veterinary) advice sought.

Owners, managers or persons in charge are required to ensure that their staff have either the relevant knowledge and training, or appropriate supervision and support to ensure that the health and welfare needs of the pigs in their care are met. Personnel may undergo training either formally, or on the job, by experienced supervisors. All staff, including contract or temporary staff, need to be trained and competent in their relevant tasks before working with pigs unaided.

Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockpersonship

Pigs must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who collectively possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with this Code.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockpersonship

- Stock handlers are familiar with the minimum standards, recommended best practices, and regulations listed in this Code
- All minimum standards and regulations are met
- An up-to-date copy of this Code is available on site at all times
- Competence in the care of pigs can be demonstrated and persons in charge are aware of how their actions may affect the welfare of the animals
- Staff under training are supervised until they have achieved competence

- Persons in charge ask for, and receive, assistance when dealing with situations outside their expertise
- Job descriptions or other documentation of expectations of personnel duties include reference to pig health and welfare
- Persons in charge of pigs have the ability, time and facilities to provide for the animals under their care
- Pigs are well habituated to human contact and do not show excessive fear of humans

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Persons involved in the farming of pigs should receive training from accredited training providers.
- b) Stock handlers should attend a training course on understanding human – animal interactions, to help improve animal welfare and the technical performance of the unit.

General Information

Persons involved in the farming of pigs are encouraged to receive external training from accredited training providers where relevant.

Information on qualifications and accredited training providers is available from the Primary Industry Training Organisation. See: www.primaryito.ac.nz/courses-for-your-team/meat-and-fibre/pork/.

Part 3: Water and Food

3.1 Drinking Water

Introduction

The provision of an adequate supply of water is critical for maintaining pig health and welfare. A pig's daily consumption of water varies with factors such as environmental temperature, age, liveweight, physiological state of the pigs (e.g. pregnancy, lactation), and diet. Herd hierarchy and social interaction can limit access of individual pigs to drinking water. This may be aggravated in outdoor environments, especially during hot weather when water consumption will rise, and in winter when water supplies may freeze.

Minimum Standard No. 2 – Drinking Water

- (a) An adequate daily supply of water that is palatable, not harmful to health and at a temperature that does not inhibit drinking must be easily accessible to all pigs at all times.
- (b) The water storage and delivery system must be reliable and maintained to meet daily and peak demand.
- (c) Water reticulation systems must be checked daily and any problems immediately rectified.
- (d) In the event of a water delivery system failure, remedial action must be taken to ensure that daily water requirements are met.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 2 – Drinking Water

- Watering points are appropriate for the number and size of pigs
- Competition does not prevent any pigs from having access to sufficient water
- During hot weather, drinking water temperature is maintained below 30°C
- During cold weather, water supplies do not freeze
- Supply, flow rate and use of water is monitored
- Persons in charge understand the daily variations in water demand of their pigs
- Recently weaned pigs are monitored more regularly than older animals
- The water reserves are adequate to cope with an average 24-hour demand

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Water chemical and microbiological safety should be monitored on a regular basis.
- b) In hot or very cold weather the water supply should be checked at least twice a day to ensure that the requirements of the pigs are being met.

3.2 Feed: General

Introduction

The amount of food and nutrients pigs require in any management system is affected by factors such as climate, the nutritional composition and quality of the diet, the age, gender, size and physiological state of the pigs (e.g. pregnancy, lactation), and their state of health, growth rate, previous feeding levels and level of activity and exercise.

These factors and the natural variation in the needs of individual animals mean it is not appropriate to specify the complete range of quantities and nutrients required. Approaches that rely solely on a regime of feeding predetermined quantities are therefore discouraged. The need to adjust feeding levels to meet individual

requirements can be determined by monitoring body condition score, and/or by weighing at regular intervals. See Schedule II – Condition Scoring of Pigs for guidelines.

Feeding systems for groups of pigs require good design and management to maximise the opportunity for each pig to receive sufficient daily food. Measures to satisfy appetite as well as nutritional needs are important for pig welfare. Hungry pigs housed in groups are prone to showing aggression when competing for food, which can result in serious injury. Therefore, not only do pigs need to have sufficient access to food, they need to be able to get to it without undue competition.

Outdoor pigs typically have greater feed requirements than indoor pigs because of the greater variability of environmental conditions, levels of activity and feed wastage.

Minimum Standard No. 3 – Feed

- (a) All pigs must receive sufficient quantities of food and nutrients each day to enable each pig to:
 - i) maintain good health;
 - ii) meet its physiological demands; and
 - iii) minimise metabolic and nutritional disorders.
- (b) Feed must be provided in such a way as to prevent undue competition and injury.
- (c) Pigs that are on a restricted diet must be given sufficient bulky, slow energy release feed to satisfy their hunger.
- (d) Body condition score must be maintained between 2 and 4.5.
- (e) Automated feeding systems must be monitored and physically checked at least once every 12 hours to ensure they are in working order and any problems rectified promptly.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 3 – Feed

- Pigs are not showing behaviour indicative of hunger such as excessive vocalisation, sham chewing or excessive water intake
- The prevalence of shoulder ulcers, an indicator of poor body condition, is monitored and any ulcers are treated to alleviate discomfort
- The level of competition, intimidation, bullying and aggression is low
- Access to feed or feeder space allowance is adjusted to reduce competition if necessary
- Feeding frequency is appropriate to the age and growth rate of the pigs
- Trough space and the number of feeders are appropriate for the number and size of the pigs
- In sequential feeding systems, efforts are made to minimise revisits by animals that have already received their ration
- Body weights or body condition scores (see Schedule II – Condition Scoring of Pigs) are monitored and maintained at level appropriate for the class of pig:
 - Breeding sows after weaning greater than 2 and preferably 3 or higher
 - Breeding sows at farrowing are not less than 3, and are preferably 3.5 - 4
 - Growers, finishers, boars greater than 2 and preferably 3 or higher
- The diet is balanced nutritionally
- Dung/manure appearance is “normal” i.e. no evidence of diarrhoea or constipation

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Weaners and young growing pigs should be provided with frequent small meals of fresh, palatable feed.
- b) All pigs should be given enough bulky feed or high fibre feed to satisfy hunger and foraging needs.
- c) Changes in the composition of the diet should be managed to avoid digestive upsets.

General Information

Body condition scoring is a useful method of visually and manually assessing whether animals are receiving adequate nutrition. Refer to Schedule II – Condition Scoring of Pigs. Note however that weight for age may be a more reliable indicator than body condition score for young rapidly growing pigs, especially those that are genetically bred for fast lean growth rates.

Dry (non-lactating) sows are often fed a restricted diet to maintain a healthy weight, but this can result in feelings of hunger. Increased activity and abnormal oral behaviour such as ‘sham’ chewing with an empty mouth, excessive manipulation of the drinker, and biting or licking of the floor and trough may indicate hunger. Providing material that allows for extra fibre as well as rooting and foraging opportunities (e.g. straw or silage) can help to reduce hunger as well as aggression.

The physiological status of a pig can influence their feed requirements. Information on recommended nutrient requirements of different types of pigs can be obtained through recognised industry experts.

A guideline for smallholders, including information regarding appropriate feeding levels for different classes of pigs, appropriate diet composition and body condition, is available from NZ Pork.

3.3 Feed: Newborn Piglets

Introduction

It is essential that newborn piglets receive an adequate supply of colostrum from the sow or an appropriate colostrum substitute, as soon as possible after birth, and no more than 24 hours after birth, when their digestive tract is still able to absorb the proteins that give immunological protection. Colostrum also provides a highly digestible source of energy. Sows’ milk contains a range of proteins and other substances that protect the piglets from infections and digestive upsets. Continued access to sows’ milk is therefore important for the welfare of the piglets.

Piglets receiving inadequate milk from their sow should, if possible, be transferred (fostered) to another appropriate lactating sow or may be hand-reared.

Minimum Standard No. 4 – Feed: Newborn Piglets

- (a) All piglets must receive colostrum or good quality commercial colostrum as soon as possible after birth, and within 24 hours.
- (b) Where there are signs that piglets are not receiving sufficient milk, remedial action must be taken.
- (c) Fostering must be managed to ensure that the nurse sow accepts and is able to feed all of the piglets.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 4 – Feed: Newborn Piglets

- All piglets, including fostered piglets, show typical vigour, body condition, vitality and freedom from injuries from other piglets such as facial lesions
- The sow’s udder is in good condition and she allows suckling
- Sow milk production is regularly monitored

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Sows should be managed to prevent piglets from other litters sucking from recently farrowed sows, to ensure the sow’s own piglets get the colostrum and milk they require.

Part 4: Shelter Including Housing Facilities

Introduction

Methods of pig production vary widely and include both indoor and outdoor systems. The standard of the facilities in which pigs are housed and sheltered, and the way in which these facilities are operated, has a direct impact on the health, productivity and welfare of pigs.

Whichever production system is used, pigs of all ages need to be provided with a dry lying area and protection from excessive heat and cold.

The provision and efficient operation of a suitable environment in indoor systems is typically reliant on technology, and the stockperson in this environment must be familiar with its operation. In outdoor systems the stockperson needs to be familiar with both seasonal and daily weather variables that may affect pig welfare, and provide appropriate facilities to protect the pigs when necessary.

The requirements of pigs for space, ventilation, heating and air quality are also defined in this section.

4.1 Shelter for Pigs Outdoors

Introduction

Successful farming of pigs outdoors is dependent on a range of environmental features, of which a free-draining soil, low rainfall, and a temperate climate are the most important. Many areas of New Zealand are unsuitable for large scale systems of outdoor production. Even where environmental conditions are suitable, there will be periods of adverse weather and pigs need sufficient shelter provided to enable them to cope. Direct exposure to weather variations increases the risk of both cold stress in piglets and heat stress in sows. The role of the stockhandler is crucial and good facilities are essential if good welfare is to be achieved in outdoor systems.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 24 – Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area

Minimum Standard No. 5 – Shelter for Pigs Outdoors

- Pigs must have access, at all times, to shelter that is adequately ventilated and provides protection from extremes of heat and cold.
- Suitable and sufficient bedding material must be provided to assist pigs to maintain body temperature in cold weather.
- Shade or wallows must be provided to assist pigs to maintain body temperature in hot weather.
- Pigs must have access, at all times when they are not in farrowing crates or stalls, to a dry area that is large enough to allow the pigs to stand up, turn around, and lie down in a natural position.
- Faeces or urine must not be allowed to accumulate in any area in which the pig is kept to an extent that may pose a threat to the health or welfare of the pigs.
- All surfaces in pig shelters must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury and disease to pigs.

Note: A consequential amendment to Minimum Standard 5(d) may be required to remove reference to crates or stalls, depending on the outcome of public consultation.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 5 – Shelter for Pigs Outdoors

- Arks or huts are insulated sufficiently to minimise internal temperature variation
- Arks or huts are sited so that water does not pool inside when it rains
- Signs of cold stress (e.g. shivering) or heat stress (e.g. panting) in pigs are recognised and addressed
- Pigs are not suffering from severe cold stress (hypothermia) or extreme heat stress (hyperthermia)
- Accommodation is designed to cope with the most demanding weather conditions expected, especially protection from wind and driving rain, sun and overheating
- Pigs are not sunburned
- Ventilation is managed to avoid excess heat in summer and cold in winter
- Suitable and sufficient bedding material is provided to assist pigs to maintain body temperature in cold weather
- Pigs do not have access to toxic hazards e.g. paint, timber preservatives

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Between batches of piglets, farrowing arks and huts should be resited and bedding such as straw should be replaced in order to limit the build-up and transfer of disease organisms.

