

Northern Ireland Code of Recommendations
for the Welfare of Livestock:
Pigs



Pigs

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PREFACE

This preface is not part of the Code; instead, it explains the Code's role and the broad considerations on which it is based. The legal text in shaded boxes throughout this document is not part of the Code either but highlights the legal position. The text in these boxes is the law as it stands on the date that this Code is published or reprinted (please turn to the back cover for this information). Stock-keepers should be aware that any of the legal requirements quoted here could change - they should check that these are an accurate statement of the law as it currently stands.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) as amended by the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), provides that:

Any person who employs or engages a person to attend to animals shall ensure that the person attending to the animals:

- is acquainted with the provisions of all relevant statutory welfare codes relating to the animals being attended to;
- has access to a copy of those codes while he is attending to the animals; and
- has received instruction and guidance on those codes.

Any person who keeps animals, or who causes or knowingly permits animals to be kept, shall not attend to them unless he has access to all relevant statutory welfare codes relating to the animals while he is attending to them, and is acquainted with the provisions of those codes.

In Regulation 2 it states that 'statutory welfare code' means a code issued under Section 3 of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, or Regulation 14.

To cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to any livestock on agricultural land is an offence under Section 1(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. The breach of a code provision, whilst not an offence in itself, can nevertheless be used in evidence as tending to establish the guilt of anyone accused of causing the offence of causing unnecessary pain or distress under the Act (Section 1).

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The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Regulation 3(1), states that:

The owner and keeper of any animal shall take all reasonable steps:

- to ensure the welfare of the animal; and
- to ensure that it is not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering, injury or distress.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Regulation 3(3), states that:

In deciding whether the conditions under which any animal is bred or kept comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 1, the owner and keeper of the animal shall have regard to its species, to its degree of development, adaptation and domestication, and to its physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Regulation 11, states that:

Where an authorised officer considers that animals are being kept in a way which is likely to cause them unnecessary pain, suffering, injury or distress; or otherwise in contravention of any provision of these Regulations, he may serve a notice on the person appearing to him to be in charge of the animals requiring him, within the period stated in the notice, to take such action as may be specified in the notice and which the authorised officer considers to be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with these Regulations and the authorised officer shall give his reasons for requiring any action to be taken.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Regulation 13(2), states that:

In any proceedings against an owner or keeper of animals for a failure to comply with Regulation 3(1) or 3(2) (as read with Regulation 3(3)), the owner or keeper, as the case may be, may rely on his compliance with any relevant recommendation contained in a statutory welfare code, proof of which shall lie on him, as tending to establish his compliance with the relevant provision.

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The Code aims to encourage all those who care for farm animals to follow the highest standards of husbandry. Without good stockmanship, animal welfare can never be properly protected. If stock-keepers follow this Code, it will help them to meet the necessary welfare standards. No matter how acceptable a system may be in principle, without competent, diligent stockmanship, the welfare of the animals cannot be adequately catered for.

The welfare of pigs is considered within a framework that was developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (an independent advisory body established by the Government in 1979) and known as the 'Five Freedoms'. These form a logical basis for assessing animal welfare within any husbandry system, together with taking the action necessary to protect animal welfare within the limitations of an efficient livestock industry.

The Five Freedoms are:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst

- By ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2. Freedom from discomfort

- By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease

- By prevention or by rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. Freedom to express most normal behaviour

- By providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind.

5. Freedom from fear and distress

- By ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

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In acknowledging these freedoms, those who have care for livestock should practice:

- caring and responsible planning and management
- skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockmanship
- appropriate environmental design (e.g. of the husbandry system)
- considerate handling and transport
- humane slaughter.

The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 contains the general law relating to cruelty to animals. Broadly it is an offence (under Section 13 of the Act) to cause any unnecessary suffering to any domestic or captive animal by anything that is done or omitted to be done.

Under Section 27(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, a court has the power to disqualify a person convicted under this Act from having custody of any animal. The ban can specify a particular kind of animal or all animals for such period as the court thinks fit.

This Code has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and applies in Northern Ireland only.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Code covers all pigs. The word 'pigs' refers to all porcine stock, and includes wild boar kept for farming purposes. A piglet refers to a pig from birth to weaning.
2. The Code's recommendations apply to pigs under all husbandry systems. Section 1 of the Code gives the recommendations that apply to all ages and types of pig. Section 2 covers the recommendations that apply to specific categories of pigs (such as boars or pigs kept outdoors). If these recommendations are followed, they will help to protect the stock's welfare. The Code's recommendations are not a complete list and they are not meant to replace expert advice such as from a veterinary surgeon.
3. The husbandry system that is used, and the number of pigs kept at any one time, should depend on:
 - the suitability of the farm environment;
 - how many animals the farm can accommodate at one time;
 - the competence of the stock-keeper; and
 - how long the stock-keepers have to carry out their duties.
4. Organic pig farming is conducted according to additional, legally enforced standards. However, nothing in those standards affects the legal responsibilities of organic farmers regarding positive animal welfare. Any matters, which appear to conflict with organic standards, should be discussed with an organic certifying body. In addition, stock-keepers should seek expert advice, such as from a veterinary surgeon.
5. No changes should be made to husbandry, equipment or production until the possible effects on animal welfare have been considered. In particular the possible effect on animal welfare should be considered before installing more complex or elaborate equipment than has previously been used. In general, the greater the restriction imposed on the animal and the greater the complexity of the overall system, the less the animal is able to use its instinctive behaviour to modify the effect of unfavourable conditions. Systems involving a high degree of control over the environment should only be installed where conscientious staff skilled in both animal husbandry and the use of the equipment will always be available.

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6. The relevant animal welfare legislation applies to owners as well as to anyone looking after pigs on their behalf, wherever the pigs are – either on the farm or during transport. A written contract can be useful in making sure that everyone involved is clear about his or her animal welfare responsibilities. However, the obligations imposed by law will still apply, whether or not a contract exists. Certain aspects of livestock husbandry can present hazards to the health and safety of the stock-keeper. Advice on such matters is available from the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (see the Appendix for contact details).

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Section 1 – Recommendations for all pigs STOCKMANSHIP

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), define a ‘keeper’ as ‘any person responsible for, or in charge of, animals whether on a permanent or temporary basis.’

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 1, states that:

Animals shall be cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.

