



STANDARDS FOR
QUALITY MEAT SCOTLAND FARM ASSURANCE - PIGS
(QMSFA - PIGS)
CERTIFICATION SCHEME

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These Standards do not seek to duplicate existing published documents on husbandry and welfare. Reference should be made to these documents as appropriate.

SFQC Scheme Regulations

Members should refer to the SFQC Scheme Regulations for details of the operation of the Certification Scheme for the QMSFA - Pigs scheme. These are available on SFQC's website www.sfqc.co.uk or by request from the Scheme Manager on 0131 335 6602.

STANDARDS FOR PIG PRODUCTION

1 ORIGIN OF STOCK

- 1.1 All breeding stock must be obtained from farm assured units, which are identified and recorded. It is advisable to quarantine new stock and the unit vet is recommended to ask the breeding stock suppliers vet to complete the QMS / WPS health declaration.
- 1.2 Recent veterinary treatment for all incoming stock must be known or obtainable.
- 1.3 All pigs on the farm must be from an approved source for the farm to be assured i.e. if any non-approved pigs on the farm, the farm will become non-assured. Only weaners from QMSFA approved sources may go on to be sold under the Specially Selected or Quality Standard Mark mark.
- 1.4 Scheme Members must notify the QMSFA – Pigs office of the addresses and CPH numbers of all sites being used to keep pigs. All pigs going for slaughter must be identified with a slapmark, which must be registered with the QMSFA – Pigs scheme office.

2 MANAGEMENT, STOCKMANSHIP AND WELFARE

- 2.1 All stock must be reared according to good husbandry, welfare and hygiene practices, according to all current relevant legislation and according to Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock - Pigs (SGRPID) (see Appendix 7). A guide to sources of information on current relevant legislation is provided in Appendix 1. Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Livestock - Pigs are provided in the Scheme's Member Information Folder.
- 2.2 Each unit must have some form of training for stockpersons in pig welfare. A record of training for all staff, detailing courses attended and training received must be retained.
- 2.3 All stockpersons must have access to and have received guidance on the Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock - Pigs (SGRPID) and the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Salmonella on Pig Farms. Employees should be encouraged to sign the booklets to verify their awareness of its content.
- 2.4 All stockpersons working with outdoor herds must have access to and have received guidance on the Farm Animal Welfare Council Report on the Welfare of Pigs kept outdoors.
- 2.5 All stockpersons must have access to the Management guides appropriate to their area of operation published by SAC and BPEX.
- 2.6 Castration is not permitted.
- 2.7 At the time of marketing, finished stock must be in a clean, rested and healthy condition.
- 2.8 Units must participate in the Zoonosis National Control Plan for Salmonella.

3. VETERINARY MEDICINES AND HEALTH SUPERVISION

- 3.1 The health of all stock must be maintained at a high level to allow pigs to thrive and to achieve their full potential. Pig units must receive advisory veterinary visits every three months to discuss ongoing health and welfare policy with a signed summary of the visit sent to QMSFA – Pigs following each visit (Appendix 2). Weaner/Rearer and/or Finishing only units are required to have a vet visit at regular 6 monthly intervals, which should preferably not coincide with when a QMSFA - Pigs assessment is due.
- 3.2 Where legally permitted growth promoters, medicines or treatments are used, records must be maintained of their use and withdrawal periods. Batch numbers of drugs used must be recorded. (A list of withdrawal periods for all products in use, kept at the front of the record book will be satisfactory.)
- 3.3 All farms must have a copy of and adhere to the QMSFA - Pigs broken needle policy (Appendix 6). It is recommended that detectable needles are used.

3.4 Medicines and veterinary treatments must be stored and used in accordance with current relevant legislation, Codes of Practice (see Appendix 1) and manufacturers' recommendations. Medicines past their 'expiry date', used medicine bottles and needles must be disposed of appropriately and in accordance with environmental legislation. Where producers are operating a 'No Medication' policy, the unit vet must verify this by signing the medicine book during the quarterly visit.