General Information

Strategies to manage heat stress include provision of wallows, provision of shade, feeding during cooler periods of the day and using paddocks that have good airflow. Because pigs do not sweat, most temperature loss occurs by evaporation through skin and secondarily from lungs and nose. Air movement is a critical component for cooling. Mud is more effective than water for cooling pigs.

Strategies to manage cold stress include providing sleeping enclosures, provision of extra bedding/straw, hanging a movable screen over doorways to retain the warm air and feeding close to the housing. In cold conditions or climates, the benefits of additional space may be offset by chilling and associated health and welfare problems when there are too few pigs to heat the air space sufficiently.

Particular attention needs to be given to newborn piglets because they have difficulty maintaining body temperature independently of their environment.

4.2 Housing and Equipment for Pigs Indoors

Introduction

Provision of adequate space, appropriate temperature and good ventilation are priorities in the design of any piggery accommodation and are interrelated. Space allowances for pigs need to provide for their comfort at all times throughout the year, and throughout their growing cycle. If the environment is not controlled during hot weather, enough space needs to be provided to allow pigs in a pen to lie on their sides without the need to have body contact with other pigs. During cold periods, accommodation needs to provide warmth to reduce huddling or inappropriate dunging patterns. The space provided for lying and other normal behaviours of pigs needs to be calculated separately to the areas used for feeding, drinking and dunging.

Advice on welfare aspects need to be sought from suitably qualified persons when new buildings are planned, existing buildings modified or equipment purchased.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 24 – Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area
- Regulation 25 – Minimum lying space for grower pigs
- Regulation 26 – Farrowing crate requirements

Minimum Standard No. 6 – Housing and Equipment

- (a) Housing systems must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that provides suitable (comfortable) temperatures, fresh air, and hygienic conditions.
- (b) All group housed pigs must be able to stand, move about and lie down in a natural position, without undue interference with each other, in a space that provides for separation of dunging, lying and eating areas.
- (c) The unobstructed space allowance for growing pigs must be in accordance with the following table:

OPTION A

Average weight of pigs in the group	Space per pig
≤10kg	0.20m ²
10 – 20kg	0.35m ²
20 – 30kg	0.45m ²
30 – 50kg	0.65m ²
50 – 85kg	0.90m ²
≥85kg	1.10m ²

OPTION B

Average weight of pigs in the group	Space per pig
≤10kg	0.30m ²
10 – 20kg	0.50m ²
20 – 30kg	0.70m ²
30 – 50kg	1.00m ²
50 – 85kg	1.40m ²
≥85kg	1.65m ²

This space allowance must not include the space for the dunging area, feeding troughs, wet areas around drinkers, or any hospital pens.

- (d) Pigs must have access, at all times, to shelter that is adequately ventilated and provides protection from extremes of heat and cold.
- (e) Pigs must have access, at all times that they are not in farrowing crates or stalls, to a dry area that is large enough to allow the pigs to stand up, turn around, and lie down in a natural position.
- (f) Faeces or urine must not be allowed to accumulate in any area in which the pig is kept to an extent that may pose a threat to the health or welfare of the pigs.
- (g) Inspection of all pigs must be possible.
- (h) Pigs must not be tethered.
- (i) The risk of injury, disease or stress for pigs must be minimised by appropriate design, construction and maintenance of housing and equipment.
- (j) Pigs must be provided with natural or artificial light of appropriate intensity for a minimum of nine hours each day.
- (k) Alternative means of temperature regulation, ventilation, feeding and watering of stock must be available in case of power or computer failure or mechanical breakdown.
- (l) Systems must be designed to minimise the impact of flooding in the event that water pipes or fittings burst.
- (m) Appropriate fire prevention measures and a fire emergency plan that includes feed milling areas adjacent to pig housing, must be in place.

Note: A consequential amendment to Minimum Standard 6(e) may be required to remove reference to crates or stalls, depending on the outcome of public consultation.

NAWAC proposes that Regulation 25 should be amended to reflect higher space values as proposed, and that these changes should come into force via transitional regulation, because the adverse effects of this change may mean it is not feasible or practical to implement immediately and because not to do so may result in an unreasonable impact on the sector.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 6 – Housing and Equipment

- Pigs are monitored for injury including lameness and affected animals treated promptly
- Prevalence of aggressive behaviour and the effectiveness of steps taken to lessen the impact of aggression are monitored
- Pigs are not displaying excessive aggression including tail, ear or vulva biting
- Pigs do not have severe lesions (>5cm in diameter)
- Pigs, in general, do not have scratches or body marks
- Floors have a non-slip surface and adequate drainage
- Pigs are confident in their movement on walking surfaces and move freely without slipping
- Pigs are not seen resting in the dunging area
- Pigs are generally clean
- Young pigs can be seen to play
- Pigs are dry and do not show signs of thermal stress (e.g. shivering or panting)
- Pigs are not suffering from severe cold stress (hypothermia) or severe heat stress (hyperthermia)
- Natural and/or artificial light is at least 40 lux at pig level
- An equipment maintenance programme is in place and a maintenance schedule is documented
- Staff are trained to manage the ventilation and temperature regulation equipment to keep the environmental conditions within the appropriate range for pig welfare
- Spare parts for ventilation and heating equipment are available on site
- The emergency plan is documented and staff are trained to implement it
- A reliable source of feed and reserves are on hand in case of supply or delivery failure
- An alarm is fitted with a back-up power source to warn of ventilation system breakdown from power failure or mechanical reasons
- Electrical fittings and attachments to mains voltage are out of the reach of pigs, or protected from interference or damage by pigs
- Pigs do not have access to toxic hazards e.g. paint, timber preservatives
- Pig distribution and behaviour are monitored during daily inspections and corrective action to adjust temperature or ventilation is taken as required
- Alarm systems, firefighting equipment and emergency power supply are tested in accordance with the Welfare Assurance document (See Part 10: Welfare Assurance System), and test results documented

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Suitable and sufficient bedding material should be provided to all pigs to provide a comfortable lying area.
- b) The lighting period should match the natural day/night cycle.

General Information

Pigs in groups will share space to some extent.

The space requirements given above represent the area to meet lying, movement and social needs. Space may have to be increased in some situations, depending on the interaction of a number of factors characterising the housing and management system, including feeding strategies, group size, age, breed, temperature, insulation, ventilation, pen shape, flooring, lighting and other husbandry factors.

The same factors apply to space requirements for group housed sows, noting that the smaller the size of the group the more space per sow is required. Increased space allowance and provision of hide areas (visual barriers) for group housed sows reduces the amount and effects of aggression.

Pigs cannot be tethered for the purpose of long-term housing. This is different to 'tying up' or snaring a pig, which can be performed for management purposes for short periods of time only.

Poor maintenance of concrete, slatted, or perforated floors can cause lameness or foot damage. An important aspect of slatted floor design is the width of the slat and the width of the gap in relation to the size of the pig it is designed for.

Spraying floors with emulsified oils or water misters may assist in providing good air quality within shelters if they are dusty.

Information is available from industry groups on a range of aspects of housing design. Information on suitable firefighting equipment can be obtained from Standards New Zealand: www.standards.co.nz.

4.2.1 Temperature

Introduction

Pigs have a narrow thermal comfort range so their welfare will be directly influenced by temperature extremes. This is particularly true for newborn piglets, which have a relatively poor capacity to maintain core body temperature.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 24 – Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area

Minimum Standard No. 7 – Temperature

- Newborn piglets must be housed at temperatures that will assist them to reach and maintain normal body temperatures.
- Heating devices (e.g. infrared lamps, heat pads) must be securely fixed and protected from interference by the sow and piglets.
- Housed pigs must be provided with a comfortable thermal environment.
- Ventilation control or other measures must be appropriate to maintain the body temperature within the normal range for the species.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 7 – Temperature

- Bedding is provided for piglets in unheated creep areas
- Growing and adult pig behaviour is monitored at least once per day. Corrective action is taken if signs of cold (e.g. shivering) or heat stress (e.g. panting) are observed
- Piglet behaviour is monitored daily for indicators of thermal discomfort and remedial action is taken if necessary. Hunched backs, sluggish movements, shivering, and huddling suggest that the piglets are cold; panting and lying away from the heat source suggest that piglets are hot
- The farrowing sow's welfare is not compromised by excessive heat e.g. no panting and showing good appetite
- In periods of hot temperatures (>23 °C), steps are taken to reduce overheating of pigs such as opening flaps and doors, providing wallows, cooling with water, increasing ventilation or shade and providing more space

General Information

The comfortable temperature range for a sow is significantly lower than for piglets, especially around farrowing time, so their varying requirements need to be balanced. Management strategies for indoor systems when ambient temperatures are hot include a reduction in stocking density, ventilation control and the use of cooling devices. These may need to be implemented to ensure that pigs do not experience heat stress when internal house temperature and humidity are high.

Industry guidelines on optimum temperature ranges for categories of pigs are available.

4.2.2 Air Quality

Introduction

Control of air quality in enclosed houses is important for pig comfort and welfare. Fresh air is required to remove excess heat and moisture, minimise the transmission of airborne infectious agents, remove waste gases and minimise dust particles in the atmosphere. A balance is also required to keep pigs warm and protect them from draughts.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 24 – Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area

Minimum Standard No. 8 – Air Quality
(a) Adequate ventilation must be provided in order to prevent the build-up of dust, and gases such as ammonia, to levels that are harmful to pigs.
(b) Immediate and appropriate action must be taken to reduce ammonia levels if they reach 15 ppm at pig level.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 8 – Air Quality

- Humidity, dust or ammonia levels (as detected by smell) are not unpleasant to a human
- Inspections of pigs show minimal signs of discomfort, distress or disease (e.g. sneezing, coughing, heavy breathing, runny eyes or noses)

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Atmospheric ammonia should be maintained at less than 10 ppm at pig level.
- b) An ammonia meter should be available on indoor farms.

General Information

Ammonia is produced as part of animal effluent. Increases in air ammonia concentrations can occur for short periods in enclosed housing because of the need to restrict airflow to avoid draughts and chilling of pigs during cold or windy weather. High ammonia concentrations for prolonged periods can cause eye and respiratory irritation in pigs, resulting in discomfort and respiratory disease and reduced growth rates. As a guide to the level of ammonia within the shed, 10-15 ppm of ammonia in the air can be detected by smell and an ammonia level over 25 ppm will cause eye and nasal irritation in people.

The stock handler needs to check regularly for the presence of noxious gases at pig level, since levels that are uncomfortable to the pig may not be recognised at normal human standing height. Particular care with ventilation is required when pigs are kept over static effluent storage systems as dangerous fumes may result from the effluent. Stirring of effluent during pumping out the tanks poses a particular risk to stock above the effluent pit and is best undertaken when animals are not in the building.

Part 5: Behaviour

Introduction

Meeting a pig's behavioural needs is important for their welfare. Pigs are social animals and prefer to live in groups. At all ages they are very vocal and when given the opportunity will display behaviours such as rooting, nest building, chewing and other forms of oral and nasal stimulation. It is important that pigs are given social contact.

While domestication has made pigs easier to handle, some behavioural traits persist that may need to be managed to ensure pig welfare. These problems occur in all production systems but may require additional attention indoors where there are higher stocking densities. Pigs are hierarchical animals and will seek to establish a social structure which may result in aggression, particularly when mixing unfamiliar pigs. Where pigs of all ages are kept in groups, aggression can create welfare problems, which may be severe if they are not well managed. Aggression can also occur at feeding times and is manifested by bullying, fighting and vulva, tail or ear biting. It is essential to be alert for these behaviours both to manage them and to identify and minimise the factors that cause them. Aggression can be mitigated by a variety of practices, and a high standard of stockpersonship is essential.