General

7. Stock-keepers have the most significant influence on the welfare of pigs. In general, the larger the size of the unit the greater the degree of skill and care needed to safeguard welfare. The size of a unit should not be increased, nor should a large unit be set up, unless it is certain that the level of stockmanship will be sufficiently high to safeguard the welfare of each individual pig.
8. Stock-keepers should draw up a written health and welfare plan with the herd’s veterinary surgeon and, where necessary, other technical advisers which should be reviewed and updated at least once a year. This plan should set out health and husbandry activities that cover the cycle of production, and include strategies to treat or limit existing disease problems. The plan should include enough records for stock-keepers to assess the basic output of the herd.
9. Those responsible for managing the farm should make sure that the pigs are cared for by enough well motivated and competent staff. These staff need to be aware of the welfare needs of pigs and be capable of protecting them from all expected problems before they are given any responsibility. This means that the staff need specific knowledge and skills, which they should develop on-farm by working with a skilled stock-keeper who is experienced in the relevant system. Wherever possible, staff should also attend relevant courses run by a suitable training organisation. Ideally, the training should lead to formal recognition of competence. Any contract or casual labour used on the farm should be trained and competent in the relevant activity.

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10. Stock-keepers should be knowledgeable and competent in a wide range of animal health and welfare skills, which should include:

- handling skills (see paragraphs 14 – 16);
- preventing and treating lameness (see paragraphs 31 – 33);
- preventing and treating internal and external parasites (see paragraphs 34 – 35);
- giving medicines by injection (see paragraph 36);
- providing appropriate care to sick and injured pigs (see paragraphs 39 – 45);
- care of the sow and her litter (see paragraphs 93 – 99); and
- management of pigs to minimise aggression (see paragraph 101).

If stock-keepers are expected to perform specific tasks on-farm (e.g. artificial insemination or teeth clipping/grinding), they should be trained and competent.

Inspection

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244) Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 2, states that:

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.

11. The health and welfare of animals depends on their being regularly inspected.

Adequate lighting must be available to enable thorough inspection of the stock.

All stock-keepers should be familiar with the normal behaviour of pigs. Badly managed and unhealthy pigs will not thrive, and it is essential that stock-keepers should watch for signs of distress, disease or aggression towards an animal by other pigs in the group. To do this, it is important that stock-keepers have enough time to:

- inspect the stock;
- check equipment; and
- take action to deal with any problem.

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12. Stock-keepers should always be looking out for signs of ill health in pigs, which include:

- separation from the group;
- listlessness;
- poor appetite;
- vomiting;
- constipation;
- diarrhoea;
- discoloration or blistering of the skin;
- loss of body condition;
- shivering;
- sneezing;
- rapid or irregular breathing;
- persistent coughing or panting;
- swollen navel, udder or joints;
- lameness (inspection of the feet and legs is particularly important); and
- lack of co-ordination.

13. Stock-keepers should be able to anticipate problems or recognise them in their earliest stages, and, in many cases, they should be able to identify the cause and put matters right immediately. Always consider the possibility that the pigs may be affected by a notifiable disease (see paragraphs 37 – 38). If the cause is not obvious, or if the stock-keeper's immediate action is not effective, a veterinary surgeon or other expert should be called in immediately – failure to do so may cause unnecessary suffering.

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Handling

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 30, states that:

A person shall not apply an electric current to any animals for the purposes of immobilisation.

14. Pigs should be moved at their own pace. They should be encouraged gently – especially around corners and where it is slippery underfoot. Stock-keepers should avoid using too much noise, excitement or force and must not hit the animals, or put pressure on any particularly sensitive part of the body. Anything used, such as pig boards and flat slap sticks, to guide the animals should only be used for that purpose and slap sticks must not have a sharp or pointed end. The use of electric goads on adult pigs should be avoided as far as possible. If goads are used, it should always be ensured that there is sufficient space for the pigs to move forward.
15. Stock-keepers should make sure that all floors and walkways are well maintained and provide a non-slip surface. The floor should not slope too steeply as steeper slopes can cause leg problems.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraphs 4 and 5 state that:

4. A person shall not 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) of the Regulations (see box on page 25) and the design shall be such as to avoid, as far as possible, any risk of strangulation, pain or injury.

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16. All stock-keepers must have access to easy to use and efficient handling systems. This is to allow stock-keepers to routinely manage and treat the animals, and make sure that they are quietly and firmly handled.

Transport Off – Farm

17. The legislation covering the transport of animals is Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 (“the Regulation”) on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended).

The Regulation, in the main, does not apply to the transport of animals carried out by farmers using agricultural vehicles or a means of transport belonging to them in cases where the geographical circumstances call for transport for seasonal transhumance of certain types of animals, or to transport carried out by farmers, of their own animals, in their own means of transport, for a distance of less than 50 km from their holding. **However, all transporters must ensure they do not transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them.**

Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 requires that no person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them.

In addition, the following conditions shall be complied with:

- (a) all necessary arrangements have been made in advance to minimise the length of journey and meet animals’ needs during the journey;
- (b) the animals are fit for the journey;
- (c) the means of transport are designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals;
- (d) the loading and unloading facilities are adequately designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals;

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- (e) the personnel handling animals are trained or competent as appropriate for this purpose and carry out their tasks without using violence or any method likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury or suffering;
- (f) the transport is carried out without delay to the place of destination and the welfare conditions of the animals are regularly checked and appropriately maintained;
- (g) sufficient floor area and height is provided for the animals, appropriate to their size and the intended journey;
- (h) water, feed and rest are offered to the animals at suitable intervals and are appropriate in quality and quantity to their species and size.

Chapter III of Annex I to the Regulation gives the Technical Rules for transport practices, including loading, unloading and handling. When handling animals –

It shall be prohibited to:

- (a) strike or kick the animals;
- (b) apply pressure to any particularly sensitive part of the body in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering;
- (c) suspend the animals themselves by mechanical means;
- (d) lift or drag the animals by head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece, or handle them in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering;
- (e) use prods or other implements with pointed ends;
- (f) knowingly obstruct any animal which is being driven or led through any part where animals are handled.

Further information and guidance on the welfare of animals at transport can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/animal-health/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-welfare-of-animals-during-transport.htm>.

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Identification

18. Permanent identification of pigs by, for example, slap marking, ear tattooing or ear tagging, should be carried out only by a trained and competent operator by following the manufacturers instructions, using properly maintained instruments and maintaining hygienic conditions. Ear tags should be of a suitable design and size for the age of the pig. Slap marking is an acceptable method where identification is required immediately prior to transporting pigs directly from their holding of origin to slaughter in Northern Ireland. It may be used to identify finishing pigs with the holding code of origin or curer number which has been notified to DARD. The use of excessive force when slap marking pigs should be avoided as pigs can be injured by the hammer. Young pigs with a weight of 20kgs can be slap marked if a specialised hammer for this size of pig is used. Ear tattoos are best applied in the first three weeks of life. Good hygiene is essential to prevent infection. Where, for herd management purposes, ear marking is by notching or punching, appropriate equipment should be used.
19. When ear tagging, notching or tattooing, the animals must be properly restrained. Take care to position and insert tags correctly, avoiding main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage.
20. If aerosols or paints are used for temporary marking, make sure only non-toxic substances are used.
21. More information on pig identification can be obtained from a local Divisional Veterinary Office (DVO) (see pages 58 – 59) or Identification, Registration and Movement Control Section, Telephone: (028) 9052 5266.

