

**Clarifications/update Request on Action Plan from Denmark (dated 30/1/2018)**

**1. Compliance Criteria for legal requirements associated with risk factors for tail-biting as mentioned in the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.**

**\*Please note: Compliance criteria for all relevant parameters below should, as recommended in Annex II of Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336, consist of a combination of animal based and resource based measures.**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Legal requirements: Directive 2008/120/EC, Directive 98/58/EC</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>	<b>Clarification / Update requested</b>
<b>Enrichment material</b>	“permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities” (Directive 2008/120/EC Annex I, Chapter I, 4)	Existing guidance is satisfactory	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point</p> <p><i>The provision of enrichment material still gives rise to a high number of non-compliances. This is therefore still an issue for discussions at dialogue meetings with the pig-sector.</i></p> <p>B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.</p> <p><i>The compliance criteria in the guideline on enrichment material express the DVFA’s understanding on how the provision on enrichment material shall be understood especially with regard to distribution, quantity and type of the</i></p>

*material. As conditions in pig herds differ, the guideline gives the inspector some flexibility when assessing whether there is compliance or not. It is therefore not simply guidance.*

*The same principle applies to the guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds.*

C) As enforcement is already in place please inform:

- number of pig herds in which this was assessed;
- % of those that were found not in compliance with this guidance.

*In 2017 animal welfare controls were carried out in 592 herds, and the number of non-compliances in all pig categories concerning enrichment material was 115, which gives 19.4 %.*

*The report with the results of the animal welfare controls is not yet published.*

<p><b>Cleanliness</b></p>	<p>“a lying area physically and thermally comfortable as well as adequately drained and clean which allows all the animals to lay at the same time” (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter I, 3)</p>	<p>Existing guidance is satisfactory</p> <p>Consideration should be given to criteria related to the pigs thermal comfort, pig and house cleanliness, and the related measures to ensure that these are met. E.g. how much space pigs need to lie down together when temperature is above thermoneutral</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point.</p> <p><i>The guideline on animal welfare control in pig herds has been updated and now contains more specific compliance criteria on temperature (chapter 5.1.8.1) which include animal based measures to assess the pig’s thermal comfort. At the same time the text on the sprinkling/misting system from the previous annex 4 has been updated and incorporated in chapter 5.1.8.1.</i></p> <p><i>Link to the guideline:</i>  <a href="https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Dyrevelfaerd%20og%20veterinaermedicin/Vejledninger/Vejledning%20svinevelfaerd%20rev.%20august%202018.pdf">https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Dyrevelfaerd%20og%20veterinaermedicin/Vejledninger/Vejledning%20svinevelfaerd%20rev.%20august%202018.pdf</a></p> <p><i>The guideline is available on the DVFA website. Inspectors have been informed of the update, and guideline will be on the agenda for the next erfa-meeting (exchange of experience/information meeting). The pig-sector will be informed at the next meeting of the Working group on risk assessment.</i></p>
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*The last two paragraphs are applicable every time an update of the guideline is mentioned below.*

B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.

*See above.*

C) As enforcement is already in place please inform:

- number of pig herds in which this was assessed;

- % of those that were found not in compliance with this guidance.

*In 2017 animal welfare controls were carried out in 592 herds. The number of non-compliances concerning all three indents of the provision in Annex I, Chapter I, 3 is 8, which gives 1.4 %.*

*The report with the results of the animal welfare controls is not yet published.*