One of the purposes of this section of this Code is to establish a clear direction towards housing systems which provide pigs with the opportunity to engage in a greater range of behaviours while maintaining physical and health needs.

The minimum standards and associated indicators outlined elsewhere in this Code also address the behavioural needs of pigs and provide advice on how these needs can be met.

Minimum Standard No. 9 – Behaviour

- (a) Pigs must be managed in a manner that provides them sufficient opportunities to express and satisfy a range of normal behaviours. These include, but are not limited to, nest building, manipulating objects and material with the snout, chewing (material other than feed), positive interactions with other pigs, and investigation of their environment.
- (b) Pigs must have access to a variety of materials that can be manipulated, such as organic matter (e.g. straw, sawdust), chewable objects (e.g. edible branches, hessian sacks, natural fibre ropes), untreated timber, rope, chains, or other objects that encourage play, foraging and exploring behaviour.
- (c) Where abnormal or undesirable behaviours are detected, remedial action must be taken to reduce or remove the cause.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 9 – Behaviour

- Pigs are alert and attentive
- Pigs are not displaying abnormal repetitive behaviour including sham chewing, tongue rolling, teeth grinding, bar/trough/drinker biting or floor licking
- Pigs are not displaying excessive aggression including tail, ear or vulva biting
- Pigs can be seen engaging in normal behaviours including play, positive social interactions, manipulating objects, sniffing, and exploring

Recommended Best Practice

- a) In addition to any objects or materials provided according to Minimum Standard 9(b), manipulable, destructible and chewable material such as straw, hay, wood, silage, soil, grass or sawdust should be available to all pigs on the floor (to encourage rooting and foraging behaviour).

- b) Facilities in which pigs are group housed but are individually fed, i.e. either at individual feeding stations or via a computerised feeding system, should be managed to reduce aggression at feeding times.
- c) Environmental enrichment should be provided for pigs. Such practices may include:
 - i) the provision of regularly changed, novel objects to encourage play, foraging and exploring behaviour
 - ii) feed provided in a way that encourages foraging behaviour
 - iii) positive human contact (such as pats, rubs and talking)
 - iv) a wallowing area.

General Information

When providing enrichment objects, novelty and diversity in materials is important so that the pigs maintain interest.

Materials or substrates that are investigable, manipulable, chewable and edible are preferred by pigs. Straw is one example of a material that provides all of these qualities.

If chains are provided as an enrichment object, it is important that they are long enough to pool onto the floor, as this can provide opportunities for rooting behaviour. Alternatively, a toy or destructible object can be added to the end of a hanging chain.

If the behavioural needs of pigs are not met, this can result in abnormal repetitive behaviours including 'sham' chewing (chewing motions with an empty mouth, often accompanied by frothy saliva), tongue rolling, teeth grinding, floor licking, and excessive or repetitive manipulation of pen fittings such as troughs, bars or drinkers.

Social contact is provided for pigs by physical contact in groups or between pigs housed next to each other, and by keeping pigs within hearing and sight of each other.

When pigs are kept in groups, aggression can be mitigated through a variety of practices such as attention to group size and composition, adequate space, feeding method, diet and the satisfaction of appetite, selection for temperament, running a boar with pregnant sows, provision of straw or other bedding to encourage foraging behaviour, individual feeding stalls, individual pens or concrete baffles, or creating baffles such as bales of straw to create retreat areas where pigs can withdraw.

5.1 Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets

Introduction

The purpose of any farrowing facility is to provide for the needs of both sows and piglets.

Farrowing systems include outdoor huts, deep-litter group lactation and farrowing pens. There are a variety of farrowing pen designs in use and being further developed internationally. Some farrowing systems allow for temporary restraint so that stockpeople can handle piglets, or for veterinary intervention.

Most piglet mortality from crushing by the sow occurs within the first four days after farrowing. After that time the piglets become more active and are better able to get out of the sow's way.

In rare cases, a gilt or sometimes a sow may display savaging behaviour towards her piglets. To prevent injuries or mortality, tranquilisers or muzzles are used. These should only be used by competent operators as an intervention for serious savaging cases. The cause of the savaging behaviour should be investigated and prevented from occurring again.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 24 – Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area
- Regulation 26 – Farrowing requirements

Until 18 December 2025, the following minimum standard applies:

Minimum Standard No. 10 – Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets

- (a) When in a farrowing crate, the sow must be able to avoid all of the following: touching both sides of the crate simultaneously, touching the front and the back of the crate simultaneously, and touching the top of the crate when standing.
- (b) If sows are to be confined in farrowing crates before farrowing, it must be for no more than five days.
- (c) If sows are to be confined in farrowing crates for lactation, it must be for no more than four weeks after farrowing.
- (d) Notwithstanding (c), nurse sows may be confined in a farrowing crate for a further week for fostering purposes. This is conditional on no more than 5% of sows in any herd at any one time being retained as nurse sows.
- (e) Sows, in any farrowing system, must be provided with material that can be manipulated until farrowing.

Minimum Standard No. 10 replaced on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Note: NAWAC considers that the confining of sows in farrowing crates for extended periods does not fully meet the obligations of the Act. Minimum Standards 10 (c) and (d) restrict the time sows are confined in farrowing crates to a maximum of five weeks in any reproductive cycle. Minimum Standard No. 10 reflects regulation 26 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018. This regulation is revoked on 18 December 2025.

Note amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

NAWAC proposes that the current Minimum Standard 10 and Regulation 26 is amended to require all farms to provide manipulable material regardless of the date at which it was built.

After 18 December 2025, the following minimum standard applies:

OPTION A (FREE FARROWING)

Minimum Standard No. 10 – Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets

- (a) Accommodation for farrowing and lactating sows must be of suitable design and sufficient size to allow for separate lying/nesting, dunging and feeding areas.
- (b) Sows must be able to turn around and lie down at full length and without leg restriction.
- (c) The farrowing pen must be at least 6.5m² in total with at least 5m² for the sow.
- (d) The sow must be provided with at least 2kg of long-stemmed straw or an equivalent volume of an alternative substrate with similar properties (manipulable, destructible, chewable) not less than 48 hours before expected farrowing.
- (e) The flooring in the lying/nesting area must be suitable for containing the nesting material.
- (f) Support, such as barriers or sloping walls to lean against, must be provided for the sow as she lies down, and she must be able to rise and stand comfortably.
- (g) The farrowing system must provide an area to which the piglets can retreat when the sow moves.
- (h) Sows must not be housed in farrowing crates.

OPTION B (TEMPORARY CRATING)**Minimum Standard No. 10 – Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets**

- (a) If sows are to be confined in farrowing crates:
- (b) they must only be confined after the nesting period; and
- (c) They must not be confined for longer than 72 hours after completion of nesting behaviour.
- (d) When in a farrowing crate, the sow must be able to avoid all of the following: touching both sides of the crate simultaneously, touching the front and the back of the crate simultaneously, and touching the top of the crate when standing.
- (e) When not in a farrowing crate, accommodation for farrowing and lactating sows must be of suitable design and sufficient size to allow for separate lying/nesting, dunging and feeding areas.
- (f) When not in a farrowing crate, the sow must be able to turn around and lie down at full length and without leg restriction.
- (g) The farrowing pen must be at least 6.5m² in total with at least 5m² for the sow.
- (h) The sow must be provided with at least 2kg of long-stemmed straw or an equivalent volume of an alternative substrate with similar properties (manipulable, destructible, chewable) not less than 48 hours before expected farrowing.
- (i) Sows must be provided with a sufficient amount of nesting material before farrowing.
- (j) The flooring in the lying/nesting area must be suitable for containing the nesting material.
- (k) Support, such as barriers or sloping walls to lean against, must be provided for the sow as she lies down, and she must be able to rise and stand comfortably.
- (l) The farrowing system must provide an area to which the piglets can retreat when the sow moves.

NAWAC proposes that the final decision on Minimum Standard 10 should be reflected in a replacement for Regulation 26 after 18 December 2025.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 10 – Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets

- Sows can be seen to nest-build
- The majority of the flooring in the nesting area is solid
- Sows can lie down at full length and without leg restriction, turn around, rise and stand comfortably
- There is an unobstructed area behind the sow when farrowing
- All piglet mortality and causes are monitored, recorded and remedial action taken as necessary
- Piglets are able to move to an area where they are safe from being crushed
- The configuration of the sides of the farrowing crate or ark provide support for the sow as she lies down
- There is space for the sow to suckle all piglets together at the same time and space is available to allow piglets to escape
- The floor in the piglet area has a solid surface or is covered with a mat, or is littered with straw or another suitable material
- Hygiene standards ensure adequate dung and urine removal so the nest area is kept clean

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Sows should be introduced to clean farrowing quarters three to five days before the piglets are due to be born.
- b) The total size of the farrowing pen should be at least 7.5m².
- c) Sows should be provided with plentiful nest building material i.e. at least 7kg of straw, as well as other materials like hessian sacks or branches, before expected farrowing.
- d) Bedding material should be provided throughout lactation. For thermal comfort, pigs should have access to deep bedding of at least 10-12cm.
- e) The nesting area should have 3 solid dark walls and be in a quiet area.
- f) Piglets born in outdoor systems should be confined to the farrowing ark for the first week after birth.

- g) Piglet creeps should be accessible from the walkway, have a heat source and be covered.
- h) Piglets should be able to socialise with other litters before weaning.

General Information

The website www.freefarrowing.org provides information for farmers, veterinarians and other interested parties who want to know more about any aspect of free farrowing and lactation systems.

NAWAC recommends that New Zealand-specific guidance material is developed for farmers to support a transition to free farrowing.

5.2 Managing Dry Sows

Introduction

Dry (non-lactating) sows and gilts are generally kept in group housing systems. It is important that housing systems allow the opportunity for dry sows and gilts to display normal behaviour and that aggression is minimised (See Section 5.4: Mixing Pigs).

In the first week after weaning, sows will come into oestrus and will be mated, often by artificial insemination. This procedure may require temporary restraint of the sow via the use of a mating stall.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 24 – Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area
- Regulation 27 – Prohibition of stalls other than for mating
- Regulation 59B – Transcervical insemination

Until 18 December 2025, the following minimum standard applies:

Minimum Standard No. 11 – Managing Dry Sows

- (a) Pigs must not be confined to stalls unless—
 - i) the confinement is for the purpose of mating; and
 - ii) the confinement is for no more than 7 days per reproductive cycle; and
 - iii) the pigs are released from the stalls as soon as practicable after mating.
- (b) Where sows and gilts are confined in stalls for the purpose of mating, they must be able to stand without contact with any side of the stall and be able to lie on their sides without disturbing neighbouring sows or gilts.
- (c) Sows and gilts that are in stalls for the purpose of mating must have a dry, smooth, non-slip sleeping area.
- (d) Pigs must not be restrained by tethering.
- (e) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig confined in a stall must keep records that document compliance with (a)(i), (ii) and (iii).

Minimum Standard No. 11 replaced on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Minimum Standard No. 11 reflects section 27 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018. This regulation is revoked on 18 December 2025.