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HEALTH

General

22. Maintenance of good health is the most basic requirement affecting the welfare of the pig. Measures to protect health include good hygiene, good husbandry and effective ventilation. Vaccinations may be appropriate for certain diseases. Stock-keepers should ensure that only authorised veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, are used. Useful information on the health status of the herd can be obtained from feedback at meat inspection in the abattoir.
23. A written health and welfare plan should also, as a minimum, look at:
 - biosecurity arrangements on farm and during transport;
 - purchased stock procedures;
 - any specific disease programmes, such as salmonella, erysipelas, E. coli, mycoplasma and parvo virus;
 - vaccination policy and timing;
 - isolation procedures;
 - mixing and grouping of pigs;
 - external and internal parasite control;
 - lameness monitoring and foot care;
 - routine procedures, such as ear tagging; and
 - prevention and control of vices such as tail biting.

The health and welfare plan should make sure that animals get any necessary medical treatment at the correct time and in the correct dose.

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Biosecurity

24. Biosecurity means:

- good management/husbandry;
- good hygiene;
- reducing stress in the herd; and
- effective disease control systems such as vaccination and worming programmes.

Biosecurity results in:

- farm units being more secure from the introduction of new infectious diseases; and
- the spread of any diseases on the unit itself being kept to a minimum.

If stock-keepers take proper precautions when moving within the farm or moving animals and equipment, they can greatly reduce the chance of spreading any disease.

25. Incoming stock presents the greatest risk to the health of the herd as regards infectious disease. Stock-keepers should ask the vendor to provide them with information on the health status of the herd and routine vaccination and other treatments (e.g. worming) or disease prevention methods. Stock-keepers should have isolation facilities so that they can isolate and observe/test incoming stock for a suitable period when they arrive, before they join the rest of the herd.
26. Only essential visitors should be allowed into the unit and they should follow disinfection procedures and wear unit clothing and footwear. A visitor book should be provided and visitors asked to sign to say they have not been near other pigs or livestock for an agreed period, as stipulated in the herd health and welfare plan. A system should be provided to alert staff of visitors at the gate.
27. Loading facilities and, where possible, feed bins should be sited at the unit perimeter. Vehicles which visit other pig units should be kept off the unit wherever possible, but where entry is essential, wheels and footwear must be cleansed and disinfected thoroughly.

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28. A programme of pest control should be in place, e.g. for rodents. Every effort should be made to make housing proof against birds, such as starlings. Domestic pets, feral cats and other wild animals should be discouraged.
29. It is not possible to prevent all airborne infections from entering a unit but when planning new units these should be sited as far as is practicable from other pig units as this will reduce the risk of spread of airborne infectious diseases. More information is available in the DARD publication 'Biosecurity Code for Northern Ireland Farms' (see the Appendix).

Condition Scoring

30. Body condition scoring can contribute greatly to good husbandry and help to avoid costly welfare problems. Condition scoring is an easy technique to learn. Basically, it means that stock-keepers can quickly assess the body reserves (i.e. fat) of individual animals. The technique will be of benefit if it is used as a routine management tool to check that sows are in the target body condition for the stages of breeding cycle. This will be particularly useful at:
 - mid-pregnancy;
 - farrowing/early lactation; and
 - at weaning/drying off.

Feeding should be adjusted as necessary for animals that have become too fat or too thin. More information is available in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) booklet 'Condition scoring of pigs' (see the Appendix).

Lameness

31. Lameness in any animal is usually a sign that they are in pain. Lameness in pigs is a sign of ill health and discomfort. It clearly affects an animal's welfare, as well as its performance and production. If a significant percentage of the pigs have severe lameness, this is a sign of disease or poor overall welfare standards within the herd. In these circumstances, urgent veterinary advice should be sought. More information is available in Defra's booklet 'Lameness in pigs' (see the Appendix).

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32. If lame pigs do not respond to treatment, stock-keepers should call a veterinary surgeon immediately. Lameness can have a number of causes and early and accurate diagnosis of the specific type of lameness affecting the herd will enable rapid and appropriate action to be taken.
33. If a lame animal does not respond to the veterinary surgeon's treatment, stock-keepers should have it culled rather than leave it to suffer. If lame animals cannot be transported without causing them more pain, they should be humanely slaughtered on the farm (see paragraphs 41 - 43). Also, stock-keepers must not transport any pig off-farm that cannot stand up unaided or cannot bear its weight on all four legs when standing or walking.

External Parasites

34. Stock-keepers should control diseases caused by external parasites – especially where the animal's skin is irritated and it is rubbing the area – with the appropriate parasiticides. Animals should be treated for parasites in accordance with veterinary advice and ensure that control and treatment regimes form part of the health and welfare plan.

Internal Parasites

35. Stock-keepers should control internal parasites by using effective anthelmintics (drugs to treat parasites) or vaccines. As part of the herd health and welfare plan, it should be ensured that treatment is based on the life cycle of the particular parasites being tackled. Animals should be treated for parasites in accordance with veterinary advice. Organic producers in particular should seek veterinary advice on this aspect of their herd health and welfare plan.

Equipment for Vaccination and Treatment

36. Stock-keepers must make sure that all the equipment used for vaccinating and treating the animals is in good working order. Stock-keepers should regularly clean and sterilise any equipment used for injections, to avoid infections and abscesses and, ideally, use disposable needles. Any dangerous objects should be disposed of safely.

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Notifiable Diseases

37. If stock-keepers suspect that any animal is suffering from a notifiable disease, they have a legal duty to notify a local DVO (see pages 58-59) of DARD as soon as possible.
38. The following are the main notifiable diseases which affect pigs (please note that this is not a complete list):

African swine fever	Rabies
Anthrax	Swine vesicular disease
Aujeszky's disease	Teschen disease
Classical swine fever	Vesicular stomatitis
Foot and mouth disease	

For more information on these diseases contact a veterinary surgeon or local DVO.

Sick and Injured Animals

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 5 states that:

Any animals which appear to be ill or injured:

- (a) shall be cared for appropriately without delay; and
- (b) where they do not respond to care, veterinary advice shall be obtained as soon as possible.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244) Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 3 states that:

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

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39. Stock-keepers should take action immediately if any pigs are injured or appear ill or distressed. It is important to exclude the possibility of notifiable diseases. If in any doubt about the cause of the ill-health or the most effective treatment consult a veterinary surgeon without delay. Likewise, if an animal being treated does not respond to treatment, a veterinary surgeon's advice is required.
40. Health and welfare plans should specify a procedure for isolating and caring for sick or injured animals. Hospital pens should be an integral part of any pig unit and should be available for each category of pig on the unit. These pens should be easily reached so that stock-keepers can regularly check on the animal. When moving sick or injured pigs to the hospital pens, it should be ensured that unnecessary suffering does not occur. In these hospital pens, stock-keepers should make sure that drinking water is freely available, and that there are feeding facilities. Particular care is needed where recumbent animals are isolated to ensure that there is easy access to water and feed and that the animals are eating and drinking.
41. If an unfit animal does not respond to treatment, it should be humanely killed on-farm (culled). Any animals suffering from painful and incurable conditions should be culled immediately.
42. Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 requires that unfit animals shall not be transported except directly to or from veterinary practices or clinics, under the advice of a veterinarian. Fitness for transport is defined in Chapter I of Annex I to the Regulation.