Point \*

<p><b>Thermal comfort and air quality</b></p>	<p>“air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations must be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals” (Directive 98/58/EC Annex, 10)</p>	<p>Compliance criteria for air quality to be developed during first half of 2018 and guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds updated.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to measureable criteria, ranges or limits for temperatures, and relative humidity, dust, gas concentrations and criteria for ensuring how these are maintained within limits which are not harmful to the animals.</p> <p>Existing compliance criteria for cooling facilities are satisfactory.</p>	<p>Cooling systems</p> <p>C) As enforcement is already in place please inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- number of pig herds in which this was assessed;</li> <li>- % of those that were found not in compliance with this guidance.</li> </ul> <p><i>In 2017 animal welfare controls were carried out in 592 herds. The number of non-compliances concerning the sprinkling/misting system was for weaner and slaughter pigs and for loose housed sows and gilts 36, which gives 6.1 %.</i></p> <p><i>The report with the results of the animal welfare controls is not yet published. When the report is published, you will not find the figure 36, as it is pooled with other non-compliances in “Krav til indretning af svinestald er ikke opfyldt” with regard to weaner and slaughter pigs and in “Krav til opstaldning af søer og gylte er ikke opfyldt” with regard to sows and gilts in loose housing systems.</i></p> <p>Air quality</p>
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			<p>D) Work completed? Please either inform/provide results or new deadline.</p> <p><i>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds has been updated with regard to compliance criteria for air quality (chapter 5.1.8.2), they include both animal based and resource based measures</i></p> <p>Point *</p>
<b>Health status</b>	<p>"sufficient number of staff who possesses the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence" (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, 1)</p>	<p>Compliance criteria for training of staff to be developed in the second half of 2018 and guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds updated.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to criteria for requirements of training for staff – for example what must be recorded, the extent of training and cascading it to workers, how it correlates with conditions on farm, both management/environment and animal indicators on farm and from <i>post-mortem</i> feedback.</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point</p> <p><i>Order no. 650 of 31 May 2018 on requirements for education for the person responsible for pigs, dairy cattle and egg-laying hens kept for farming purposes went into force on 1 July 2018</i></p> <p><i>Link to the Order:</i>  <a href="https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=201798">https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=201798</a></p> <p><i>The Order requires education on animal welfare for persons, who from 1 July 2018 for the first time take over responsibility for pig herds with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) 300 sows, gilts or boars.</i></li> <li><i>b) 3.000 slaughter pigs (30 kg – slaughter)</i></li> </ul>

			<p>c) 6.000 weaner pigs (7 – 30 kg)</p> <p><i>Persons, who take over responsibility from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, shall be educated by 30 June 2019 at the latest.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, the pig-sector has developed training material on animal welfare for other staff, which is available in Danish and English (<a href="https://svineproduktion.dk/Services/Undervisningsmateriale">https://svineproduktion.dk/Services/Undervisningsmateriale</a>)</i></p> <p><i>The guideline on animal welfare control in pig herds will be updated during the second half of 2018.</i></p> <p>B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.</p> <p><i>See above.</i></p> <p>D) Work completed? Please either inform/provide results or new deadline.</p> <p><i>Covered under A</i></p> <p>Point *</p>
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	<p>“sick or injured animals shall be accommodated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding” (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, 4)</p>	<p>Existing guidance is satisfactory</p>	
	<p>"specialised housings (for piglets weaned less than 28 days of age) which are separated from housings where sows are kept" (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter II, C3)</p>	<p>This point was not addressed in the guidance and no updates on this are mentioned in the Action Plan</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point.</p> <p><i>The guideline on animal welfare control in pig herds does in chapter 5.3.14 have compliance criteria on weaning. It will during the second half of 2018 be considered, whether there is a need for an update.</i></p> <p>B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.</p> <p><i>See above.</i></p> <p>E) Are there any measurable compliance criteria for this parameter in place? Or being developed? (Please either inform/provide them or estimated deadline for completion)</p> <p>What criteria are there to ensure that when piglets are weaned up to seven days earlier (than 28 days) and they are moved into specialised housings, that this is emptied and thoroughly cleaned</p>



			<p>and disinfected before the introduction of a new group and which are separated from housing where sows are kept, in order to minimise the transmission of diseases to the piglets?</p> <p><i>Covered under A)</i></p>
<b>Competition for food and space</b>	<p>“unobstructed floor area” (Directive 2008/120/EC, Article 3, 1a).</p>	<p>Existing guidance is satisfactory</p> <p>Consideration should be given to</p> <p>e.g. a definition on what is unobstructed (e.g. pigs should be able to walk underneath, past objects in normal body posture).</p>	
	<p>"measures taken to prevent fighting (...) adequate opportunities to escape and hide from other pigs" (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter II, D 1, 2)</p>	<p>Existing guidance is satisfactory</p>	
	<p>“feeding and watering equipment must be designed constructed and placed so that (...) the harmful effects of competition between the animals are minimised” (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, 17)</p>	<p>Compliance criteria to be developed during first half of 2018 and guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds updated.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to defining values for feeding trough space allowances, values for ratios of water trough/nipples for animals, and</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point.</p> <p><i>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds has been updated with regard to compliance criteria for feeding space (chapter 5.1.10.2) and number of drinkers (annex 3 to which there is a reference in chapter 5.1.10.3).</i></p>