3.5 All finishing units must be a member of an abattoir health monitoring programme (WPS or BPHS).

4. STOCK ACCOMMODATION AND HANDLING FACILITIES

4.1 Stock accommodation and equipment must be well constructed and maintained, of sufficient size to ensure comfort, appropriate stocking densities and adequate ventilation. A guide to appropriate air temperatures is given in Appendix 3. Stocking densities to be adhered to are given in Appendix 4.

Outdoor pigs must be located on a suitable site with farrowing arcs and weaner huts moved to fresh ground after each cycle. Outdoor units should ensure stock cannot access natural watercourses, with the exception of extensive units (those where finishing pigs are kept in free access systems).

4.2 The interior of any building (including the floor) to which stock have access must be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to pigs.

4.3 A plan of action for emergencies such as fire, equipment failure or disruption of supplies should be known by each responsible person on the pig unit.

4.4 Stock must not be kept permanently in darkness. Throughout the hours of daylight, the level of indoor lighting, natural or artificial, should be such that all housed pigs can be seen clearly. Adequate lighting for satisfactory inspection must be available at any time.

4.5 Stock accommodation must be capable of being maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Appropriate cleaning regimes must be applied between batches of pigs. Detergents and disinfectants used must be approved and suitable for use in close proximity to pigs.

4.6 Identified sick or injured pigs should be moved at once to suitable accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding.

4.7 Handling, loading and unloading facilities in the pig unit must allow for the safe movement of pigs with the minimum of stress. Any aids used i.e. boards, must be used in the appropriate manner.

5. FEEDING AND WATER PROVISION

5.1 All purchased compound feeds, blended feeds, feed materials (straights) and mineral/vitamin supplements must be sourced from a merchant/manufacturer who is a member of the Quality Meat Scotland Feed Assurance Scheme and approved under the AIC's Universal Feed Assurance Scheme or equivalent. Members purchasing by-products from human food production must obtain a warranty declaration from the seller assuring that the product is safe for feeding to pigs.

5.2 All feeds used, whether purchased or home-mixed must be produced in accordance with all current EU and UK feedingstuffs legislation with traceability of raw materials. Feed must exclude all animal products with the exception of fish products, milk products contained in milk substitutes and gelatin in vitamin supplements. All fish meal must come from managed sustainable sources. Finisher diets must not contain fishmeal at more than 2.5%.

5.3 Homemixers must register with their Local Trading Standards office and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) if producing medicated feed. Adequate feed records must be kept. Mobile mill and mixers must be members of the QMS Feeds Assurance scheme.

5.4 UK produced combinable crops used by homemixers and mobile mill and mixers must be farm assured i.e. produced by current members of Scottish Quality Crops (SQC) scheme or equivalent, or a QMSFA livestock scheme or equivalent.

5.5 Diets must conform to nationally recognised (e.g. SAC, AFRC) nutrient levels relevant to the stage of growth and development of the pig and be produced from high quality constituents free from contamination.

- 5.6 All feed must be stored and handled in accordance with good practice to ensure that it does not become contaminated or spoiled.
- 5.7 Medicated feeds must be clearly identified and labelled in bulk storage or bags.
- 5.8 Buildings must be bird proofed or all feed hoppers must have lids.
- 5.9 If pigs are restrict fed, adequate feeding space must be available for all animals to feed simultaneously. If pigs are fed ad libitum they must be given adequate feeding space to prevent undue queuing. This will depend on feeder type, diet density and water provision.
- 5.10 All pigs must have access to sufficient fresh clean water for their daily needs. Water provision to be adhered to are given in Appendix 5.
- 5.11 Recycled waste products with off-farm raw materials must not be applied as fertiliser to land where outdoor pigs are farmed. The only exceptions are untreated wood waste, paper waste, Fibrophos, products from QMS approved anaerobic digestion sites and products approved by the Scottish Interim Green Waste Assurance Scheme. Off-farm raw materials include:
- Green waste
 - Green waste including animal by products (e.g., catering or abattoir waste)
 - Products from anaerobic digestion
 - Wastes from incineration