However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:

 - (a) slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering; in cases of doubt, veterinary advice shall be sought;
 - (b) transported for the purposes of Council Directive 86/609/EEC if the illness or injury is part of a research programme;
 - (c) transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned;
 - (d) animals that have been submitted to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices such as dehorning or castration, provided that wounds have completely healed.

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43. In an emergency, stock-keepers may have to slaughter an animal immediately to prevent its suffering. In such cases, the animal should be humanely destroyed and, where possible, it should be done by someone who is suitably trained and competent both in slaughter methods and the use of the equipment. Under these emergency circumstances a slaughter licence is not required.

It is a general offence under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (S.R. 1996 No. 558) (As amended by S.R. 2000 No. 76, S.R. 2001 No. 66, S.R. 2002 No. 304 and S.R. 2004 No. 209), to cause or permit any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering to any animal during slaughter or killing (Regulation 4(1)).

The general offence applies in all cases, but the detailed provisions in respect of the method of slaughter or killing do not apply when an animal has to be killed immediately for emergency reasons (Regulation 13(2)).

44. If stock-keepers have to slaughter the animals on-farm in a non-emergency situation, they must do so using a permitted method that is in line with current welfare at slaughter legislation (see box below).

The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (S.R. 1996 No. 558) (As amended by S.R. 2000 No. 76, S.R. 2001 No. 66, S.R. 2002 No. 304 and S.R. 2004 No. 209) states that when an animal is slaughtered or killed on-farm, this must be done using a permitted method. The animal could be:

- stunned using a captive bolt pistol, concussion stunner or electrical stunner after which it must be followed by bleeding - or pithed - without delay (Regulation 14 and Schedules 5 (Part II) and 6). If the animal is stunned and bled, the operation must be carried out by a slaughterman licensed for these operations (Schedule I), unless the owner is slaughtering an animal for his own consumption; or
- killed by a free bullet (Regulation 15 and Schedule 5 Part III); the animal should be killed with a single shot to the head.

Pigs



45. Fallen animals must be disposed of by a suitable method (see box below). The Animal By-Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 bans the on-farm burial or open burning of animal carcasses in Northern Ireland.

The Animal By-Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 495), provide the powers necessary to enforce the EU Animal By-Products Regulations (1774/2002) in Northern Ireland, which lay down health rules for the disposal of animal by-products not intended for human consumption. Pigs that die on-farm cannot be disposed of by burial, open burning or disposal to landfill. Fallen stock can only be disposed of by the following methods:

- incineration in an approved incineration plant;
- rendering at an approved rendering plant; or
- despatch to an approved collection centre for feeding to dogs at a recognised kennel or similar premises.

This provision applies to the disposal of stillborn piglets and foetuses, as well as to older pigs.

Record Keeping

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended) Schedule I, paragraph 7, states that:

A record shall be maintained of –

- (a) any medicinal treatment given to animals; and
- (b) the number of mortalities found on each inspection of animals carried out in accordance with Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 2 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244). (See box on page 10).

Pigs



The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended) Schedule 1, paragraph 8, states that:

The record referred to in paragraph 7 shall be retained for a period of at least three years from the date on which the medical treatment was given, or the date of the inspection, as the case may be, and shall be made available to an authorised officer when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested by such person.

46. Only authorised animal medicines should be bought and used. Full records of all the medicine including vaccine bought must be kept, including where it was bought. Also, records must be kept for at least three years of:
- the date the animals were treated;
 - the identity and quantity of the medicine used; and
 - which animal or group of animals were treated.

It is a requirement under the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 (S.R. 1998 No. 237) Regulation 32, to keep a record of:

The name and address of the supplier of the authorised veterinary medicinal product.

More information can be found in the 'Code of Practice on responsible use of animal medicines on the farm' (see the Appendix).

47. In terms of individual animal management, it may be useful, as part of the health and welfare plan, to note specific cases of mastitis, lameness and disorders, such as milk fever, and where appropriate, the relevant treatment given.

Pigs



ACCOMMODATION

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraphs 6 and 7 state that:

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 it and all the other animals in the accommodation 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 farrowing and the day on which the weaning of her piglets (including any fostered by her) is complete.

Pigs



General

48. Stock-keepers should seek appropriate welfare advice when new buildings are to be constructed or existing buildings modified. Some specialised buildings use complex mechanical and electrical equipment which require additional technical and management skills and training may be required to ensure that husbandry and welfare requirements are met.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraphs 11 and 12 state that:

Materials used for the construction of accommodation, and, in particular for the construction of pens, cages, stalls and equipment with which animals may come into contact, shall not be harmful to them and shall be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Accommodation and fittings for securing animals shall be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to them.

49. The internal surfaces of housing and pens should be made of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected regularly, and easily replaced when necessary.
50. If stock-keepers are going to treat these surfaces, paints or wood preservatives that are safe for animals must be used. There is a risk of lead poisoning from old paintwork, especially if second-hand building materials are used.

Pigs



Floors

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraphs 12 and 13 state that:

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 –
 - (a) the maximum width of the openings must be –
 - (i) 11 mm for piglets;
 - (ii) 14 mm for weaners;
 - (iii) 18 mm for rearing pigs; and
 - (iv) 20 mm for gilts after service and sows.
 - (b) the minimum slat width must be –
 - (i) 50 mm for piglets and weaners; and
 - (ii) 80 mm for rearing pigs, gilts after service and sows.
51. Good floor design and adequate maintenance is essential. Poorly constructed floors, slats that are not properly matched to the weight/size of pig and surfaces that are worn and/or damaged, can cause injury to the feet and legs of pigs. Excessive gaps should be avoided as they can trap the feet/claws and may cause physical damage. Damaged floors must be repaired immediately.

Pigs



The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 11 states that:

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

52. The lying area should always be kept dry, and pen floors, including the dunging area, should be drained effectively. Where bedding is provided, this must be clean and dry, regularly topped up or changed, and not detrimental to the health of the pigs.

Ventilation and Temperature

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 13 states that:

Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations shall be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 17 states that:

Pigs shall not be kept in an environment which involves maintaining high temperatures and high humidity (known as the 'sweatbox system').