		<p>consideration of placement for all feeding and watering systems so that the harmful effects of competition between animals are minimised.</p>	<p>B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.</p> <p><i>See above.</i></p> <p>D) Work completed? Please either inform/provide results or new deadline.</p> <p><i>Covered under A</i></p> <p>Point *</p>
	<p>"permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh water" (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter I, 7)</p>	<p>Compliance criteria to be developed during first half of 2018 and guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds updated.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to criteria for "Fresh water", "sufficient quantity" and "permanent access".</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point.</p> <p><i>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds has been updated to give more specific compliance criteria for access to fresh water (chapter 5.1.10.3 and annex 3).</i></p> <p>B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.</p> <p><i>See above.</i></p>

			<p>D) Work completed? Please either inform/provide results or new deadline.</p> <p><i>Covered under A</i></p> <p>Point *)</p>
<b>Diet</b>	<p>“animals must be fed a wholesome diet appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and satisfy their nutritional needs.” (Directive 98/58/EC Annex, 14)</p>	<p>Compliance criteria available mainly for pregnant sows and gilts with development/updates to be considered.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to criteria indicating "good health" relating to dietary provision, e.g. animal based indicators: feedback from slaughterhouses on gut and gastric health, % gut/gastric ulceration related to fibre content and grinding rate/particle size of feed.</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point.</p> <p><i>More time is needed to give appropriate compliance criteria on this topic for weaner and slaughter pigs. An update on this is planned to take place during the second half of 2018. This work will be linked to the development of the risk assessment tool, see below under 2.</i></p> <p>B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.</p> <p><i>See above.</i></p> <p>D) Work completed? Please either inform/provide results or new deadline.</p> <p><i>Covered under A</i></p> <p>Point *</p>

	<p>Point 8 of Annex I of Chapter I of Directive 2008/120/EC</p> <p>"Neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred. Before carrying out these procedures, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities. For this reason, inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed."</p>	<p>Existing guideline on enrichment materials (that includes guidance on tail-docking) has been updated with a section on risk assessment according to the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336. However it has been decided to further update this section (during the first half of 2018) in order to give more compliance criteria in the guideline. The update will also include guidance on how to record evidence of tail biting or ear injuries.</p>	<p>This can be addressed in the response to section 2 and 3 below.</p>
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## 2. Ensuring farmer risk assessments are carried out

	<b>Commission assessment</b>	<b>Clarification / Update requested</b>
<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure that where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs they:</p> <p>a) record/provide evidence of tail/ear biting</p>	<p>An update of the guideline on enrichment material to give guidance on how to assess and record tail biting and ear injuries, is planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2018 (it may be used by both farmers and inspectors).</p> <p>The actions planned could be considered satisfactory. Consideration should be given to an indication of what must be measured, how to measure it consistently, how often, where, and recording and scoring of the results.</p>	<p>A) Please provide an updated response to this point.</p> <p><i>It has been decided to issue new legislation, which transposes the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 in Danish legislation. This will make it mandatory for pig farmers</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>to produce written documentation on the occurrence of tail-biting,</i></li> </ol>

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|  |  | <p>2. <i>to carry out a risk assessment according to the parameters in no 3, a) to f) of the Commission Recommendation. In case inappropriate conditions are identified, the farmer shall draw up an action plan on how and when to correct. If no such conditions are identified, the farmer shall gradually try to stop tail-docking starting in a small number of piglets,</i></p> <p>3. <i>in case weaner pigs are sold the farmer shall obtain written documentation on the need to receive tail-docked pigs from the herd(s) of destination. This will apply to both Danish herds and foreign herds.</i></p> <p><i>It is at present the plan that the Order shall enter into force on 1 January 2019, with a transitional period for the requirements mentioned above in 2 (three months) and 3 (six months).</i></p> <p><i>The update of the guideline on welfare control in pig herds and the guideline on enrichment material is</i></p> |
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*postponed, as it seems most appropriate to coordinate this with the planned new legislation. The same applies to the risk assessment tool, which is being developed by the working group with representatives from the pig-sector, the Danish Veterinary Association and the DVFA.*

*This means that update of the guidelines is planned to take place during the second half of 2018.*

*A meeting with inspectors to train them on the planned legislation and introduce them to the risk assessment tool is planned to take place in January 2019. This is expected to enable inspectors to take appropriate enforcement decisions.*

B) Please inform also if every parameter/criteria included in the "Methodology"/SOPs/Guidelines is mandatory or simply guidance.