6. FARM BIOSECURITY AND CLEANLINESS

- 6.1 Animal waste must be handled in such a way as to remove the risk of spread of disease to other animals or humans, in a way which minimises the dangers of polluting the environment and conforms with current legislation. Farms must have a copy of and are advised to follow the Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (SGRPID) Code of Good Practice (See Appendix 1).
- 6.2 A verbal or written Farm Waste Management Plan is required.
- 6.3 An effective vermin control procedure must be maintained at all times. Records of baits used to be kept along with safety data sheets.
- 6.4 Visitors and farm staff should follow the “Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Animal Health and Biosecurity”, published by the Scottish Government, for advice on the adoption of biosecurity measures.
- 6.5 Adequate facilities must be provided for visitors and farm staff, including provision of clean, protective clothing, footwear dipping and hand washing or provision of other precautions to prevent the spread of disease. A record of all visitors to the unit needs to be kept.
- 6.6 All exterior and interior areas of the unit must be maintained to a high level of hygiene and tidiness.

7. TRANSPORTING OF LIVE PIGS

- 7.1 The movement and transport of pigs must conform to all relevant legislation.

For Producers Using Livestock Hauliers:

- 7.2 All pigs must be transported off farm by livestock hauliers who are approved members of the QMS Haulage Assurance Scheme or an equivalent scheme (such as ABM Haulage Assurance Scheme).

For Producers Hauling Their Own Stock:

- 7.3 Any member hauling their own stock must comply with the provisions of the Welfare of Animals During Transport Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 including relevant documentation. As such, drivers should be aware that they are responsible for the welfare of any animal that they transport. Animals becoming unfit during transit should be delivered as soon as possible to a suitable place for unloading or slaughter. Stock must be penned into batches of a suitable size.

7.4 All vehicles must be cleansed and disinfected in accordance with current legislation. Vehicles and containers must be regularly maintained, kept in good condition and comply with relevant Health and Safety regulations. Adequate ventilation must be available at all time.

APPENDIX 1

GUIDE TO SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON CURRENT RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE

The following is a guide for pig producers to sources of information on current relevant legislation and Codes of Practice. Legislation should be consulted and legal advice sought when particular points in the law need to be considered.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Legislation:

- Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000; No. 442
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2003; No. 448
- Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006; No. 606
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives.
- The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (as amended)
- The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 1995
- The Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Amendment) Order 1992
- The Animal By-Products (Scotland) Regulations 2003
- Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990
- The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005

Codes of Practice:

- Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Livestock - Pigs (SGRPID – September 2004)
- Heat Stress in Pigs – Solving the Problem (DEFRA)
- Lameness in Pigs – (DEFRA – May 1996)
- FAWC Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors
- DEFRA Emergencies on Livestock Farms 1993
- Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Salmonella on Pig Farms
- The Casualty Pig – Pig Veterinary Society
- Guidance on Transport of Casualty Farm Animals (DEFRA)

MEDICINES

Codes of Practice:

- Code of Practice on the Responsible Use of Animal Medicines on the Farm (VMD)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Codes of Practice:

- Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity Code of Good Practice (Scottish Government, 2005)

BIOSECURITY

Code of Practice:

- Codes of Recommendations for Welfare of Livestock: Animal Health and Biosecurity (Scottish Government 2002)

Contact Addresses: -

- (1) DEFRA Publications, Admail 6000, London, SW1A 2XX, Tel: 0181 694 8862,
defra@cambertown.com
- (2) NOAH, 3 Crossfield Chambers, Gladbeck Way, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7HF, Tel: 020 8367 3131,
noah@noah.co.uk
- (3) SGRPID, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6479,
ceu@scotland.gov.uk
- (4) QMSFA - Pigs, Royal Highland Centre, 10th Avenue, Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8NF, Tel: 0131 335 6602, Fax: 0131 335 6601, pigs@sfqc.co.uk
- (5) The Stationery Office, 26 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BW, Tel: 0131 659 7020,
enquiries@tsoscotland.com
- (6) SEPA, Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TR, Tel: 01786 457700