Note amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

After 18 December 2025, the following minimum standard applies:

Minimum Standard No. 11 – Managing Dry Sows

- (a) Pigs must not be restrained using stalls unless—
 - i) the restraint is for the purpose of mating by artificial insemination; and
 - ii) the restraint is for no more than 3 hours at a time, for a maximum of 3 times per oestrus cycle; and
 - iii) the pigs are released from the stalls as soon as practicable after mating.
- (b) Where sows and gilts are restrained in stalls for the purpose of mating by artificial insemination, they must be able to stand in their natural stance without contact with any side of the stall and be able to lie comfortably on their sides without disturbing neighbouring sows or gilts.
- (c) Transcervical artificial insemination must only be carried out by persons trained and competent with the procedure.
- (d) Where sows and gilts are group housed, they must be managed to minimise the effects of aggression.
- (e) Sows and gilts must have a non-slip floor and access to a dry sleeping area.
- (f) If individually housed in a pen, sows and gilts must have sufficient space so that they can stand up, turn around without touching the walls, and lie comfortably in a natural position, and must be provided with separate dunging, lying and eating areas.
- (g) Individual pigs that are not coping well must be provided with alternative management.

NAWAC proposes that the final decision on Minimum Standard 11 should be reflected in a replacement for Regulation 27 after 18 December 2025.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 11 – Managing Dry Sows

- Group-housed sows have at least 2.5m² of space each
- Sows do not show abnormal repetitive behaviours
- Sows are not forced to lie down in water, faeces or urine
- Sows are alert and attentive
- Sows and gilts have an area where they can lie down, stand up and turn around comfortably, with separate dunging and eating areas

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Sows should be provided with significant additional space, a solid floor and bedding during the first days of group formation.

General Information

Continuous welfare improvement can be achieved through development of systems that encourage opportunities to express normal behaviour and minimise aggressive behaviour.

Exposure to or contact with a boar (or boars) may help reduce aggression between sows kept in group situations.

5.3 Managing Boars

Introduction

While artificial insemination is widely used in New Zealand pig farming systems, most farms also keep a number of boars for breeding purposes. Breeding boars may be kept on their own, in small groups, or with a group of breeding gilts or sows. Boars that are kept on their own are normally taken out several times a week for heat detection or mating purposes. Boars may also be run with sows as a way to detect whether sows are on heat.

All of the general standards in this code, including but not limited to the requirement for manipulable material or objects to encourage normal behaviour (Minimum Standard 9) and the requirement to address hunger where feed is restricted (Minimum Standard 3) apply to boars.

Minimum Standard No. 12 – Managing Boars

- (a) Boars must be provided with sufficient space so that they can stand up, turn around and lie comfortably in a natural position, and that provides for separation of dunging, lying and eating areas.
- (b) Boars must not be kept in stalls.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 12 – Managing Boars

- Each boar has an area of at least 5m² where they can lie down, stand up and turn around comfortably, with separate dunging, lying and eating areas

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Boars should be provided with sensory stimulation (i.e. an enriched pen and close enough to other pigs to hear, see and smell them).
- b) Boars should be kept in a sufficiently large area to allow for exercise.
- c) Mixing of unacquainted boars should not occur.

General Information

Boars need adequate exercise to ensure that their physical needs are met. Where boars are kept in groups, they need to be selected for mutual compatibility.

Boars can be kept with a group of breeding gilts or sows, provided that persistent bullying does not occur. Reintroduction of boars to a previously familiar group (e.g. after period of illness) needs to be done with great caution to minimise the risk of aggression and injury.

5.4 Mixing Pigs

Introduction

Mixing unfamiliar pigs, including sows being returned to group housing after farrowing, can result in fighting as they establish a hierarchy. It may reduce the wellbeing of some individuals if it is not carefully managed.

In stable groups with sufficient space, pigs will maintain a hierarchy through threat and display rather than physical aggression.

Skilled stock handlers who are alert to aggressive interactions, and the development of methods to manage aggressive interactions, are important. Key factors in effectively managing aggression are space, group size, pen structure, feeding system, the time and method of mixing and individual characteristics, including genetics. Pigs in larger groups with more and varied space generally fight less.

Minimum Standard No. 13 – Mixing Pigs

Unfamiliar pigs must not be mixed unless there are adequate opportunities provided to withdraw from each other.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 13 – Mixing Pigs

- Extra space is available in the first few days after mixing unfamiliar pigs

- Structures (such as barriers, walls, half walls or straw bales) are available so that pigs that have been recently mixed can retreat and hide
- Pigs do not have severe lesions (>5cm in diameter)
- Pigs, in general, do not have scratches or body marks
- Pigs are not displaying excessive aggression including tail, ear or vulva biting
- Pigs are confident in their movement on walking surfaces and move freely without slipping
- Recently mixed pigs are monitored for injury including lameness and affected animals treated promptly

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Pigs should be kept in static groups and should not be abruptly mixed.
- b) If unfamiliar pigs are mixed, extra resources (e.g. food, roughage, space, lying area) should be available to reduce competition and aggression.

General Information

Extra space and retreat areas are especially important during hierarchy formation, which occurs in the first few days after mixing unfamiliar pigs. Other techniques used to minimise aggression when mixing pigs include introducing pigs into a pen that has feed on the floor, introducing all of the pigs into a new pen at the same time, and using group sizes of more than 50 pigs.

Part 6: Handling and Husbandry Procedures

6.1 Selection and Breeding

Introduction

The selection of animals with desirable traits and culling those with undesirable ones is one of the foundations of animal husbandry. Selection objectives are inevitably a balance or compromise among animal traits and the ability of husbandry techniques to manage any trade-offs. An unbalanced focus on production efficiency is associated with a risk of behavioural, physiological and immunological problems and therefore impacts on animal welfare.

In New Zealand, genetic material for pigs is often imported, thus many of the genotypes available to farmers have been selected based on data derived from pigs managed in systems overseas.

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Selection practice should not include unbalanced selection for increased productivity (e.g. increasing growth rate, fecundity) if it is known or thought to unreasonably compromise animal health or welfare.

6.2 Handling

Introduction

Minimisation of undue stress and the avoidance of injury are key considerations whenever pigs are being restrained or handled.

Minimum Standard No. 14 – Handling

- (a) All pigs must be handled at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress to the animals.
- (b) Pigs must not be picked up or suspended by any leg, the ears or tail.
- (c) Once a piglet is picked up, one hand must be used to support the animal beneath the chest.
- (d) Handling facilities must be available to deal with all pigs and piglets undergoing routine procedures and for animals that are sick and requiring treatment.
- (e) Stress of handling must be minimised by appropriate design of the facilities, especially entrances and raceways.
- (f) If a muzzle is used on a gilt or sow, it must only be used under supervision, and in order to facilitate handling the sow or piglets for therapeutic purposes (such as preventing savaging behaviour).
- (g) Muzzles must not cause a cut that bleeds or discharges; cause a skin abrasion that bleeds or discharges; cause a swelling; or prevent the pig from breathing normally, panting, drinking or vomiting.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 14 – Handling

- Piglets are only picked up by one back leg for very brief periods
- Pigs do not show injuries attributable to handling
- Facilities are available to allow the handling of all classes of pigs

General Information

Nose snares are used to briefly restrain pigs when carrying out minor husbandry procedures. Care is required to ensure that the nose snare is in good condition and of appropriate strength and design (rope snares of not less than 5mm diameter are preferable) to hold the pig. A snare should not injure the pig's nose as the animal pulls back and should allow for quick release once restraint is no longer required.

6.3 Moving Pigs

Introduction

Patience, care, good stockhandling and well designed facilities will ensure that any distress when moving pigs is minimised, and injury to either the pigs or stock handler is avoided. Calm pigs are easier to move than fearful pigs. Therefore, a good understanding of pig behaviour can be particularly beneficial in ensuring the welfare of the pigs and the efficiency of the procedure.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 30 – Prevention of injury
- Regulation 48 – Use of electric prodders
- Regulation 49 – Prodding animals in sensitive areas

Minimum Standard No. 15 – Moving Pigs

- (a) Only the minimal force required must be used when moving pigs, including piglets.
- (b) Moving distance and speed must take account of the environment and the fitness of the animals and must allow animals to see where they are going and where to place their feet.
- (c) Pigs must not be struck or prodded with a goad in sensitive areas which include but are not limited to the snout, ears, udder, anus, genitals, or eyes.
- (d) Pigs must not be whipped or beaten.
- (e) Electric prodders must not be used except during loading or unloading for transport, on pigs that weigh over 150 kg.
- (f) Electric prodders must not be applied for more than one second at any one time. If the desired effect is not achieved after three attempts, its use must be discontinued.

Minimum Standard No. 14(f) replaced on 27 August 2020 by regulation 25(1) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 15 – Moving Pigs

- Pigs are calm and flow easily when moved
- Moving pigs in hot conditions is avoided
- No animals are injured or exhibiting signs of exhaustion or heat stress as a result of being moved
- Dogs (if used) are under control at all times
- Pigs are not excessively nervous in the presence of handlers
- If an electrical prodder is used, it is used only on the muscled areas of the animal's hindquarters or forequarters, and the animal has sufficient room to move away from the prodder

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Dogs should not be used to move pigs unless they are specifically trained for the purpose.
- b) Plastic pipes should not be used to move pigs.
- c) Electric prodders should not be used unless there is a risk to animal or human safety.

- d) Alleys and corridors used for moving pigs should be free from distractions, sharp contrasts between dark and light, visual 'dead ends' and other obstacles.

General Information

If an aid is required to assist in moving pigs, or to protect the stock handler, backing (moving) boards, rattles and distractants, such as a plastic bag on the end of a handle, can be used.

Gate shyness is a potential problem where gateways have been electrified and it is helpful to use gate markers so that the pigs can identify when the gateway is open.

6.4 Weaning

Introduction

Weaning is a stressful time for sows and piglets and good management is required. Problems associated with weaning are generally related to the piglet's size and physiological maturity. Piglets are naturally weaned at between 3-5 months. Early weaning systems require good management and nutrition of the piglets.

Minimum Standard No. 16 – Weaning

- (a) Weaning must be managed in a way that ensures the health and welfare of the sow and piglets.
- (b) The smallest pigs (runts) must be individually fed or separated into a group to receive extra care.
- (c) Piglets must be at least 28 days old at weaning.

NAWAC proposes that Minimum Standard 16(c) should come into force via transitional regulation, because the adverse effects of this change mean it may not be feasible or practical to implement immediately and because not to do so may result in an unreasonable impact on the sector.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 16 – Weaning

- Recently weaned pigs are warm and have access to palatable food and clean water
- Recently weaned pigs look healthy and vigorous
- Recently weaned pigs can be seen engaging in normal behaviours including play, positive social interactions, manipulating objects, sniffing, and exploring
- Recently weaned pigs are not displaying abnormal behaviour including bellynosing, excessive vocalisation or disrupted rest/activity patterns
- Recently weaned pigs are not displaying excessive aggression including tail, ear or vulva biting
- Recently weaned pigs are dry and do not show signs of thermal stress (e.g. shivering or panting)

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Groups should be constituted as soon as possible after weaning.
- b) Weaned pigs should be kept with litter mates and weaner groups should be kept stable.
- c) Piglets should be at least 35 days old at weaning.

6.5 Painful Husbandry Procedures

Introduction

Pigs may be subject to husbandry procedures undertaken for a variety of reasons. These include to aid in identification, enable animals to be more easily managed, or to minimise the risk of injury to other animals.

Castration, tail docking, teeth cutting, tattooing, ear tagging and notching, nose ringing and tusk trimming are covered by the general provisions of the Code of Welfare: Painful Husbandry Procedures (available at www.mpi.govt.nz/welfarecodes).

Minimising the stress, pain or discomfort of these procedures requires attention to the suitability of the area in which the operation is performed, the catching facilities, the type and amount of restraint, the selection and maintenance of appropriate instruments, good hygiene, the subsequent care of the animals, and the skill of stock handlers carrying out the procedures. Aligned with a justification for the procedure, the producer has to consider farming methods and systems which would reduce the need to routinely perform these painful procedures, and whether pain relief should be provided.

