



## **Pig Code of Welfare – Self Assessment Welfare** **‘Warrant of Fitness’**

### **Introduction**

The Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2005 came into force on 1 January 2005. It is intended to encourage all those responsible for its implementation to adopt the highest standard of husbandry, care and handling, and to equal or exceed the minimum standards of welfare.

This self assessment **Welfare “Warrant of Fitness”** has been developed by the New Zealand Pork Industry Board (the Board) as a user friendly tool for pork producers’ own use, to encourage and ensure Industry compliance with the Code. It focuses on the minimum standards required by the Code. You will see it allows producers to identify any further actions required and/or any qualifications which are identified from the self assessment Welfare ‘Warrant of Fitness’.

The Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2005 also contains recommended best practices and other information, along with the minimum standards. Producers may wish to refer to the Code for further information and explanation.

The responsibility for meeting the minimum standards lies with the owner and the person responsible for carrying out that particular task. That person is “in charge” of the animals at that particular point in time. Therefore it is recommended that the self assessment is done by the owner and person responsible for each particular minimum standard (if these are different persons), and any follow up actions are jointly agreed, including time frames.

The Board strongly recommends that the self assessment is done at periodic intervals, and also if there is a significant change in practice or personnel, to ensure a current Welfare ‘Warrant of Fitness’ for the farm. In this way producers can be confident that they are meeting their obligations under the Code.

In addition the Board has briefed AgriQuality Ltd to develop an independent audit tool for the Code and producers may seek an independent third party audit of their farm in relation to the Code if required. An indicative cost for such an audit is \$195 plus GST.

**Minimum Standard No.1- Feed**

(a) Is feed available to at least weaners twice/day? Yes  No   
If not why not? .....

(b) Is feed available to other pigs once /day? Yes  No   
If not why not? .....

(c) Is feed provided to prevent undue competition?

- Nursery/weaners Yes  No
- Weaners/growers Yes  No
- Growers Yes  No
- Finishers Yes  No
- Dry sows Yes  No
- Gilts Yes  No
- Boars Yes  No
- Lactating sows Yes  No

(d) Do pigs receive adequate feed and nutrients?

- Nursery/weaners Yes  No
- Weaners/growers Yes  No
- Growers Yes  No
- Finishers Yes  No
- Dry sows Yes  No
- Gilts Yes  No
- Boars Yes  No
- Lactating sows Yes  No

If no for any group, why not?.....

(e) Are all automatic feed systems checked once /day Yes  No   
If not why not?.....

(f) If body condition of pigs falls below 2.5 is remedial action taken? Yes  No   
If not why not?.....

See appendix 1 and 2

(g) Is the body condition score of pigs 2 or above? Yes  No

It is recognized that in any population of pigs a small proportion may be in poor condition due to ill health, injury, modern genotypes, or suffering from competition in group situations., and these may fall below a body condition score of 2. Note action taken in these circumstances (e.g. isolation, culling)

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### Minimum Standard No.2- New Born Piglets

(a) Do all piglets receive colostrum/substitute at birth? Yes  No

(b) If a sow dies or her milk supply fails, are piglets fostered, hand reared or humanely destroyed? Yes  No

### Minimum Standard No.3-Watering Systems

(a) Is an adequate daily supply of palatable water accessible to pigs at all times? (Where pipe feeding is used it is important to ensure that water availability is adequate for daily needs. In outdoor situations where pipe lines and troughs may freeze in winter, it is important to ensure that water availability is adequate for daily needs.)

Yes  No

If not why not?.....  
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(b) Do pigs on pasture have access to water to meet their daily needs? Yes  No

(c) Is the watering system checked every 24 hours? Yes  No

(d) Is the water supply sufficient and are there reserves for 24 hours Yes  No

(e) Are there alternative water supplies available in case of equipment failure? Yes  No

If not why not? .....  
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(f) Is the water supply system (drinkers) at an appropriate height for the class of pig? Yes  No

If not why not?.....  
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(g) Is the water supplied at an acceptable temperature? Yes  No

If not why not?.....

**Minimum Standard No.4 – Indoors-Buildings and Maintenance**

(a) Is there at least 20 lux available at pig level in all buildings for a minimum of nine hours daily? (20 lux provides a person with the ability to read a newspaper at arm’s length)

Yes  No

(b) Is there at least 20 lux available in all pig sheds to enable inspection of animals?

Yes  No

How is appropriate light provided for inspection purposes (e.g. torch, lantern)?.....