53. All new buildings should be designed with the animals' comfort in mind, and with the aim of preventing respiratory diseases. The buildings should provide enough ventilation throughout the year for the type, size and number of stock to be housed in them. In addition to meeting the ventilation requirements, the system should be designed to avoid draughts affecting the pigs' living space.
54. Effective ventilation is essential to the well-being of the stock as it provides fresh air, removes noxious gases and aids in controlling temperature. Excessive heat loss should be prevented either by the structural insulation of the external walls, roof and the floor in the lying area, or by the provision of adequate bedding. Heat gain to buildings in hot conditions will be minimised by the insulation in the walls and roof.

Pigs



55. Pigs have a very limited ability to sweat and are acutely susceptible to heat stress. Possible cooling methods, including blowing air over the pigs, providing water spray/misting systems or simply wetting floors with a hosepipe, can be used to ensure that pigs in buildings do not become overheated in hot weather. There should always be some dry lying area available as a matter of choice so that the pigs can move away from the cooler conditions.
56. Liveweight, group size, floor type, air speed and feed intake markedly affect temperature requirements and stock-keepers must take these factors into account when determining the minimum temperature appropriate in each case. Slatted floors and low feed levels generally increase temperature requirements whilst straw bedding, high feed levels and higher body weights decrease requirements. For most circumstances, an appropriate minimum temperature can be found within the range given below:

Category of Pig	Temperature	
	(°C)	(°F)
Sows	15 - 20	59 - 68
Suckling pigs in creeps	25 - 30	77 - 84
Weaned pigs (3 - 4 weeks)	27 - 32	81 - 90
Later weaned pigs (5 weeks +)	22 - 27	71 - 80
Finishing pigs (porkers)	15 - 21	59 - 70
Finishing pigs (baconers)	13 - 18	55 - 64

57. The stock-keeper should avoid wide or abrupt fluctuations in temperature in housing systems within any 24-hour period. Wide fluctuations in the daily temperature regime can create stress that may trigger outbreaks of vice, such as tail biting, or disease such as pneumonia. Stock-keepers should maintain a higher than normal level of vigilance at these times.
58. When pigs are moved to new accommodation the possibility of cold stress occurring as a result of sudden changes in the thermal environment should be reduced. This can be done by ensuring that the pen is dry, by the provision of bedding, such as straw, or by preheating the building.

Pigs



59. When removing slurry from under slats, special care must be taken to avoid fouling the air with dangerous gases (such as ammonia), which can kill both humans and animals. Buildings should be empty or very well ventilated during this procedure.

Lighting and Noise Levels

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraphs 3 and 16 state that:

Where animals are kept in a building, adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) shall be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

Animals kept in buildings shall not be kept without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraphs 8 and 18 state that:

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 of these Regulations (see box above).

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

60. Stock-keepers should have enough fixed or portable lighting available at any time should animals need to be inspected, e.g. during farrowing.
61. The siting of machinery such as feed milling units should be appropriate to minimise the noise impact on housed stock. Any bell or buzzer which is likely to occur erratically, e.g. a visitor to the site, should be sufficiently loud to attract human attention but without causing undue alarm to the stock.

Pigs



Automated and Mechanical Equipment

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraphs 18 - 21, state that:

18. All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well being of the animals shall be inspected at least once a day to check that there is no defect in it and that no parts of the equipment have become seriously worn.
19. Where defects or worn parts in automated or mechanical equipment of the type specified in paragraph 18 are discovered, these shall be rectified immediately, or if this is impossible, appropriate steps shall be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the animals pending the rectification of such defects including the use of alternative methods of feeding and watering and methods of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment.
20. Where the health and well-being of the animals is dependent on an artificial ventilation system –
 - (a) provision shall be made for an appropriate back-up system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health and well-being of the animals in the event of failure of the system; and
 - (b) an alarm system (which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed) shall be provided to give warning of any failure of the system.
21. The back-up system referred to in paragraph 20(a) shall be thoroughly inspected and the alarm system referred to in paragraph 20(b) shall each be tested at least once every seven days in order to check that there is no defect in the system, and, if any defect is found (whether when the system is inspected or tested in accordance with this paragraph or at any other time), it shall be rectified immediately.
62. All mains electrical equipment should meet relevant standards and be properly earthed, safeguarded from rodents and out of the pigs' reach.
63. All equipment, including feed hoppers, drinkers, ventilation equipment, heating and lighting units, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, should be cleaned and inspected regularly and kept in good working order.

Pigs



64. All automatic equipment used in intensive systems should be thoroughly inspected by the stock-keeper, or other competent person, not less than once each day to check that there are no defects. Any defect must be rectified immediately.

Fire and Other Emergency Precautions

65. There should be plans in place to deal with emergencies on the farm, such as fire, flood or disruption of supplies. The owner should make sure that all the staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action. More information is available in the Defra booklets, 'Emergencies on livestock farms' and 'Farm fires: protecting farm animal welfare' (see the Appendix).
66. It is important that stock-keepers get advice about design when building or modifying a building. Stock-keepers need to be able to release and evacuate livestock quickly if there is an emergency. Consideration should be given to installing fire alarms that can be heard and responded to at any time of day or night.
67. Expert advice on all fire precautions can be obtained from local fire officers in Fire Brigade Area Command Headquarters.

Pigs



FEED, WATER AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraphs 22 – 24 and 26 state that:

22. Animals shall be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and to satisfy their nutritional needs and to promote a positive state of well-being.
23. Animals shall not be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor shall such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.
24. All animals shall have access to feed at intervals appropriate to their physiological needs (and, in any case, at least once a day), except where a veterinary surgeon acting in the exercise of his profession otherwise directs.
26. Feeding and watering equipment shall be designed, constructed, placed and maintained so that contamination of food and water and the harmful effects of competition between animals are minimised.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244) Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 14 states that:

- (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.
-
68. All pigs need a balanced daily diet to maintain full health and vigour. Stock-keepers should plan any changes in the diet and introduce them gradually.
 69. When introducing pigs to unaccustomed housing, ensure that the animals are able to find the feed and water points. When newly weaned pigs are moved to pens where water is provided through nipple drinkers unfamiliar to the piglets, it is good practice to provide alternative water sources for the first few days.

Pigs



70. Where pigs are fed on a rationed feed level to control intake, stock-keepers should ensure that adequate trough space is provided to ensure that all pigs can receive their allocation. The following guidelines for trough space per pig apply:

Weight of Pig (KG)	Trough Space (CMS)
5	10
10	13
15	15
35	20
60	23
90	28
120	30

71. Good hygiene is necessary for storage and feeding systems as moulds can develop in stale feed that can have a detrimental effect on pigs. Feed bins should be cleaned out regularly.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 15 states that:

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

72. Several factors should be taken into consideration when looking at the provision of water to pigs:
- the total volume available;
 - the flow rate (pigs will not spend a long time taking water);
 - the method of provision e.g. the type of drinker; and
 - its accessibility to all stock.