Painful husbandry procedures should be looked upon as transitional management practices. While some procedures may be seen as necessary at present, operators and industries are encouraged to develop procedures and processes which do not require them to be performed routinely. Breeding programmes, management systems, and technologies should continue to be developed and used so that painful husbandry procedures can be phased out in the future.

If painful husbandry procedures are performed, they need to be performed by a competent person.

Additionally, a number of these procedures can be considered Significant Surgical Procedures. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) sets criteria for whether a procedure carried out on an animal is a significant surgical procedure. The criteria are set out in section 16 of the Act.

If any person has to determine whether a procedure carried out on an animal is a significant surgical procedure under this Act, the person must determine the question by considering the following criteria:

- a) whether the procedure has the potential to—
 - i) cause significant pain or distress; or
 - ii) cause serious or lasting harm, or loss of function, if not carried out by a veterinarian in accordance with recognised professional standards; and
- b) the nature of the procedure, including whether this involves—
 - i) a surgical or operative procedure below the surface of the skin, mucous membranes, or teeth or below the gingival margin; or
 - ii) physical interference with sensitive soft tissue or bone structure; or
 - iii) significant loss of tissue or loss of significant tissue.

Only a veterinarian, or a person who is acting under the direct supervision of a veterinarian and who is a student undergoing his or her training to become a veterinarian, are able to perform a significant surgical procedure, unless a regulation says otherwise.

For all animal welfare regulations please see www.legislation.govt.nz. Note that not all of the surgical procedures included within these regulations meet the criteria of a significant surgical procedure, some have been regulated for clarity only.

See also summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 52 – Docking pigs' tails
- Regulation 55 – Castrating pigs
- Regulation 55E – Rectal prolapse in pigs
- Regulation 56D – Cutting teeth of animals
- Regulation 58E – Ringing, clipping, and wiring noses of pigs.
- Regulation 59A – Surgical reproductive procedures
- Regulation 59B – Transcervical insemination
- Regulation 59E – Epidurals

Introduction amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Minimum Standard No. 17 – Painful Husbandry Procedures

- (a) Painful husbandry procedures must only be carried out where they are justifiable to prevent undesirable consequences that could subsequently result in animal suffering.
- (b) Persons undertaking painful husbandry procedures must be:
 - i) experienced, or have received training, with the correct use of the particular technique and its variations, and
 - ii) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury or ill health so that prompt remedial action can be taken or advice sought.
- (b) Castration must be carried out by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure. The pig must be given pain relief at the time of the procedure.
- (c) Clipping or grinding of needle teeth, if undertaken, must be carried out on a pig that is 4 days of age or under.
- (d) Pigs' teeth must not be cut unless—
 - (i) the person cutting the teeth is a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure; or
 - (ii) the tooth is –
 - (A) a needle tooth of a pig that is 4 days of age or under; or
 - (B) a tusk of a boar.
- (e) A person cutting a tusk of a boar must use an obstetrical wire or a saw suitable for the purpose of dentistry.
- (f) Extraction of any teeth must be performed by a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure.
- (g) Nose wires must not be used on pigs.
- (h) Nose rings or clips must only be used for animal management purposes and must be placed through the cartilage at the top of the snout or in the tissue separating the nostrils.

Minimum Standard No. 17(c) and (d) replaced by (c), (c), (e), (f), (g) and (h) on 9 May 2021 by regulation 25(2) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 17 – Painful Husbandry Procedures

- Procedures are documented and only undertaken when justified
- Pain and distress are minimised during and after the procedure
- A veterinarian has undertaken all invasive procedures over seven days of age and any significant surgical procedures at any age unless otherwise specified in regulation
- Where tusks are trimmed, at least 2cm of the tusk is left above the gum line

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 17 amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Appropriate pain relief should be given when any painful husbandry procedure is carried out.
- b) A management plan should be created to phase out painful husbandry procedures.
- c) Surgical castration should not be undertaken.
- d) Teeth should not be cut or ground down.
- e) Where performed, ear notching should be done within 72 hours of birth.
- f) Nose rings should not be inserted in brachycephalic pig breeds such as the Kunekune.

Recommended Best Practice amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

General Information

Where it is necessary for permanent identification, the ears may be notched, tagged, punched, or tattooed. Alternatively, the body may be tattooed to identify the farm of origin at slaughter, or an electronic identification system used.

Castration is not routinely performed on New Zealand pig farms.

Grinding or cutting the needle teeth reduces laceration of the sows' udder and damage to litter mates, including facial lesions, but does not address the underlying causes. It is not normally necessary outside of commercial farms. Wounds to the udder and to litter mates can also be reduced by selecting for smaller litter size, litter management (cross fostering, the use of nurse sows, and supplementary milk), providing enrichment (such as foraging material) for piglets, and by keeping sows comfortable and in good health to facilitate lactation. It is essential that teeth clipping is only done by someone who is competent to undertake this procedure, using the right equipment.

Nose rings are used to discourage pasture damage from rooting. Nose ringing or clipping is painful and prevents the full expression of rooting behaviour in pigs. Given that its purpose is to prevent expression of behaviour, without apparent benefit for the animal, NAWAC discourages the use of this procedure. However NAWAC acknowledges that clips or rings are used to prevent pasture damage from rooting and may be required by some regional councils. Good practice guidelines for the use of nose rings and clips are available from NZ Pork.

Where tusk trimming is performed, appropriate methods of restraint should be used, and tusks should be severed above the level of the gums without causing damage to other tissues. Current knowledge indicates that a stump at least 2cm above the gum should be left.

General Information amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

6.6 Tail Docking

Introduction

Tail docking reduces the occurrence of tail biting but does not address the underlying causes. Other methods of managing tail biting include the provision of straw, assessing food provided to ensure it is the appropriate type and composition, modifying ventilation, and providing additional space.

See also summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 52 – Docking pigs' tails

Minimum Standard No. 18 – Tail Docking

- Measures to prevent tail biting must be implemented and documented before tail docking is considered.
- Tail docking of pigs that are under seven days of age must be performed using hot iron cautery.
- Tail docking of pigs that are under seven days of age must be carried out in a way that creates a clean cut and does not tear the tissue.
- Tail docking of pigs that are seven days of age or over must be carried out by a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure. The pig must be given pain relief at the time of the procedure.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 18 – Tail Docking

- Evidence of management procedures to prevent tail biting behaviour can be shown

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Tails should not be docked.
- b) If tail docking is performed:
 - i) Pain relief should be provided.
 - ii) It should be carried out on the piglets within 72 hours of birth.
 - iii) No more than one-third of the tail should be removed.

General Information

The causes of tail biting outbreaks are multifactorial and include lack of enrichment, poor climate control, poor air quality, poor health and nutritional deficiency, and high stocking density.

Enrichment materials provided to pigs in order to prevent tail biting behaviour should be investigable (allow pigs to explore the material with their nose and mouth), manipulable (allow pigs to change the location, appearance and structure of the material), chewable, and edible. Particulate substrates (like straw or sawdust) can help to prevent tail biting when provided as bedding, or in racks or dispensers.

Fixed-source objects like chains and ropes attached to the pen are not enough to prevent tail biting outbreaks. However, introducing a variety of novel objects into the pen, and rotating them with new objects daily, can help to interrupt a tail biting outbreak in its early stages.

If the pigs responsible for the biting behaviour can be identified, removing them from the pen can also help.

If tails must be docked, the use of a hot iron to dock tails is required as it causes less pain and stress to piglets than cutting tails.

6.7 Pre-transport Selection

Introduction

Transporting pigs can present problems, particularly if they are not accustomed to being herded. Patience is essential, and the proper design of yards, loading ramps and other associated services is needed to facilitate loading with minimum distress and bruising.

It is a specific requirement of the Act that animals must be fit enough to withstand a journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Transport of pigs is also covered by the Code of Welfare: Transport within New Zealand.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 30 – Prevention of injury
- Regulation 40 – Restrictions on transporting lame animals
- Regulation 41 – Restrictions on transporting animals in late pregnancy

Minimum Standard No. 19 – Pre-transport Selection

- (a) Pigs must be inspected prior to transport to ensure that all animals are fit and healthy for the intended journey.
- (b) All pigs must be fit enough to withstand the journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
- (c) Lame pigs must not be selected for transport, except as allowed by regulation 40 of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018.

- (d) Sows must not be transported within 12 days of the expected farrowing date.
- (e) Pigs must not be mixed unnecessarily before transport.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 19 – Pre-transport Selection

- All pigs selected for transport are healthy, able to bear weight on all four limbs and can walk unaided
- Animals reared together remain as a group when loaded
- Sows that have farrowed within 48 hours of loading or that are lactating are not selected for transport
- No sow gives birth during transport
- Water is available to pigs until the time of loading

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Pigs should be moved from their housing and loaded into the transport vehicle in a single operation.
- b) Stocking densities on transport vehicles should be adjusted to minimise heat stress.
- c) Every effort should be made to minimise mixing of unfamiliar pigs.
- d) Pigs should receive no more than two tattoos before being transported to slaughter.
- e) Sows should not be transported within five weeks of their expected farrowing date.

General Information

Pre-travel rest is not relevant for pigs, so they can be loaded direct from their housing pen.

The duration of transport and the time pigs will be held in lairage before slaughter needs to be considered when deciding the timing of the last feed before transportation to slaughter. Feeding close to the time of transport may increase transport stress from travel sickness, and so pigs can be fasted between 4-12 hours before slaughter. Ideally the time from last feed to slaughter should not exceed 24 hours, so the conflicting needs to minimise hunger, travel sickness during transport and potential contamination from gut spillage during processing are balanced. However, a readily accessible supply of drinking water needs to be available until loading.

Part 7: Disease and Injury Control

Introduction

There is a relationship between the health and welfare of pigs. Normally a healthy pig has a good appetite, and is active, curious, and vocal. To ensure the welfare of pigs, it is necessary for pig owners and stock handlers to be familiar with normal pig behaviour and the signs of good and poor health.

Pigs are sentient animals and it is important that, if they are suffering from a painful condition (such as lameness), steps are taken to minimise the pain. People in charge of pigs should seek up-to-date advice from appropriate sources on pain relief.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 55E – Rectal prolapse in pigs

Introduction amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Minimum Standard No. 20 – Management of Health and Injury

- The owner or person in charge must check pigs at least once each day for signs of ill-health or injury and must undertake timely preventative or remedial action as appropriate.
- Stockpeople must be competent in the prevention, identification and treatment of ill-health or injury, including lameness.
- Sick or injured pigs that cannot otherwise cope in an ordinary pen must be accommodated separately to recover.
- Veterinary advice must be sought where there is:
 - any significant injury or disease,
 - persistent or chronic pain,
 - persistent ill-thrift and poor performance that does not respond to treatment,
 or, the animal must be humanely destroyed.
- Medication must only be used in accordance with registration conditions, and the manufacturer's instructions or professional advice.
- Piglets must receive sufficient iron to prevent anaemia.
- Contaminated bedding, faeces and urine must not accumulate to the extent that they pose a threat to the health and welfare of pigs.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 20 – Management of Health and Injury

- Daily inspections and remedial outcomes, including prompt treatment, are documented
- Animals that have failed to respond to treatment are destroyed promptly and humanely
- Cause of death, illness or injury is determined as far as possible and records of these are maintained and reviewed on a regular basis
- When the early signs of a disease outbreak are recognised or suspected, or mortalities are greater than expected, expert advice is sought promptly and any intervention is documented
- There is a documented herd health plan that includes prophylactic treatments such as vaccination schedules and parasite management
- Hygiene standards protect against ill health and spread of disease
- A hospital pen is available
- Lameness and pigs with claw lesions or leg injuries are receiving appropriate treatment
- Pigs with abscesses are receiving appropriate treatment
- Pigs displaying behavioural signs of pain (e.g. lethargy, loss of appetite, changes in vocalisation, tail flicking, avoiding putting weight on one or more limbs) are receiving pain relief
- Pigs are not rubbing or scratching excessively

Recommended Best Practice

- a) The frequency of inspections should be increased during extreme weather conditions, during outbreaks of disease, when farrowing is expected, or when groups of pigs have been recently mixed or weaned.
- b) A veterinarian should be consulted for advice on establishing a health programme covering disease, injury, and parasite control.
- c) Sows and gilts should not be induced to give birth using hormonal means.
- d) Piglets should be given an iron supplement within 48 hours of birth if it is needed.
- e) Records detailing deaths, sick animals, treatments given and responses to treatment should be kept to assist disease investigations.