APPENDIX 2

VETERINARY ADVISORY VISIT REPORT FORM

QMSFA - PIGS MEMBERSHIP NO: UNIT NAME:

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

BOARS:

DRY SOWS/GILTS:

FARROWING SOWS AND LITTERS:

TEETH CLIPPING & TAIL DOCKING POLICY

WEANERS:

GROWERS:

FINISHERS:

FOR WEANER/FINISHER UNITS ONLY, PLEASE INDICATE SOURCE OF THIS BATCH OF PIGS:.....

ISOLATION/ HOSPITAL PENS

VICES:

MEDICINES - RECORDS: AND STORAGE

VETERINARY HEALTH PLAN UP-TO-DATE: YES/NO

If there is insufficient space above for comments please use the back of this form. Thank you.

Name of Attending Vet:

Veterinary Practice:

Address

Postcode:

Tel No: Fax No:

Signature of Vet: Date of Visit:

Farm Representative's Signature:

Please return completed form to: QMSFA - Pigs, Royal Highland Centre, 10th Avenue, Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8NF or by fax to 0131 335 6601 or email pigs@sfqc.co.uk

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APPENDIX 3

GUIDE TO AIR TEMPERATURES FOR HOUSED DRY SOWS AND GROWERS

Production Stage	FLOOR TYPE							
	Straw-bedded		Insulated Concrete		Totally Perforated		Part Slatted	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
TEMPERATURE (1) °C								
<u>Service Area (2)</u>								
- Individual	15	25	17	26	18	27	18	27
- Groups	10	-	12	-	15	-	-	-
<u>Dry Sows (3)</u>								
- Individual	19	27	21	28	22	29	22	29
- Groups	15	25	17	26	20	27	-	-
<u>Growing Pigs (kg)</u>							Fully Slatted	
5 (at weaning)	27	30	28	31	29	32	30	32
7	22	25	23	26	25	29	26	29
10	20	24	22	26	24	28	25	28
15	18	23	19	24	22	27	22	27
20	15	23	16	24	19	26	19	25
30	13	23	14	24	18	25	17	25
90	11	22	12	23	17	25	15	24

- (1) Assumes low air speeds throughout.
- (2) If sows are retained in the service area after feed levels are reduced, dry sow minimum temperatures are appropriate.
- (3) Requirements based on small sows (140kg) and low feed levels (1.8kg).

For outdoor pigs refer to the Farm Animal Welfare Council Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors.

APPENDIX 4

SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWING PIGS, SOWS AND BOARS

Growing Pigs

- (a) **New requirements on space allowances for weaners and rearers introduced by Schedule 3 of Welfare of Livestock Regulations 1994 and which came fully into force on 1 January 1998.**

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

TABLE 1

Liveweight (kg)	Area - sq. m	sq. ft
up to 10	0.15	1.6
10-20	0.20	2.2
20-30	0.30	3.2
30-50	0.40	4.3
50-85	0.55	5.9
85-110	0.65	7.0
over 110	1.00	10.8

Attention is drawn to the guidelines issued by DEFRA.

- (b) **For accommodation with separate distinct lying and dunging areas the Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock - Pigs (SGRPID) advise that minimum sleeping areas for pigs are as in Table 2.**

TABLE 2

Liveweight (kg)	Area - sq. m	sq. ft
20	0.15	1.6
40	0.25	2.7
60	0.35	3.8
80	0.45	4.8
100	0.50	5.5

The QMSFA - Pigs Scheme requires that an additional area of at least 40% sleeping area space be provided for exercise and dunging. A greater exercise/dunging area may be required depending on the management system used (e.g. a deep straw system will require a larger exercise/dunging area). Exercise/dunging area, however, in a scrape-through system need not rise linearly with the number of pigs housed.