Pigs



The following is a guide to minimum daily water requirements for various weights of pig:

Weight of Pig (KG)	Daily Requirement (litres)	Minimum Flow Rate through Nipple Drinkers (litres/min)
Newly weaned	1.0 – 1.5	0.3
Up to 20 kgs	1.5 – 2.0	0.5 – 1.0
20 kgs – 40 kgs	2.0 – 5.0	1.0 – 1.5
Finishing pigs up to 100 kgs	5.0 – 6.0	1.0 – 1.5
Sows and gilts – pre-service and in-pig	5.0 – 8.0	2.0
Sows and gilts – in lactation	15.0 – 30.0	2.0
Boars	5.0 – 8.0	2.0

73. Waste water and excessive flow rates can be detrimental, particularly for sows in farrowing accommodation and very young pigs.
74. Stock-keepers should carefully consider the height at which water nipples and bowls are placed. All pigs must be able to access the drinking point. This might require height adjustable, or several different, drinkers at various heights when groups of pigs of a range of weights are housed together or when pigs are housed in a pen for a long period. It is recommended for bowl drinkers, that where pigs are fed on a rationed basis, that one bowl be used per 20 pigs as a minimum. For pigs fed ad libitum, it is recommended as a minimum, that one bowl be used per 30 pigs.

Pigs



75. Where nipple drinkers are used, a drinking point should be available for each ten pigs on rationed feeding. On unrestricted feeding, one nipple drinker should provide adequate supply for 15 pigs given sufficient flow rates. Where trough systems are used, it is recommended that for pigs of over 35kgs, that they receive 30cms of trough space per 25 pigs. Guidelines for other weights of pigs are as follows:

Weight of Pig (KG)	Trough Space per Head (CM)
Up to 15	0.8
15 - 35	1.0

76. If a wet feeding system is used, pigs must have access to a separate fresh water supply.
77. Feed and water should not be completely withdrawn from sows which are being dried off.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 27 states that:

No other substance, with the exception of those given for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes or for the purpose of zootechnical treatment shall be administered to animals unless it has been demonstrated by scientific studies of animal welfare or established experience that the effect of that substance is not detrimental to the health or welfare of the animals.

Pigs



MANAGEMENT

General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule I, paragraph 17 states that:

Animals not kept in buildings shall, where necessary and possible, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health and shall, at all times, have access to a well-drained lying area.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 10 states that:

- (1) Housing, pens, equipment and utensils used for pigs must be properly cleansed 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.

78. All buildings, fields and paddocks should be kept clear of debris, such as wire, plastic and sharp objects, that could injure the pigs or rip out their ear tags and damage their ears.

79. All practical measures should be taken to remove all pigs from areas that are in imminent danger of flooding.

Environmental Enrichment

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 16 states that:

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.

Pigs



80. Environmental enrichment provides pigs with a stimulus and outlet for natural exploratory and manipulation activities. Research shows that this leads to reduced levels of harmful social behaviour such as tail biting. Suggested environmental enrichment material includes straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat or a mixture of such.
81. Objects such as footballs and chains can satisfy some of the pigs' behavioural needs, but can quickly lose their novelty value. The long-term use of such items is not therefore recommended, unless they are used in conjunction with materials such as those listed in paragraph 80 above.

Castration

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraphs 22 and 23 state that:

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

Castration shall be carried out by a veterinary surgeon in accordance with the provisions of section 14(1) and Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

82. Stock-keepers should consider carefully whether castration is necessary. Castration is a mutilation and should be avoided whenever possible. If it cannot be avoided, it must be carried out in accordance with the law by a veterinary surgeon or by a competent, trained operator.

Pigs



Tail Docking

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraphs 21 and 23 state that:

21. The following procedures shall not be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to tails have occurred:
 - (b) docking of a part of the tail
but no 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 or other vices.
23. Docking of tails shall be carried out by a veterinary surgeon in accordance with the provisions of section 14(1) and Schedule 1 to the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.
83. Tail biting and other vices, such as ear and flank biting, are associated with some form of stress. They can be triggered by a wide range or combination of factors, including: overstocking, feed deficiencies, incorrect temperature levels, fluctuating temperature levels, inadequate ventilation, draughts, high levels of dust and noxious gases (i.e. ammonia) and lack of environmental enrichment. Changes in external weather conditions can also sometimes trigger an outbreak.
84. If tail biting does occur, it can spread quickly through the pen and the degree of injury increases very quickly. Stock-keepers should ensure that affected pigs are removed to a hospital pen and treated without delay. If possible, the instigator should be identified and removed to a separate pen.
85. Routine tail docking is not permitted. Tail docking should only be used as a last resort after improvements to the pigs' environment and management have proved ineffectual. Where it is necessary to tail dock, it must be carried out in accordance with the law by a competent, trained operator before the seventh day of life, or by a veterinary surgeon. All equipment used must be cleaned and disinfected between pigs.

Pigs



86. As part of the herd health and welfare plan (see paragraphs 8 and 23), stock-keepers should have a strategy for dealing with outbreaks of vice such as tail biting. Although much has been learnt from research and practical on-farm experience, it is not possible to produce a definitive solution for all cases. A thorough assessment and planned approach is therefore recommended to identify the particular cause of an outbreak on the unit and to find the appropriate solution to the problem.
- Quantify the problem
 - note the position of pens and numbers of pigs affected, check records of previous incidents.
 - List possible causes
 - such as interruption or inadequate supply of feed or water, lack of environmental enrichment, inadequate ventilation, draughts, incorrect temperature levels, overstocking, competition at feeding, excessive light levels, elevated dust/noxious gas levels etc. Different causes may be found in different pens on the same unit.
 - Modify health and welfare plan
 - having identified areas for improvement, in consultation with the herd's veterinary surgeon and other technical advisers, modify the health and welfare plan to implement the necessary changes with a view to preventing future outbreaks of tail biting.

Tooth Clipping/Grinding

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 21 states that:

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;

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

Pigs



87. Routine clipping or grinding of teeth is not permitted. Tooth reduction to the upper and lower corner teeth ('eye' or canine teeth) of piglets should only be used as a last resort. The health and welfare plan should identify circumstances where tooth reduction may be necessary. These might include large litter size, cross fostering, gilts and poor milk let down such as mastitis.
88. Where tooth reduction is to be carried out, it may not always be necessary for the whole litter. Where it is necessary, it should be carried out before the seventh day of life, in accordance with the law, by a trained and competent operator or by a veterinary surgeon. Suitable sharp, clean clippers or an appropriate grinder should be used. All equipment used should be cleaned and disinfected between pigs. Teeth grinders are recommended as there is a reduced risk of shattering the teeth.