*When guidelines to the planned Order are drawn up, they will have the same status as described above.*

D) Work completed? Please either inform/provide results or new deadline.

		<p><i>Covered under A</i></p> <p>Point *</p>
<p>b) assess the risk factors leading to tail/ear biting</p>	<p>A working group with members from the pig-sector, the Danish Veterinary Association (DVA) and the DVFA has been established. Its main task is to produce a risk assessment tool for farmers and information material in order to make farmers, practicing veterinarians and other consultants aware of the need to perform a risk assessment, when tail-docking is carried out. This is planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> half 2018. It is intended to have a period, where inspectors guide farmers, before sanctions are applied.</p> <p>The actions planned could be considered satisfactory.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to</p> <p>Mandatory assessment</p> <p>If a minimum periodicity of assessments is established? and</p> <p>What must it cover? Does it include the parameters of the Recommendation?</p> <p>Does the risk assessment make use of a combination of ABI and RBI indicators?</p> <p>Are (the majority of the criteria measurable?</p> <p>Are thresholds set to indicate good / mediocre / poor performance on the different criteria / COM REC parameters</p> <p>How is it to be documented?</p>	<p>A, B, D</p> <p>Point *</p> <p><i>See the information in the first section above.</i></p>
<p>c) change inadequate environmental</p>	<p>As mentioned above a risk assessment tool will be developed. The idea is that according to the result of the risk assessment farmers shall take</p>	<p>A, B, D</p> <p>Point *</p>

<p>conditions or management systems</p>	<p>appropriate measures to correct inappropriate conditions. If this is not possible within a reasonably short time period, e.g. if buildings or equipment have to be changed, a plan shall indicate how and when corrections can be carried out. Farmers will be given a certain adaptation period before sanctions are applied.</p> <p>The actions planned could be considered satisfactory.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to: how/what should farmers provide as evidence of changes made in inadequate environmental conditions or management systems?</p>	<p><i>See information in the first section above.</i></p>
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### 3. Assessing evidence of tail/ear biting and changes to environmental and management systems including stocking density

	<b>Commission assessment</b>	<b>Clarification / Update requested</b>
<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs that:</p> <p>a) inspectors can make enforcement decisions on what is sufficient evidence of tail and ear lesions to justify tail-docking and how often should this be recorded</p>	<p>The planned update of the guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds and the guideline on enrichment material combined with the development of the risk assessment tool should give the inspectors a good basis to evaluate, whether there is sufficient evidence of tail biting and ear injuries to justify tail-docking, and whether sufficient measures have been taken by the farmer.</p> <p>When a non-compliance is identified the already established system of sanctions will be applied. This system include warnings, enforcement notices (injunctions or prohibitions), and reporting to the police for prosecution according to the severity of the non-compliance.</p> <p>First enforcement decisions expected from end 2018 or beginning 2019</p> <p>The actions planned could be considered satisfactory.</p>	<p>A, B, D, Point *</p> <p><i>See information in the first section of no. 2. Ensuring farmer risk assessments are carried out.</i></p> <p><i>A specific threshold is being discussed, but no decision</i></p>



	<p>Is there a threshold for the incidence of tail- and ear lesions (in docked pigs) that indicates when a farmer should start a trial with a small group of pigs with intact tails?</p>	<p><i>has been taken at present.</i></p>
<p>b) inspectors can make enforcement decisions on what are sufficient improvement measures by farmers, and at what frequency should they be undertaken, to change inadequate environmental conditions or managements systems before resorting to tail-docking of pigs</p>	<p>(covered also by the above)</p> <p>First enforcement decisions expected from end 2018 or beginning 2019</p> <p>The actions planned could be considered satisfactory.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to:</p> <p>what type of evidence/records (and their frequency) farmers must keep, and how/what criteria should inspectors use to consider those improvement measures sufficient to make their enforcement decisions?</p> <p>Is there an exemplary list of best-practice examples for keeping pigs with intact tails that farmers and inspectors can relate to?</p>	<p>A, B, D, Point *</p> <p><i>Enforcement decisions will be taken when the planned legislation enters into force. During the transitional period described above, the inspectors will give guidance on what is coming.</i></p>