- (c) **In a fully strawed system, which provides no separate lying area, the approximate space requirement for pigs in the QA Scheme is as in Table 3.**

TABLE 3

Liveweight (kg)	Area - sq. m	sq. ft
20	0.38	4.1
40	0.63	6.8
60	0.88	9.5
80	1.13	12.2
100	1.25	13.5

Sows

The QA Scheme requires that a sow has approximately 1.35 sq. m (14.5 sq. ft) lying area and an additional area for exercise and dunging which is at least 40% of the lying area space. As with growers, the size of the additional exercise/dunging area will depend on the management system in use. The equivalent figure for gilts, ready for service, is 1.12 sq. m (12 sq. ft).

In a fully strawed system which provides no separate lying area, the approximate space requirement for a sow is 2.32 sq. m (24.9 sq. ft). The equivalent figure for a gilt, ready for service, is 1.86 sq. m (20 sq. ft).

Boars

The law requires that boars have a minimum of 6 sq. m (65 sq. ft) living space with a larger area for serving.

Assessment

The inspector will assess space provided to pigs using these guidelines and the law. A degree of subjective judgement may be necessary, however, depending on the management system in use.

APPENDIX 5

WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR PIGS

The Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Livestock - Pigs (SGRPID) advise that as a general guide, a drinking point should be available for each group of ten pigs on rationed feeding.

The QMSFA – Pigs Scheme expands on this requirement as follows:

<u>Type of Water Providing Facilities</u>	<u>Recommended Number of Pigs</u>
Nipple drinker)
)
Nipple drinker with bowl) 1 for up to 15 pigs
) 2 for up to 30 pigs
Mini bowl where pig action triggers water provision) 3 for up to 50 pigs
)
Bowl from which water is permanently and freely available	1 for up to 20 pigs, 2 for up to 40 pigs and 3 for up to 70 pigs.
Trough	One linear foot per 40 pigs to 15 kg One linear foot per 30 pigs from 15 kg to 35 kg One linear foot per 25 pigs over 35kg

Water flow through all systems is important but an additional water supply may be required particularly for lactating sows. As a guide, minimum delivery rates per minute should be no less than:

Weaners	700 mls
Growers	1000-1500 mls
Finishers	1500-2000 mls
Dry Sows	1500-2000 mls
Lactating Sows	1500-2000 mls

The ultimate check is whether or not pigs are thirsty.

In a wet feed system an additional supply of water is required in each pen

APPENDIX 6

BROKEN NEEDLE POLICY

The following information must be communicated to all staff.

1. All pigs containing or suspected of containing a broken needle must be marked immediately on the pig at the injection site.
2. Any pig containing or suspected of containing a broken needle must be clearly identified immediately with an ear tag.
3. The date of the injection and identification of the pig must be recorded in the medicine book immediately.
4. No pig containing or suspected of containing a broken needle can be sent to the processor without prior contact with and permission from the processor.
5. The means of disposal of the affected animal must be recorded in the medicine book.
6. All needles and medicine bottles must be disposed of in a way, which is acceptable to the veterinary surgeon.

APPENDIX 7

LEGISLATION AND WELFARE CODES

Given the extensive legislation and Codes of Practice that apply to pig units, the QMSFA - Pigs Scheme does not take responsibility for checking all aspect of Standard 2.1. To meet the requirements of the standard, the producer must confirm to the Assessor that he/she, to the best of his/her knowledge adheres to existing legislation and welfare codes. In addition to the Standards the Assessor will specifically check the following items on the unit:

- Movement records
- Ability to see other pigs
- Use of stalls
- Size of farrowing crates
- Weaning age
- Teeth clipping and tail docking policy
- Training to electric fences
- Adequate shade or wallows in summer for outdoor pigs
- Frequency of inspection of stock
- Humane destruction of pigs
- Use of goads
- Alarms
- Manipulative materials for environmental enrichment
- Written Health & Welfare Plan