General Information

Inspections are most easily made at feeding times as sick pigs will generally show reduced appetite.

Regular cleaning programmes or replenishment of litter need to be carried out to ensure that contaminated bedding, faeces, and urine do not accumulate to a level such that they pose a threat to the health and welfare of pigs. The frequency of cleaning and disinfection required will depend on the housing system, ambient temperature, the type of flooring and stocking density.

Rectal prolapses in pigs are not easy to deal with and veterinary advice should be sought. Anyone treating a pig's rectal prolapse needs to be competent to undertake this procedure and use the right equipment. Uterine prolapses must be treated by a veterinarian.

Supplemental iron can be provided orally or by injection, to compensate for the lack of iron in sows' milk and a lack of access to iron from soil.

Inadequate bedding and dampness can be risk factors for developing mastitis. Pens should be disinfected between uses and sufficient and suitable bedding should be provided.

A herd health plan may include vaccination, parasite management, culling, medication, post-mortems, the reduction of the use of antibiotics, disposal of dead pigs and genetic selection.

Part 8: On-Farm Killing

Introduction

It is an offence, under the Animal Welfare Act, to kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. This means that the method of killing should cause immediate loss of consciousness which persists until the animal is dead. It is also important that the animal be handled quietly beforehand to ensure it is not unnecessarily distressed or alarmed.

Minimum Standard No. 21 – On-Farm Killing

- (a) When pigs have to be killed it must be done by persons competent in the handling and killing of pigs and death must be confirmed by inspection of the animal.
- (b) When a pig needs to be killed it must be handled, restrained, and killed in such a manner as to minimise unnecessary pain and distress prior to death.
- (c) Pigs must be rapidly rendered insensible and remain in that state, until death.
- (d) Pigs over 5kg must not be rendered insensible by blunt force trauma.
- (e) Animals rendered insensible by a blow or shot to the brain must receive a secondary step to ensure death occurs before recovery from stunning (e.g. bleeding out or pithing).
- (f) Any equipment used to undertake humane killing must be well maintained in order to operate efficiently.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 21 – On-Farm Killing

- Humane destruction protocols are documented
- Persons undertaking humane killing are appropriately trained
- Any pig being killed on farm is managed gently and calmly at all stages of the process
- All pigs are stunned before killing. (This includes a method of stunning (e.g. shooting) that results in immediate insensibility)
- All pigs killed are inspected following the procedure to confirm death

Recommended Best Practice

- a) Wherever possible, pigs should be killed discreetly and at a site distant from other animals so as not to cause anxiety to other pigs.
- b) When piglets have to be killed, it should be done using a non-penetrating captive bolt gun.

General Information

Killing for welfare reasons needs to be undertaken in any circumstance where there is likely to be an unacceptable delay in treating the source of suffering, where the source of suffering is untreatable, or where transportation of the animal would perpetuate or aggravate the condition to a significant extent.

Humane killing requires that pigs are stunned, rendering them unconscious, then, in order to ensure that death occurs, the main arteries in the neck or chest are severed or a metal rod is inserted into the brain to destroy the spinal cord (pithing). The animal needs to be inspected to ensure that it is dead. Signs of death include: not breathing, the heart has stopped beating, the pupils have dilated and there is no corneal reflex.

Methods of humane destruction are:

- Pigs up to weaning:
 - use of a non-penetrating captive bolt gun
 - a blunt force trauma blow to the frontal region of the skull, sufficient to fracture the skull, followed by bleeding out or pithing

- Grower, finisher, and adult pigs:
 - use of a captive bolt pistol, held against the head at the point of intersection of a line between each eye and the opposite ear; or
 - shooting with a rifle directed at the same site, but held several centimetres away from the head; or
 - shooting with a 12-gauge shotgun, loaded with buckshot, directed behind an ear from a distance of 20 centimetres toward the opposite eye.
 - A secondary step to ensure death may include bleeding out or pithing.
- Large pigs: the skulls of large pigs and some exotic breeds of pig are very dense, so a captive bolt may not penetrate the skull. A shotgun or rifle is the preferred method. A secondary step to ensure death may include bleeding out or pithing.

The correct position of the blow or shot is critical for humane and effective killing. The optimum position for pigs is on the midline just above eye level, with the shot directed down the line of the spinal cord.

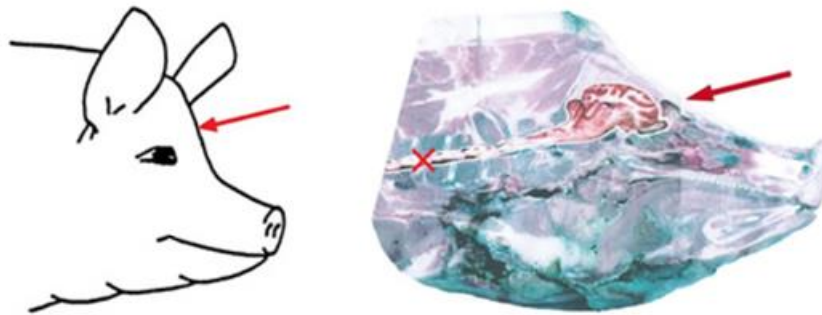


Figure source: Based on Humane Slaughter Association (2014) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK. www.hsa.org.uk.

Part 9: Contingency Planning

Introduction

Contingency plans for emergencies such as natural events e.g. earthquakes, floods, fires, storms, snow or drought, biosecurity events and infrastructure failures need to be in place to ensure the welfare of animals.

Natural events

This is especially important in light of climate change which can exacerbate existing climate extremes or cause extreme weather events in areas where they have previously only occurred in rare occasions. It is important that persons in charge of pigs think ahead to ensure sufficient feed and water is available, farm buildings can withstand adverse weather conditions, ventilation systems work effectively and have backup, and watering systems working effectively. Other strategies, such as installing misters/showers so that animals can cope with hot weather, should be considered.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM, located within local Councils) are responsible for leading responses to adverse events. The Ministry for Primary Industries is responsible for coordinating the response for animal welfare in adverse events.

Infrastructure failures

Contingency plans for infrastructure failures such as power outages, that can affect water and feed supply, lighting, and ventilation must be in place (see Part 6: Housing and Equipment for Pigs Indoors).

Biosecurity and disease events

For some exotic diseases (e.g. African Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease) there are national plans in place. Stock owners should have on farm biosecurity plans to address prevention of endemic diseases.

Minimum Standard No. 22 – Contingency Planning

Persons in charge of pigs must have a documented contingency plan in place to address any anticipated adverse events which can negatively affect the welfare of the animals.
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Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 22 – Contingency Planning

- A written contingency plan is available for inspection
- All staff are familiar with the contingency plan
- Alternative sources of food and water are available in case of emergencies
- There is a plan in place to evacuate animals if this is appropriate
- Biosecurity protocols are in place to reduce the risk of contagious disease outbreaks and address relevant action should these be unsuccessful
- Contingency plan covers large scale euthanasia in the event of contagious disease outbreak
- Farmers are aware of the CDEM regional plan for animal welfare emergencies
- Farmers are aware that they can ask for assistance from local authorities where needed (including CDEM, NZ Pork, farm management professionals or the farm veterinarian)

Recommended Best Practice

- a) All staff should be trained to implement the contingency plan.
- b) Farmers should be able to readily move animals to shelter/dry land in adverse weather before harm occurs, if this is possible.
- c) In areas subject to floods and storms farmers should:

- i) follow weather forecasts and heed weather warnings
 - ii) ensure animals can be moved to safer and accessible ground as soon as possible
 - iii) hold sufficient stored feed at accessible and safe sites
 - iv) ask for assistance, if needed, from local and regional authorities including CDEM, NZ Pork, farm management professionals or the farm veterinarian
 - v) be aware of the CDEM regional animal welfare plan for emergencies.
- d) In areas prone to drought farmers should:
- i) have a plan in place that ensures stock feed requirements can be met before stock welfare is compromised
 - ii) ensure the availability of good sources of suitable water, not dependent on rainfall
 - iii) provide additional shade, where necessary, to reduce the water requirements of the stock
 - iv) ask for assistance, if needed, from NZ Pork, farm management professionals or the farm veterinarian.

General Information

Further information on preparing for emergencies and adverse events may be obtained by referring to the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/adverse-events/.

Part 10: Welfare Assurance System

Introduction

The maintenance of good records is an integral part of a welfare assurance system and good farm management.

Minimum Standard No. 23 – Welfare Assurance System

- (a) Each commercial farm must have a fully documented and auditable welfare assurance system that ensures compliance with the minimum standards required by this Code.
- (b) The welfare assurance system must be easily accessible to all personnel and they must adhere to it.
- (c) The documented system must identify:
 - i) Positions of individual persons who are responsible for carrying out specific tasks; and
 - ii) Methods and procedures the owner or person in charge of animals will implement to achieve specified tasks; and
 - iii) System and frequency of checks on animals, facilities, and equipment; and
 - iv) Training, competence, and supervision of persons carrying out specified tasks; and
 - v) Procedure for recording numbers and circumstances for all animal injuries and deaths on farm and the corrective actions taken; and
 - vi) Corrective actions that will be taken in the event of non-compliance with the requirements of the programme.
- (d) The documented system must be verified using performance-based audits on at least an annual basis. Corrective actions must be completed as required by the audits.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 23 – Welfare Assurance System

- A documented assurance system is in place
- All staff adhere to the system
- The assurance system complies with the minimum standards in this Code
- The system is verified at least yearly and corrective actions are taken where necessary

Recommended Best Practice

- a) The elements of the welfare assurance system should provide for the minimum standards and, where possible, the recommendations for best practice of this code. They should primarily be directed at the assessment of the welfare of the animal itself, and secondarily at management and housing aspects.
- b) The welfare assurance system should provide for all incidents resulting in significant sickness, injury, or death of animals to be fully investigated and documented. Where the results of an investigation may have implications for current industry management practices, a report outlining the incident and implications should, as soon as it is available, be forwarded to the appropriate industry body for consideration.
- c) The welfare assurance system should require continual review of existing practices and procedures that will improve the welfare of pigs.
- d) Animal handling procedures should be included as written procedures in the welfare assurance system.
- e) The welfare assurance system should institute a process to facilitate employees to come forward and raise animal welfare concerns.

General Information

The adoption or adaptation of an industry generic welfare assurance programme for welfare and husbandry procedures may meet this standard.

Pork producers and NZ Pork actively encourage ongoing assessments of management practices that may improve the welfare of pigs. Where improvements to current practice are identified, these are communicated to pork producers via appropriate technology transfer methods such as seminars, workshops, and industry newsletters.

