

---

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

---

**2003 No. 299**

**The Welfare of Farmed Animals  
(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003**

**Amendments to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000**

3.—(1) The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 shall be amended in accordance with this regulation.

(2) In regulation 2 the following shall be inserted after paragraph (4):

“(5) Expressions which are not defined in paragraph (1) above and which appear in Council Directives [91/630/EEC\(1\)](#) and [2001/88/EC\(2\)](#) and Commission Directive [2001/93/EC\(3\)](#) have the same meaning in these Regulations as they have for the purposes of that Community legislation.”.

(3) After regulation 8 the following shall be inserted:

**“Training**

**8A** Any person who employs or engages persons to attend to pigs must ensure that that person has received instructions and guidance on the relevant provisions of these Regulations.”.

(4) For Schedule 6 there shall be substituted the following Schedule:

“SCHEDULE 6

Regulations 2(3) and 8

**ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO THE KEEPING OF PIGS**

**PART I**

**INTERPRETATION**

1. In this Schedule—

“boar” means a male pig after puberty, intended for breeding;

“gilt” means a female pig intended for breeding after puberty and before farrowing;

“piglet” means a pig from birth to weaning;

“rearing pig” means a pig from ten weeks to slaughter or service;

“sow” means a female pig after the first farrowing; and

“weaner” means a pig from weaning to the age of ten weeks.

---

(1) OJNo. L 340, 11.12.1991, p. 33.

(2) OJ No. L 316 1.12.2001 p. 1.

(3) OJ No. L 316 1.12.2001 p. 36.

## PART II

### GENERAL ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

#### Inspection

2. All pigs shall be inspected by the owner or keeper of the pigs at least once a day to check that they are in a state of well being.

3. Where necessary, sick or injured pigs shall be temporarily isolated in suitable accommodation with dry comfortable bedding.

#### Tethering

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

5.—(1) Where the use of tethers is permitted in accordance with paragraph 4, they shall not cause injury to the pigs and shall be inspected regularly and adjusted as necessary to ensure a comfortable fit.

(2) Each tether shall be of sufficient length to allow the pigs to move as stipulated in paragraph 6(2) below and the design shall be such as to avoid, as far as possible, any risk of strangulation, pain or injury.

#### Accommodation

6.—(1) A pig shall be free to turn round without difficulty at all times.

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

- (a) stand up, lie down and rest without difficulty;
- (b) have a clean, comfortable and adequately drained place in which it can rest;
- (c) see other pigs, unless the pig is isolated for veterinary reasons;
- (d) maintain a comfortable temperature; and
- (e) have enough space to allow all the animals to lie down at the same time.

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

(2) Paragraph 7(1) shall not apply to a female pig for the period between seven days before the predicted day of her farrowing and the day on which the weaning of her piglets (including any piglets fostered by her) is complete.

(3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence in accordance with regulation 13(1) of contravening or failing to comply with this paragraph by reason of the keeping of a pig in a stall or pen—

- (a) while it is undergoing any examination, test, treatment or operation carried out for veterinary purposes;
- (b) for the purposes of service, artificial insemination or collection of semen;
- (c) while it is fed on any particular occasion;

- (d) for the purposes of marking, washing or weighing it;
- (e) while its accommodation is being cleaned; or
- (f) while it is awaiting loading for transportation,

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

(4) A person shall not be guilty of an offence in accordance with regulation 13(1) of contravening or failing to comply with this paragraph by reason of the keeping of a pig in a stall or pen which the pig can enter or leave at will, provided that the stall or pen is entered from a stall or pen in which the pig is kept without contravention of this paragraph.

### **Artificially lit buildings**

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

### **Prevention of fighting**

9.—(1) If pigs are kept together, measures shall be taken to prevent fighting which goes beyond normal behaviour.

(2) Pigs which show persistent aggression towards others or are victims of such aggression shall be isolated or kept separate from the group.

### **Cleaning and disinfection**

10.—(1) Housing, pens, equipment and utensils used for pigs must be properly cleaned and disinfected as necessary to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease-carrying organisms.

(2) Faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food must be removed as often as necessary to minimise smell and avoid attracting flies or rodents.

### **Bedding**

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

### **Floors**

12. Where pigs are kept in a building, floors shall—

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

13. When concrete slatted floors are used for pigs kept in groups the maximum width of the openings must be—

- (a) 11 mm for piglets;
- (b) 14 mm for weaners;
- (c) 18 mm for rearing pigs; and
- (d) 20 mm for gilts after service and sows.

The minimum slat width must be—

- (e) 50 mm for piglets and weaners; and
- (f) 80 mm for rearing pigs, gilts after service and sows.

### **Feeding**

14.—(1) All pigs must be fed at least once a day.