Natural Service

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 28 states that:

- (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause, or are likely to cause, suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned shall not be practised.
 - (2) Sub-paragraph (1) shall not preclude the use of natural or artificial breeding procedures that are likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury or that might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury.
89. All boars should have good and safe service conditions. Slatted floors and slippery conditions underfoot are not suitable for mating animals. As part of the health and welfare plan, stock-keepers should discuss with the herd's veterinary surgeon how to avoid injury to boars and sows through excessive mating activity.

Pigs



Artificial Insemination, Vasectomy and Electro-ejaculation

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244) Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 7 (3) lists certain exemptions from the requirement that a pig shall be free to turn round without difficulty at all times, including:

(b) for the purposes of service, artificial insemination or collection of semen;

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

90. Stock-keepers should keep the sows in their groups until insemination, at which time they can be moved to an appropriate stall or pen and inseminated. Sows should be allowed to settle down in the stall or pen, and then exposed to a boar in order to encourage the standing reflex before artificial insemination takes place.
91. Sows should be left undisturbed, to encourage uterine contractions, for up to thirty minutes after artificial insemination (and natural service), but they should then rejoin their group in order to minimise bullying within the group hierarchy. When double insemination is used, sows may be penned separately until 30 minutes after the second insemination, but pens must allow the animal to turn around easily.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, As amended by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988 No. 526) prohibits the performance of a vasectomy or the carrying out of electro-ejaculation by anyone other than a veterinary surgeon.

92. Semen collection and artificial insemination should only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or by a trained, competent and experienced operator. Vasectomy or electro-ejaculation may only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon.

Pigs



Section 2 – Specific Recommendations FARROWING SOWS AND PIGLETS

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part IV, paragraphs 31 to 36 state that:

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

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

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 because of the slurry system used.

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

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

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

93. The feeding of sows and gilts should be managed so that they are in a suitable body condition at the time of farrowing. A target score of 3.5 - 4 should be aimed at just prior to farrowing. The feeding regime should then be geared to minimising any loss in body condition during lactation.
94. Nesting material should be provided, whenever possible, particularly in the 24 hours prior to farrowing to satisfy the sow's need to nest-build and therefore minimise stress.
95. The environmental requirements of the sow and litter are considerably different. In an environmentally controlled farrowing house a heated creep area – up to 32°C – should be provided for the piglets. This can be by artificial heating, e.g. overhead infra-red lamps, a heat pad, underfloor heating or alternatively by providing a well-bedded lying area. The sow, however, has different environmental requirements. The temperature in the farrowing room as a whole should be around 18°C - 20°C. High temperatures for the sow can impair feed intake and her milking ability.

Pigs



96. Where overhead lamps/heaters are used they should be securely fixed and should be protected from interference by the sow or piglets.
97. Farrowing accommodation should be so constructed and sufficiently big enough to allow the sow to rise up and lie down again without difficulty. Stock-keepers should be experienced and competent in the techniques of farrowing and should pay particular attention to hygiene, especially at assisted farrowings. Mechanical farrowing aids should only be used by a trained, competent operator.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part V, paragraphs 44 to 48 state that:

Piglets shall where necessary, 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.

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.

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

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.

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 pigs are kept.

98. Problems associated with weaning are related to the age at weaning. The earlier the weaning age, the better must be the system of management and nutrition, if welfare problems are to be avoided. Piglets should not be weaned from the sow at less than 28 days, although orphaned, sick and surplus piglets requiring special attention are obvious exceptions. The all-in-all-out system of managing pig housing maximises opportunities to prevent disease introduction

Pigs



or spread on a unit. Where these conditions are met, weaning may occur up to seven days earlier. At weaning, piglets should be moved into a specialised house which has previously been completely emptied of pigs, cleaned and disinfected.

99. It is particularly important that stock-keepers watch piglets carefully for signs of diarrhoea or respiratory disease, such as coughing or rapid or laboured breathing, both of which can spread rapidly. If the piglets do not respond to treatment promptly or properly, veterinary advice should be sought.

Pigs



WEANERS AND REARING PIGS

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part VI, paragraph 53 states that:

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

- (a) 0.15 square metres for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is 10 kg or less;
- (b) 0.20 square metres 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 square metres 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 square metres 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 square metres 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 square metres 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 square metre for each pig where the average weight of the pigs in the group is more than 110 kg.

100. The figures in the box above are minimum requirements, but the type of housing and its management may mean that greater space allowances are necessary. The total floor space should be adequate for sleeping, feeding and exercising. The lying area, excluding the dunging and exercise areas, should be of sufficient size to allow all the pigs to lie down on their sides at the same time.

Pigs



The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part VI, paragraphs 49 to 52 state that:

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.

If pigs unfamiliar with one another have to be mixed, this should be done at as young an age as possible, preferably not later than one week after weaning. When pigs are mixed they shall be provided with adequate opportunities to escape and hide from other pigs.

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

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

101. The herd health and welfare plan should include a strategy for managing the mixing and the establishing of groups of pigs. Plenty of space, sufficient environmental enrichment and using shower sprays/sprinklers can all help to minimise aggression at mixing. Whenever possible, pigs for fattening should be in same sex groups to avoid unnecessary sexual activity as gilts come into oestrus.

Pigs



DRY SOWS AND GILTS

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part IV, paragraphs 37 to 43 state that:

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.

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

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 square metres and 2.25 square metres 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, then the unobstructed floor area may be decreased by 10%.

For gilts after service and pregnant sows a part of the area required in paragraph 39 (above) equal to at least 0.95 square metres per gilt and 1.3 square metres per sow must be of continuous solid floor of which a maximum of 15% is reserved for drainage openings.

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, (see page 25 of Code).

In addition to the requirements of paragraph 14, (see box above paragraph 68 of Code), 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.

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.

Pigs



- I02. Innate aggressiveness can present a severe problem where sows and gilts are kept in groups. Much depends on the temperament of individual animals. Adequate space is particularly important at the time of mixing sows so that the animals can escape from aggressors. First parity sows and sows that have lost body condition should be managed as separate groups. Stock-keepers should ensure that persistent bullying, which could lead to severe injury or deprivation of food, does not take place. Any animal suffering persistent bullying should be moved to different accommodation.
- I03. Feeding facilities in which animals can be fed individually and thereafter released are recommended. However, if sows are fed using a system that does not include some form of protection during feeding, such as floor feeding, then feed must be distributed widely and in such a way to ensure that all members of the group can obtain their allocation.
- I04. Breeding sows and gilts should be fed simultaneously wherever possible to avoid undue excitement. Some feeding systems have been designed to feed animals sequentially without interference from pen-mates. Stock-keepers need to pay special attention to the proper functioning of such equipment and that all members of the group can obtain their allocation.
- I05. The provision of bedding in loose housing systems for sows and gilts is strongly recommended.