While the quality system should be based on the general principles of Standard AS/NZ 9002 or similar quality system it is not essential that it be certified under the JASANZ (Joint Accreditation Standards for Australia and New Zealand) certification scheme.

Schedule I – Interpretation and Definitions

abnormal repetitive behaviour

A repeated, relatively invariant sequence of movements that have no obvious goal or function.

Act

The Animal Welfare Act 1999.

adult

A pig more than 9 months old.

adverse weather

Weather conditions that may pose harm or risk to the animals, including excessive heat and cold.

animal

As defined in the Act:

- a) Means any live member of the animal kingdom that is –
 - i) A mammal; or
 - ii) A bird; or
 - iii) A reptile; or
 - iv) An amphibian; or
 - v) A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or
 - vi) Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or
 - vii) Any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of the Act; and
- b) Includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and
- c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but
- d) Does not include –
 - i) A human being; or
 - ii) Except as provided in paragraph b) or paragraph c), any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.

ark

A weatherproof, moveable structure for housing sows and/or piglets in outdoor production systems.

available technology

NAWAC takes to mean technologies which are used practically to care for and manage animals, for example, existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices, software and facilities.

boar

An uncastrated male pig over 9 months of age.

body condition score

A five-category scoring system used to classify the condition of pigs, based on the amount of fat and/or muscle covering they have.

castration

Removal of the testes, severance or crushing of the spermatic cords, or forcing the testes against the abdominal wall.

colostrum

Milk secreted by the sow for the first few days after farrowing, characterised by high protein and antibody content.

commercial farm

A farm with more than 100 pigs at any one time.

competent person

Someone experienced or trained in the correct use of the method being used; skilled enough to carry out the procedure; uses the correct equipment for the procedure; and is able to recognise early signs of distress, injury, or ill health.

corneal reflex

Involuntary closing of eyelids in response to stimulation of the cornea (surface of eyeball) by touch.

crate

Crates are independent pieces of equipment designed for confining pigs for a number of husbandry functions, including weighing, handling for veterinary interventions, farrowing and assisting with other reproductive processes.

creep area

A separate area within a farrowing facility where piglets are protected from crushing or overlying by the sow, and which is usually heated to help piglets maintain their body temperature, at the same time as maintaining the comfort of the sow.

deep litter system

A type of group housing system in which pigs are kept on a deep layer of bedding material, usually straw or sawdust.

dry sow

A non-lactating sow.

elective husbandry procedures

A non-essential procedure that may be done to aid management of pigs.

electric prodder

A device that is capable of delivering an electric shock to make an animal move, but does not include electric stunners use to stun an animal immediately before slaughter or electric devices used on animals by the New Zealand Police.

farrowing

Giving birth to piglets.

farrowing crate

A crate in which sows are confined individually before, during, and after farrowing.

farrowing pen

An enclosure for confining individual sows and their litters during and after farrowing. Such pens contain a creep area and may contain a farrowing crate or other structure for confinement of the sow.

feeder

Equipment from which feed is dispensed.

feeding station

An enclosure used in group housing systems, which animals enter into one at a time to be fed.

finisher

Pigs that are generally above 70 kg liveweight, until they are sold or retained for breeding. The same meaning applies for pigs referred to as “finishing”.

foster

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

A young female pig, selected for reproductive purposes, before she has had a litter of piglets.

goad

An object used to make an animal move, but does not include an electric prodder.

good practice

NAWAC takes to mean a standard of care that has a general level of acceptance among knowledgeable practitioners and experts in the field; is based on good sense and sound judgement; is practical and thorough; has robust experiential or scientific foundations; and prevents unreasonable or unnecessary harm to, or promotes the interests of, the animals to which it is applied. Good practice also takes account of the evolution of attitudes about animals and their care.

grower pigs

Weaned pigs that—

- a) weigh 30 kg or more; and
- b) are being raised for the primary purpose of meat or for transfer to a breeding herd.

growing pigs

Weaners, growers and finishers.

husbandry

Care and management practices in pig keeping.

hut

See definition for “ark”.

lactating sow

A sow that has given birth, and is producing milk to feed her piglets.

lame pig

A pig that—

- a) is not weight bearing on one or more limbs when moving or standing; or
- b) has a definite limp (shortened stride) that is clearly identifiable to a limb or limbs, with weight placed on the limb or limbs significantly reduced.

A pig with a limp is not lame if the cause of the limp is a non-painful condition (such as a conformational fault, a gait abnormality, or a healed injury) and the animal is able to bear weight (although not necessarily evenly) on all four limbs.

lux

An international measure of light intensity (not to be confused with watts).

Minimum Standard

Minimum standards provide the details of specific actions people need to take in order to meet the obligations in the Act. They are identified in the text by a heading, and generally use the word “must” or similar. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

needle teeth

Any small sharp teeth in a piglet (sometimes referred to as milk teeth) but principally canine teeth.

nurse sow

A sow that is used to suckle piglets that are not her own.

pain relief

Any anaesthetic, analgesic, or sedation administered with the aim of providing effective and significant alleviation of pain.

pen

An enclosure for confining pigs in which they can turn around. Pens may be used for housing pigs in groups, housing boars individually, management purposes such as mating or farrowing, or for confining pigs individually.

person in charge

As defined in the Act: “in relation to an animal, includes a person who has an animal in that person’s possession or custody, or under that person’s care, control, or supervision.”

piglet

A pig up to the time it is weaned from the sow.

Recommended Best Practice

NAWAC takes to mean the best practice agreed at a particular time, following consideration of scientific information, accumulated experience and public submissions on this Code. It is usually a higher standard of practice than the Minimum Standard, except where the minimum standard is best practice. It is a practice that can be varied as new information comes to light. Recommendations for best practice will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is provided as a Minimum Standard.

Recommended best practices are identified in the text by a heading, and generally use the word “should”.

reproductive cycle

The period from mating to the following mating, which in the context of this Code is defined as 150 days.

rooting

A behaviour of pigs whereby they use their nose to dig in the ground or in any available material.

scientific knowledge

NAWAC takes to mean knowledge within animal-based scientific disciplines, especially those that deal with nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and cognitive/neural functions, which are relevant to understanding the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals. Such knowledge is not haphazard or anecdotal; it is generated by rigorous and systematic application of the scientific method, and the results are objectively and critically reviewed before acceptance.

sow

An adult female pig that has had one or more litters.

stall

An enclosure in which a pig is kept individually and that prevents the pig from turning around, but does not include a farrowing crate.

tail docking

Shortening or removing the tail of an animal by any method.

tethering

A method of restraining pigs whereby a neck or girth collar is attached to a short length of chain, which is in turn fixed to the floor or the front of a pen.

unobstructed floor space

Includes unobstructed feeding or dunging floor space.

weaner

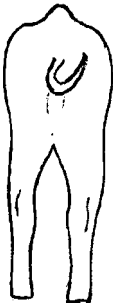



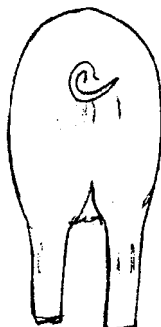
A pig after it has been weaned from the sow up until approximately 30kg in liveweight.

Schedule 1 **electric prodder**: amended on 27 August 2020 by section 25(1) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020

Schedule 1 **needle teeth**: amended on 9 May 2021 by section 25(2) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020

Schedule 1 **pain relief**: inserted on 9 May 2021 by section 25(2) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020

Schedule II – Condition Scoring of Pigs

	Numerical Score	Pelvic Bones, Tailhead	Loin	Vertebrae	Ribs
	1	Pelvic bones very prominent. Deep cavity around the tail head.	Loin very narrow. Sharp edges on transverse spinal process. Flank very hollow.	Prominent and sharp throughout the length of the backbone.	Individual ribs very prominent.
	2	Pelvic bones obvious but some slight cover. Cavity around tail head.	Loin narrow. Only very slight cover to edge of transverse spinal process. Flank rather hollow.	Prominent.	Rib cage less apparent. Difficult to see individual ribs.
	3	Pelvic bones covered.	Edge of transverse spinal processes covered and rounded.	Visible over the shoulder. Some cover further back.	Covered but can be felt.
	4	Pelvic bones only felt with firm pressure. No cavity around tail.	Edge of transverse spinal processes felt only with firm pressure.	Felt only with firm pressure.	Rib cage not visible. Very difficult to feel any ribs.
	5	Pelvic bones impossible to feel. Root of tail set deep in surrounding fat.	Impossible to feel bones. Flank full and rounded.	Impossible to feel vertebrae.	Not possible to feel ribs.

Appendix of extracts from the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018

Although efforts to include relevant regulations within this Code have been made, there may be other regulations which are relevant to you. The full list of all animal welfare regulations should be consulted where appropriate (see www.legislation.govt.nz).

3 Interpretation

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, —

castrate means to remove the testes, sever or crush blood supply to the testes, sever or crush the spermatic cords, or force the testes against the abdominal wall

dock means to shorten or remove the tail of an animal by any method

farrowing crate means a crate in which sows are confined individually before, during, and after farrowing

pain relief means any anaesthetic, analgesic, or sedation administered with the aim of providing effective and significant alleviation of pain

prolapse means the displacement of an organ or anatomical structure from its normal position

stall—

- a) means an enclosure in which a pig is kept individually and that prevents the pig from turning around; but
- b) does not include a farrowing crate

therapeutic purpose means for the purpose of responding to an existing disease or injury

transporter means a person who is in charge of an animal only for the purpose of transport

24 Pigs must have access to shelter and dry lying area

- (1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig must ensure that—
 - a) the pig has access at all times to a ventilated shelter that provides protection from extremes of heat and cold; and
 - b) the pig has access at all times when it is not in a farrowing crate or a stall to a dry area that is large enough to allow the pig to stand up, turn around, and lie down in a natural position; and
 - c) faeces or urine do not accumulate in any area in which the pig is kept to an extent that may pose a threat to the health or welfare of the pig.
- (2) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$900.
- (3) The offence in subclause (2) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$300.

25 Minimum lying space for grower pigs

- (1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, grower pigs must ensure that, at all times, each pig has an unobstructed floor space in which it can lie down of no less than the area calculated using the following formula: $a = 0.03 \times b^{0.67}$
where—
a is the minimum area (in m²)
b is the liveweight of the pig (in kg).
- (2) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
 - a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.
- (3) In this regulation, —
grower pig means a weaned pig that—
 - a) weighs 30 kg or more; and
 - b) is being raised for the primary purpose of meat or for transfer to a breeding herd**unobstructed floor space** includes unobstructed feeding or dunging floor space.

26 Farrowing crate requirements

- (1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig must ensure that -
 - a) Sows, in any farrowing system constructed after 3 December 2010, are provided with material that can be manipulated until farrowing:
 - b) A sow in a farrowing crate is able to avoid all the following:
 - i) touching both sides of the crate simultaneously;
 - ii) touching the front and the back of the crate simultaneously;
 - iii) touching the top of the crate when standing;
 - c) a sow is not confined in a farrowing crate for more than 5 days before farrowing;
 - d) if a sow is confined in a farrowing crate for lactation, it is not confined for more than 4 weeks after farrowing unless-
 - i) it is a nurse sow confined in the farrowing crate for fostering purposes, in which case it may be confined for a further week; and
 - ii) no more than 5% of sows in any herd at any one time are being retained as nurse sows.
- (2) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1)(b) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
 - a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.
- (3) This regulation is revoked on 18 December 2025.

