

Cross compliance checklist

SMR 12 - Welfare of pigs

The aim of SMR 12 rules is to protect pigs by setting minimum standards for their care and management and welfare. There are also additional rules for farmed animals covered by SMR 13 Welfare of farmed animals.

Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you have adhered to the rules. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.



Picture above: Piglets housed in suitable accommodation

Accommodation and buildings

- Can each pig turn around without difficulty at all times?

- Are your pigs **only** tethered for veterinary purposes?

Note: If tethering is required for veterinary purposes the tether must be regularly inspected and adjusted to ensure that it does not cause pain or injury to the pig and allows it to lie down, rest, stand up and groom itself.

- Does your pig accommodation allow them to:

- Stand up, lie down and rest without difficulty?
- Have a clean, comfortable and adequately drained place in which to rest (including making sure that any bedding is clean, dry and not harmful to the pigs)?
- See other pigs (unless the pig is isolated for veterinary reasons or for farrowing)?
- Maintain a comfortable temperature?
- Have enough space to allow all of them to lie down at the same time?

- Do individual stalls or pens satisfy the minimum size requirements, if not a permitted exception?

Note: Minimum internal area of stall/pen is less than the square of the length of the pig; minimum internal side is less than 75% of the length of the pig. The length of the pig is measured from the tip of its snout to the base of its tail while it is standing with its back straight.

- Do you provide artificial lighting of at least 40 lux for at least eight hours each day, for pigs kept in an artificially lit building?

- Does the flooring in your pig housing accommodation adhere to the following:

- Smooth but not slippery?
- Suitable for the size and weight of the pigs?
- Rigid, even and stable, if there is no litter?
- Designed, constructed and maintained so there is no injury or suffering to the pigs standing or lying on it?

- If you use concrete slatted floors, is the flooring of the correct measurements (for openings and slats)?

Feed, water and environmental enrichment

- When feeding group-housed pigs and they are **not** fed by an automatic feeding system does each pig have (only one needs to be complied with):

- Access to feed at the same time as the others in the feeding group?
- Continuous access to feed?

- Are all pigs above two weeks old given permanent access to a sufficient supply of fresh drinking water?

- Is permanent access given to sufficient manipulate material which allows proper investigation and manipulation?

Note: Material can include straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat or a mixture of such as long as it does not upset the health of your animals.

- Do you take measures to prevent fighting which goes beyond normal behaviour?

Note: If you keep pigs together, keep those pigs separate which show persistent aggression or are victims of that aggression.

For all boars

- Are boars housed in pens where they can turn around and hear, see and smell other pigs?

- Do the boars have a clean resting area and a dry and comfortable lying area?

- Does each boar have a minimum allowance of unobstructed floor space?

Note: Each adult boar must have at least 6m² of unobstructed floor space; if being used for natural service each boar must have at least 10m² of unobstructed floor space.

For all sows and gilts

- If necessary, do you treat pregnant sows and gilts against internal and external parasites?

Farrowing



Picture above: Sow with piglets in farrowing crate

- Do you thoroughly clean pregnant sows and gilts before they are placed in farrowing crates?
- Do sows and gilts have enough suitable nesting material in the week before the expected farrowing time (unless it is not technically practical because of the slurry system you use)?
- Is the area being used by sows or gilts during farrowing unobstructed?
- If you keep sows loose in farrowing pens, have you provided the piglets with some protection from the sow, such as farrowing rails?

Group housing

- Do you keep sows and gilts in groups (except during the period between seven days before the predicted day of farrowing and the day on which the weaning of piglets is complete)?
- After service does each female pig have a minimum allowance of unobstructed floor space, continuous solid floor and pens of correct dimensions?
- Can all sows and gilts get access to enough food?

- Do you give all dry pregnant sows and gilts enough bulky or high-fibre food, as well as high-energy food, to satisfy their hunger and need to chew?

Note: You will not break the rule relating to keeping sows and gilts in groups if they are kept on holdings of fewer than 10 sows, provided that the individual accommodation keeps to the general rules for pig accommodation.

For all piglets

- Do your piglets have a source of heat and a dry comfortable lying area away from the sow where all of them can rest at the same time?
- Is the floor where you keep piglets large enough to allow them to rest together at the same time, solid, covered with a mat or littered with straw or any other suitable material?
- If using a farrowing crate do the piglets have enough space to be able to suckle without difficulty?
- Have your piglets been weaned from the sow on or after 28 days?

Note: They can be weaned up to seven days earlier, provided that they are moved into specialised housing, which you empty and thoroughly clean and disinfect before you introduce a new group, and which is separate from the housing where you keep sows.

For weaners and rearing pigs

- When kept in groups, do your weaner or rearing pigs have the required minimum allowance of unobstructed floor space?
- Do you place pigs in groups as soon as possible after weaning and keep these groups stable with as little mixing as possible?
- Do you provide opportunities for animals to hide from unfamiliar pigs if mixing is necessary?

Note: This must also be done at as young an age as possible, preferably before, or up to one week after, weaning.

- Has tranquilising medication **only** been used to help with mixing in exceptional circumstances and on the advice of a vet?