(2) Where pigs are housed in a group and do not have continuous access to feed, or are not fed by an automatic feeding system feeding the animals individually, each pig must have access to the food at the same time as the others in the feeding group.

### **Drinking water**

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

### **Environmental enrichment**

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

### **Prohibition on the use of the sweat-box system**

17. Pigs shall not be kept in an environment which involves maintaining high temperatures and high humidity (known as the “sweat-box system”).

### **Noise levels**

18. Pigs shall not be exposed to constant or sudden noise. Noise levels above 85 dBA shall be avoided in that part of any building where pigs are kept.

### **Interventions**

19. Save as set out in paragraphs 21 to 26 of this Schedule, no intervention procedures which result in damage to or loss of a sensitive part of the body or the alteration of bone structure shall be carried out except for therapeutic or diagnostic purposes.

20. The procedures set out in paragraphs 21 to 26 of this Schedule may only be carried out under hygienic conditions by a veterinary surgeon, or where it is legally permitted, by a person who has been trained in accordance with these Regulations and who is experienced in performing the procedures.

21. The following procedures shall not be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred:

- (a) uniform reduction of corner teeth of piglets by grinding or clipping not later than the seventh day of life of the piglets leaving an intact smooth surface; or
- (b) docking of a part of the tail;

but no tooth reduction or tail docking may be carried out unless other measures to improve environmental conditions or management systems have been taken in order to prevent tail biting and other vices.

22. Male pigs may be castrated provided the means employed do not involve tearing of tissues.

23.—(1) If docking of tails is carried out after the seventh day of life it shall only be performed under anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia by a veterinary surgeon.

(2) If castration is carried out after the seventh day of life it shall only be performed by a veterinary surgeon in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954(4).

24. Boars' tusks may be reduced in length where necessary to prevent injuries to other animals or for safety reasons.

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

26. Ear tagging or ear notching may be carried out for identification purposes.

### PART III

#### BOARS

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

28. The lying area shall be dry and comfortable.

29.—(1) The minimum unobstructed floor area for an adult boar shall be 6 m<sup>2</sup> save as set out in paragraph 29 (2) herein.

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

### PART IV

#### SOWS AND GILTS

30. Pregnant gilts and sows shall, where necessary, be treated against external and internal parasites.

#### **Farrowing**

31. If they are placed in farrowing crates, pregnant sows and gilts shall be thoroughly cleaned.

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

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

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

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

### **Group housing**

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

37. The pen where the group is kept must have sides greater than 2.8 m in length, except when there are less than 6 individuals in the group, when the sides of the pen must be no less than 2.4 m in length.

38. The total unobstructed floor area available to each gilt after service and to each sow when gilts and/or sows are kept in groups must be at least 1.64 m<sup>2</sup> and 2.25 m<sup>2</sup> respectively. When these animals are kept in groups of less than 6 individuals the unobstructed floor area must be increased by 10%. When these animals are kept in groups of 40 or more individuals the unobstructed floor area may be decreased by 10%.

39. For gilts after service and pregnant sows a part of the area required in paragraph 38 equal to at least 0.95 m<sup>2</sup> per gilt and at least 1.3 m<sup>2</sup> per sow must be of continuous solid floor of which a maximum of 15% is reserved for drainage openings.

40. Sows and gilts kept on holdings of fewer than 10 sows may be kept individually provided that their accommodation complies with the requirements of paragraphs 6 and 7 of Part II of this Schedule.

41. In addition to the requirements of paragraph 14 of Part II of this Schedule, sows and gilts must be fed using a system which ensures that each individual can obtain sufficient food even when competitors for the food are present.

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

## **PART V**

### **PIGLETS**

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

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

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

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

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

## PART VI

### WEANERS AND REARING PIGS

**48.** Pigs shall be placed in groups as soon as possible after weaning. They shall be kept in stable groups with as little mixing as possible.

**49.** If pigs unfamiliar with one another have to be mixed, this should be done at as young an age as possible, preferably before or up to one week after weaning. When pigs are mixed they shall be provided with adequate opportunities to escape and hide from other pigs.

**50.** The use of tranquillising medication in order to facilitate mixing shall be limited to exceptional conditions and only after consultation with a veterinary surgeon.

**51.** When signs of severe fighting appear, the causes shall be immediately investigated and appropriate measures shall be taken.

**52.** The unobstructed floor area available to each weaner or rearing pig reared in a group shall be at least—

- (a) 0.15 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is 10 kg or less;
- (b) 0.20 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 10 kg but less than or equal to 20 kg;
- (c) 0.30 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 20 kg but less than or equal to 30 kg;
- (d) 0.40 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 30 kg but less than or equal to 50 kg;
- (e) 0.55 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 50 kg but less than or equal to 85 kg;
- (f) 0.65 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 85 kg but less than or equal to 110 kg; and
- (g) 1.00 m<sup>2</sup> for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 110 kg.”