27 Other requirements relating to management of pigs

The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig must ensure that—

- a) pigs are not restrained by tethering;
- b) pigs are not confined in stalls unless-
 - i) the confinement is for the purpose of mating; and
 - ii) the confinement is for no more than 7 days per reproductive cycle; and
 - iii) the pigs are released from the stalls as soon as practicable after mating;
- c) sows and gilts confined in stalls for the purpose of mating-

- i) are able to stand without contact with any side of the stall; and
 - ii) are able to lie on their side without disturbing neighbouring sows or gilts; and
 - iii) have a dry, smooth, non-slip sleeping area.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig confined to a stall must keep records that document compliance with subclause (1)(b).
- (3) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1)(b) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
- a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.
- (4) This regulation is revoked on 18 December 2025.

30 Prevention of injury

- (1) A person must not transport a cattle beast, deer, sheep, goat, or pig in a manner that causes acute injury to the animal.
- (2) A person who transports a cattle beast, deer, sheep, goat, or pig must not load the animal onto a vehicle, or unload the animal from a vehicle, in a manner that causes acute injury to the animal.
- (3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding, —
- a) in the case of an individual, \$1,500; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate that has been issued an infringement notice for the offence, \$1,500; or
 - c) in the case of a body corporate that has not been issued an infringement notice for the offence (because proceedings in respect of the infringement offence have been commenced by filing a charging document), \$7,500.
- (4) The offence in subclause (3) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500.
- (5) In this regulation, acute injury—
- a) means an injury that is more than minor and is bleeding; but
 - b) does not include back-rub (as defined in regulation 32(4)); and
 - c) does not include an injury from horns or antlers to which regulation 31 applies.

40 Restrictions on transporting lame animals

- (1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a cattle beast, sheep, deer, pig, or goat that is lame must not transport the animal, or allow the animal to be transported, unless—
- a) the animal is accompanied by a veterinary certificate that states that the animal is fit for transport; or
 - b) the animal is accompanied by a veterinary certificate that specifies conditions that must be complied with to manage the animal welfare risks associated with the transport and the owner or person in charge complies with all relevant conditions.
- (2) However, the owner of, or person in charge of, the animal may, for the purpose of treatment, transport the animal—
- a) within the property on which the animal resides; or
 - b) to another property (not being slaughter premises), part or all of which is less than 20 km from the boundary of the property on which the animal resides.
- (3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding, —
- a) in the case of an individual, \$1,500; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate that has been issued an infringement notice for the offence, \$1,500; or

- c) in the case of a body corporate that has not been issued an infringement notice for the offence (because proceedings in respect of the infringement offence have been commenced by filing a charging document) \$7,500.

41 Restrictions on transporting animals in late pregnancy

- (1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a cattle beast, sheep, pig, or goat that is in late pregnancy must not transport the animal, or allow the animal to be transported, unless—
 - a) the animal is accompanied by a veterinary certificate that states that the animal is fit for transport; or
 - b) the animal is accompanied by a veterinary certificate that specifies conditions that must be complied with to manage the animal welfare risks associated with the transport and the owner, or person in charge, complies with all relevant conditions.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pregnant deer must not transport the deer if it is in late pregnancy or within 21 days before the estimated due date, unless—
 - a) the deer is accompanied by a veterinary certificate that states that the animal is fit for transport; or
 - b) the deer is accompanied by a veterinary certificate that specifies conditions that must be complied with to manage the animal welfare risks associated with the transport and the owner, or person in charge, complies with all relevant conditions.
- (3) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pregnant deer must have a system in place that, if followed, will ensure compliance with subclause (2).
- (4) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding, —
 - a) in the case of an individual, \$1,500; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate that has been issued an infringement notice for the offence, \$1,500; or
 - c) in the case of a body corporate that has not been issued an infringement notice for the offence (because proceedings in respect of the infringement offence have been commenced by filing a charging document), \$7,500.
- (5) The offence in subclause (4) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500.
- (6) For the purpose of section 162(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, an inspector has reasonable cause to believe that a person has transported an animal that is in late pregnancy if the animal gives birth during transport or within 24 hours after arriving at a slaughter premises or sale yard.
- (7) An infringement notice may not be issued, and a charging document may not be filed, in relation to a failure to comply with subclause (1) unless the animal gives birth during transport or within 24 hours after arriving at a slaughter premises or sale yard.
- (8) An infringement notice may not be issued, and a charging document may not be filed, in relation to a failure to comply with subclause (2) involving a deer that is in late pregnancy (but not a deer that is within 21 days before the estimated due date) unless the deer gives birth during transport or within 24 hours after arriving at a slaughter premises or sale yard.

48 Use of electric prodders

- (1) A person must not use an electric prodder on any animal, except—
 - a) on cattle that weigh over 150 kg; or
 - b) during loading or unloading for transport, on pigs that weigh over 150 kg; or
 - c) during loading of a stunning pen at any slaughter premises, -
 - i) on pigs that weigh over 150 kg; or

- ii) on pigs that weigh over 70 kg if the pigs are in a single-file slaughter race leading into, and within 15 metres of, the stunning pen; or
- d) during loading of a stunning pen at any slaughter premises, on deer of any weight.
- (2) If an electric prodder is used on an animal where permitted by subclause (1),—
 - a) the prodder may be used only on the muscled areas of the animal's hindquarters or forequarters; and
 - b) the animal must have sufficient room to move away from the prodder.
- (3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding,—
 - a) in the case of an individual, \$1,500; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate that has been issued an infringement notice for the offence, \$1,500; or
 - c) in the case of a body corporate that has not been issued an infringement notice for the offence (because proceedings in respect of the infringement offence have been commenced by filing a charging document), \$7,500.
- (4) The offence in subclause (3) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500.
- (5) In this regulation, **electric prodder**—
 - a) means a device that is capable of delivering an electric shock to make an animal move; but
 - b) does not include —
 - i) electric stunners used to stun an animal immediately before slaughter; or
 - ii) electric devices used on an animal by the New Zealand Police.

49 Prodding animals in sensitive areas

- (1) A person must not strike or prod an animal with a goad in the udder, anus, genitals, or eyes.
- (2) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,500.
- (3) The offence in subclause (2) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500.
- (4) In this regulation, goad means an object used to make an animal move, but does not include an electric prodder as defined in regulation 48(5).

52 Docking pigs' tails

- (1) A person who docks the tail of a pig that is under 7 days of age must ensure that the procedure creates a clean cut and does not tear the tissue.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig that is under 7 days of age must not allow the pig's tail to be docked in breach of subclause (1).
- (3) A person must not dock the tail of a pig that is 7 days of age or over unless—
 - a) the person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure; and
 - b) the pig is given pain relief at the time of the procedure.
- (4) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig that is 7 days of age or over must not allow the pig's tail to be docked in breach of subclause (3).
- (5) A person who docks the tail of a pig must—
 - a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.

- (6) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig that is to have its tail docked must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the pig are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—
 - a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.
- (7) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,500.
- (8) The offence in subclause (7) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500.
- (9) A person who fails to comply with subclause (3) or (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction,—
 - a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

55 Castrating pigs

- (1) A person must not castrate a pig unless—
 - a) the person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure; and
 - b) the pig is given pain relief at the time of the procedure.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig must not allow the pig to be castrated in breach of subclause (1).
- (3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction,—
 - a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.

55E Rectal prolapse in pigs

- (1) A person who treats a rectal prolapse in a pig must—
 - a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig that is treated for a prolapsed rectum must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animal are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—
 - a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.

56D Cutting teeth of animals

- (1) A person must not cut a tooth of an animal unless—
 - a) the person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure; or
 - b) the tooth is—
 - i) a needle tooth of a pig that is 4 days of age or under; or
 - ii) a tusk of a boar; or
 - iii) a fighting tooth of a llama or an alpaca; or
 - c) the tooth of the animal is cut under a standard operating procedure that has been approved by an animal ethics committee.

- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal must not allow the animal's teeth to be cut in breach of subclause (1).
- (3) A person must not cut a tusk of a boar or a fighting tooth of a llama or an alpaca unless the person uses—
 - a) an obstetrical wire; or
 - b) a saw suitable for the purpose of dentistry.
- (4) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a boar, a llama, or an alpaca must not allow the tusks of the boar, or the teeth of the llama or alpaca, to be cut in breach of subclause (3).
- (5) A person who cuts a tooth of an animal must—
 - a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.
- (6) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal that is to have a tooth cut must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animal are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—
 - a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.
- (7) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
 - a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.
- (8) A person who fails to comply with subclause (3) or (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$1,500.
- (9) The offence in subclause (8) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500.
- (10) In this regulation, —

fighting tooth means a modified canine and incisor tooth found in the jaw between the incisors and the molars

needle tooth means any small sharp tooth in a piglet (sometimes referred to as a milk tooth), but principally a canine tooth.

58E Ringing, clipping, and wiring noses of pigs

- (1) A person must not insert wire into the nose of a pig.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig must not allow wire to be inserted into its nose in breach of subclause (1).
- (3) A person must not insert, unless the insertion is for animal management purposes, a nose ring or clip into the nose of a pig.
- (4) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig must not allow a nose ring or clip to be inserted into its nose in breach of subclause (3).
- (5) A person who inserts a nose ring or clip into the nose of a pig must—
 - a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.
- (6) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a pig that is to have a nose ring or clip inserted into its nose must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animal are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—

- a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.
- (7) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
- a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.
- (8) A person who fails to comply with subclause (3) or (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
- a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

59A Surgical reproductive procedures

- (1) A person must not perform a surgical reproductive procedure on an animal unless throughout the procedure the animal is under the influence of pain relief that is authorised by a veterinarian for the purpose of the procedure.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal must not allow the animal to have a surgical reproductive procedure performed on it in breach of subclause (1).
- (3) A person who performs a surgical reproductive procedure on an animal must—
- a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.
- (4) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal that is to have a surgical reproductive procedure performed on it must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animal are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—
- a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.
- (5) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
- a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.
- (6) In this regulation, **surgical reproductive procedure**—
- a) includes a procedure that involves—
 - i) cutting into or piercing the abdominal cavity for the purpose of artificial insemination or for the purpose of harvesting, transferring, or implanting embryos; or
 - ii) transvaginal techniques that involve piercing the vaginal wall:
 - b) does not include a procedure carried out for the primary purpose of desexing or the delivery of offspring.

59B Transcervical insemination

- (1) A person who performs a transcervical insemination on an animal must—
- a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.
- (2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal that is to have a transcervical insemination performed on it must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animal are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—

- a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.
- (3) In this regulation, **transcervical insemination** means a procedure to deliver sperm directly to the uterus through the cervix using a catheter and may involve either or both of the following:
- a) deep abdominal palpation:
 - b) using an endoscope.

59E Epidurals

- (1) A person must not perform an epidural on an equid unless the person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure.
- (2) A person must not perform an epidural on an animal other than an equid unless the person—
- a) is a veterinarian or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian throughout the procedure; or
 - b) injects a local anaesthetic authorised by a veterinarian for the purpose of the procedure into the epidural space.
- (3) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal must not allow an epidural to be performed on the animal in breach of subclause (1) or (2).
- (4) A person who performs an epidural on an animal other than an equid must—
- a) be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method being used; and
 - b) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice.
- (5) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal other than an equid that is to have an epidural performed on it must ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animal are met during the procedure and recovery, by ensuring that at all times a person is available who—
- a) has suitable equipment; and
 - b) has the relevant knowledge, has received relevant training, or is under appropriate supervision.
- (6) A person who fails to comply with subclause (1), (2), or (3) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, —
- a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; or
 - b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

Appendix replaced on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589