(c) Are all sharp projections, edges, or damaged flooring likely to cause injury removed, repaired or covered? Yes  No

(e) Are all the pen fittings kept in good working order?

Yes  No

(f) Are all electrical fittings and attachments well protected or out of the reach of pigs?

Yes  No

(g) Is all the mechanical equipment maintained in good working order?

Yes  No

(h) In case of a power failure or a mechanical breakdown is there an alarm (battery operated) to notify the person in charge? Yes  No

If Not, is this required? .....
.....

(i) In case of a power failure or a mechanical breakdown, is there provision made for other means of heating, lighting, ventilation, feeding and watering of stock?

Yes  No

If Not, there must be provision for alternatives to ensure welfare is maintained. How is this addressed?.....

(j) For deep litter systems is provision made to minimise the effect of flooding if water pipes burst? Yes  No

(k) Is there suitable fire fighting equipment in all pig sheds and a documented emergency plan in case of a fire? Yes  No

Does this equipment and plan provide adequate support? (Describe).....

## Minimum Standard No.5-Indoors Space

Minimum Space requirements for growing pigs are shown in appendix V of the Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2005

See appendix 3

(a) Are the minimum space allowances for growing pigs being met?

Nursery/weaners	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weaners/growers	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growers	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finishers	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Breeding stock must be provided with an area determined in accordance with Table 6 in minimum standard No. 5.

Are the minimum space allowances for breeding pigs being met?

See appendix 4

Unmated gilts in groups	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mated gilts in groups	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boars in stalls	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boars in pens	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sows in groups	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dry Sows in stalls	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lactating sows and litters	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Minimum Standard No.6-Indoors: Temperature

(a) Is there provision made to ensure that an appropriate ambient temperature range is provided to maintain the normal body temperatures of new-born piglets?

Yes  No

(b) Are heating devices securely fixed and protected from interference by the sow and piglets?

Yes  No

(c) Are measures taken to ensure that pigs do not become overheated or cold stressed during extremes of weather?

Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.7-Indoors: Air Quality**

- (a) Is the ventilation sufficient to prevent the build-up of harmful concentrations of gasses such as ammonia and CO<sub>2</sub>? Yes  No
- (b) Is appropriate action taken if ammonia levels of 25ppm or more are detected? (ammonia levels of 25ppm or more will cause eye and nasal irritation in people) Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.8-Outdoors: Environment**

- (a) Is a suitable area for sleeping and resting provided for all classes of pig? Yes  No
- (b) Are piglets provided with a warm dry area which is adequately ventilated and protected from harmful draughts? Yes  No
- (c) Is there either artificial heating or bedding materials available for piglets? Yes  No
- (d) Is there shelter or access to a wallow to prevent heat stroke or sunburn? Yes  No
- (e) Is effective fencing provided where necessary to prevent stock fouling water and gaining access to hazards? Yes  No
- (f) Are suitable handling facilities available for pigs undergoing treatments? Yes  No
- (g) Are the huts for lactating sows of suitable design and sufficient size? Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.9- Farrowing**

- (a) Does the farrowing facility allow the sow to lie full length, with no leg restriction and allow sows to rise and stand comfortably? Yes  No
- (b) Are sows confined to farrowing crates for less than 6 weeks? Yes  No
- (c) Is there a space of more than 300mm on the narrowest side of the farrowing crate? Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.10- Dry Sow Stalls**

(a) Does the stall allow sows to stand comfortably in their normal stance and be able to lie comfortably on their sides? Yes  No

(b) Are sows with severe lameness or behavioural problems removed from stalls? Yes  No

(c) If there are dry sow stalls in any new facility built after 1 January 2005, are they only used to house sows and gilts up to a maximum of 4 weeks after mating? Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.11- Tethering**

Are all pigs housed by means other than tethering? Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.12- Boars**

(a) If stalls are used, is there sufficient clearance room to enable the boar to stand up and lie down comfortably? Yes  No

(b) If stalls are used, are daily inspections of boars carried out to ensure skin conditions are treated? Yes  No

(c) If stalls are used, are boars removed from stalls at least twice per week, either for mating/heat detection purposes or to be given sufficient exercise? Yes  No

### **Minimum Standard No.13- Elective Husbandry Procedures**

(a) Are elective invasive procedures carried out by competent operators? Yes  No

(b) Is surgical castration of pig over 7 days old carried only out by a veterinarian? Yes  No

(c) Is tail docking performed only on pigs under 8 days of age? Yes  No

(c 1) Is tail docking carried out by an instrument that severs the tail immediately? Yes  No

(d) Is teeth clipping only performed on pigs under 3 days of age? Yes  No

(e) Is non invasive equipment used to measure backfat on live pigs? Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.14-Restraint and Handling**

Are pigs and piglets **never** picked up or suspended by 1 or both of their front legs?

Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.15-Movement**

(a) Are pigs **never** prodded in sensitive areas such as eyes, nose, anus, vulva and testicles?

Yes  No

(b) Is only minimal force used to move pigs?

Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.16-Weaning**

Is weaning managed in a way that avoids undue stress on pigs?

Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.17-Health**

(a) Do those staff caring for pigs recognize signs of good health, ill health and injury and consult a veterinarian when required?

Yes  No

(b) Is medication used in accordance with registration conditions, manufacturer’s instruction or professional advice?

Yes  No

(c) Do piglets receive sufficient iron?

Yes  No

(d) Is contaminated bedding, faeces and urine removed before they pose a health risk?

Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.18-Inspections**

Are pigs inspected daily for ill health and injury and appropriate action taken?

Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.19-Pre-transport Selection**

Are pigs inspected prior to transport to ensure they are fit to be transported?

Yes  No

**Minimum Standard No.20-Stockmanship**

Are pigs cared for by personnel with appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence to maintain health and welfare in accordance with the code?

Yes  No

**Comments**

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**List actions needed with completion date :**

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**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Role:...** \_\_\_\_\_






**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owners sign off:** .....






**Date** .....

**Review Date:** .....

## Appendix 1: Condition Scoring of Sows

	Numerical Score	Pelvic Bones, Tail Head	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 2: Condition Scoring of Grower and Finisher Pigs

	Numerical Score	Pelvic Bones	Loin	Vertebrae	Ribs
	1	Pelvic bones very prominent.	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.	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.	Edge of transverse spinal processes felt only with firm pressure.	Felt only with firm pressure.	Rib cage not visible. Quite difficult to feel any ribs.
	5	Pelvic bones impossible to feel.	Impossible to feel bones. Flank full and rounded.	Impossible to feel vertebrae.	Difficult to feel ribs.

### Appendix 3: Minimum Space Required by Liveweight

Liveweight (kg)	Minimum Space (m2)	Liveweight (kg)	Minimum Space (m2)
1	0.03	51	0.42
2	0.05	52	0.42
3	0.06	53	0.43
4	0.08	54	0.43
5	0.09	55	0.44
6	0.10	56	0.45
7	0.11	57	0.45
8	0.12	58	0.46
9	0.13	59	0.46
10	0.14	60	0.47
11	0.15	61	0.47
12	0.16	62	0.48
13	0.17	63	0.48
14	0.18	64	0.49
15	0.18	65	0.49
16	0.19	66	0.50
17	0.20	67	0.50
18	0.21	68	0.51
19	0.22	69	0.51
20	0.22	70	0.52
21	0.23	71	0.52
22	0.24	72	0.53
23	0.25	73	0.53
24	0.25	74	0.54
25	0.26	75	0.54
26	0.27	76	0.55
27	0.27	77	0.55
28	0.28	78	0.56
29	0.29	79	0.56
30	0.29	80	0.57
31	0.30	81	0.57
32	0.31	82	0.57
33	0.31	83	0.58
34	0.32	84	0.58
35	0.32	85	0.59
36	0.33	86	0.59
37	0.34	87	0.60
38	0.34	88	0.60
39	0.35	89	0.61
40	0.36	90	0.61
41	0.36	91	0.62
42	0.37	92	0.62
43	0.37	93	0.63
44	0.38	94	0.63
45	0.38	95	0.63
46	0.39	96	0.64
47	0.40	97	0.64
48	0.40	98	0.65
49	0.41	99	0.65
50	0.41	100	0.66

## Appendix 4: Minimum Space Requirements for Breeding Stock

<b>Table 6: Minimum space requirements (m<sup>2</sup>) for breeding stock</b>	
<b>Pig Class</b>	<b>Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Unmated Gilts in groups	1.00
Mated Gilts in groups	1.50
Boars in individual stalls or crates	1.68 (0.7m x 2.4m)
Boar pens	6.0
Adult sows in groups	2.0
Pregnant Sows in individual stalls	1.20 (0.6m x 2.0m)
Lactating Sows and litters:	
Farrowing crates and creep areas	3.2 (total area)

**Note: Normal building practice describes internal layouts for dry sow stalls and farrowing crates on a centre-to-centre basis.**