Pigs



BOARS

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part III, paragraphs 27 to 30 state that:

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.

The lying area shall be dry and comfortable.

Subject to paragraph 30 (below), the minimum unobstructed floor area for an adult boar shall be six square metres.

When boar pens are also used for natural service the floor area must be at least 10 square metres and must be free of any obstacles.

106. Walls between pens should be high enough to prevent boars climbing and/or jumping into adjacent pens. Pens should be sited so that boars can see other pigs. Stock-keepers should not enter boar pens without a pig board and they must be able to escape easily from the pen if the boar becomes aggressive.
107. Boars are generally individually housed and need either plenty of bedding material or a closely controlled environmental temperature. Extremes of temperature can lead to temporary infertility and may affect a boar's willingness or ability to work satisfactorily.
108. As a guide, individual accommodation for an adult boar should have a floor area of not less than 7.5m² if used for living purposes only. Bedding should be provided in the lying area. In a pen intended for living purposes only, bedding should be provided in the lying area. In a pen intended for mating purposes, the whole floor area should be kept dry or sufficient bedding provided to give adequate grip during service. The use of small quantities of coarse sand on floors will reduce the risk of slipping.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 24 states that:

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

Pigs



PIGS KEPT IN OUTDOOR HUSBANDRY SYSTEMS

General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 270) (As amended), Schedule 1, paragraph 17 states that:

Animals not kept in buildings shall, where necessary and possible, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health and shall, at all times, have access to a well-drained lying area.

109. Sites for outdoor pig enterprises must be chosen carefully. Land prone to flooding, poorly drained sites, stony (especially flinty) soils and sites with heavy soils (especially in areas with high rainfall), are generally unsuitable for outdoor systems. Free-draining soils, in low rainfall areas, with low frost incidence are most suitable.
110. Field stocking densities must reflect the suitability of the site and the system of management. A guideline of 25 sows per hectare overall is reasonable for suitable sites. Stock-keepers may need to reduce stocking densities on less ideal sites or in extreme circumstances during periods of adverse weather. More information can be found in Defra's booklet, 'Site suitability for Outdoor Pig Farming' (see the Appendix).
111. Stock selected for outdoor production must be suitable for outdoor conditions. Most breeding companies provide lines that have been developed for outdoor use.
112. The herd health and welfare plan should include a strategy for dealing with emergency situations such as water provision in freezing conditions and feed provision to the site and to the paddocks in snow or severe wet weather.

Pigs



Biosecurity

- I 13. Stock-keepers who take proper precautions when moving within the farm or when moving animals and equipment, can greatly reduce the chance of spreading disease (see paragraphs 24 - 29). Incoming replacement stock may also need to be acclimatised to outdoor conditions as they will often have been bred in indoor conditions. It is especially important to provide warm comfortable accommodation for these animals.
- I 14. To prevent the build-up and transfer of disease organisms, arcs should be resited between batches of pigs and the straw bedding etc. should be removed. More information on biosecurity can be found in the DARD publication 'Biosecurity Code for Northern Ireland Farms' (see the Appendix).

Accommodation

- I 15. All arcs and huts used should be liberally provided with bedding and have a warm, draught-free lying area. This is especially important for the sow and litter at farrowing and during the suckling period and for newly weaned pigs.
- I 16. Stock-keepers should properly maintain arcs and huts, especially to ensure that damage through handling does not produce sharp edges that may injure the animals.
- I 17. Adequate shelter must be provided to protect the animals from the cold and wet in winter. Arcs should be well fixed to the ground, particularly in cold windy conditions and should be sited so that the doorways can be adjusted to allow for changing weather circumstances. Wet conditions create greater welfare problems than the cold as moisture is easily carried into the arcs on feet and bodies, causing chilling in piglets, and providing the ideal environment for micro-organisms to flourish.
- I 18. Adequate shelter must also be provided to protect the animals from sunny conditions in summer. Wallows should be provided for breeding stock to allow them to cool themselves and to produce mud which can prevent sunburn. More information can be found in Defra's booklet, 'Heat stress in pigs - solving the problem' (see the Appendix).

Pigs



Feed and Water

- I 19. Food should be distributed widely and evenly to minimise aggression between animals unless an alternative method is used to ensure even consumption.
- I 20. Stock-keepers should carefully monitor the body condition of pigs during extremes of weather and adjust feed provision if necessary.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 15 states that:

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

- I 21. Arrangements should be in place to ensure the supply of water to all stock in all weathers. Particular attention is needed at times of freezing conditions.

Fences

- I 22. Electric fences should be designed, constructed, used and maintained properly, so that when the animals touch them they only feel slight discomfort. All power units for electric fences must be properly earthed to prevent short circuits or electricity being conducted anywhere it should not, e.g. gates and water troughs.
- I 23. New breeding animals are unlikely to have been trained to electric fencing. Stock-keepers should have a training paddock with secure fencing, such as pig netting, outside the electric fencing to help the animals see the fencing and to ensure that they cannot escape from the unit.
- I 24. Every effort should be made to protect pigs, particularly young piglets, from predation. Steps such as a predator control programme and possibly fox fencing should be considered.

Pigs



Farrowing Sows and Piglets

125. In hot conditions a lactating sow may be prompted to leave the arc to seek more comfortable conditions outside, effectively abandoning her litter.

Farrowing arcs should be insulated and have provision for some degree of extra ventilation such as manual flaps.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part IV, paragraph 35 states that:

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

126. Farrowing arcs should be sited on level ground to reduce the risk of overlying.

Suitable restrainer boards should be used to prevent very young piglets from straying during the first few weeks during the post-farrowing period.

Nose Ringing

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 244), Schedule 6, Part II, paragraph 25 states that:

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

127. Nose ringing is a mutilation and should be avoided wherever possible. It is usually carried out to deter excavation of the paddocks and damage to the cover vegetation through excessive rooting. Nose ringing can reduce the risk of environmental pollution where there is a risk of soil erosion and leaching of nutrients from faeces. Where it is necessary to nose ring pigs, it should only be carried out by a suitably trained and competent operator. After nose ringing **each pig**, all equipment should be cleaned and disinfected.

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APPENDIX

Useful Publications

A. DARD Publications Related to Pig Welfare

Title

Assessment in the Practical Experience in the Handling, Transport and Care of Animals: Guide to Employers

Biosecurity Code for Northern Ireland Farms

You can get copies of these publications free of charge from DARD's local Divisional Veterinary Offices (see pages 58-59).

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B. Defra Publications Related to Pig Welfare

PB No.	Title
0409	Code of practice – Welfare of farm animals in livestock markets
1147	Emergencies on livestock farms
1148	Lameness in pigs
1316	Heat stress in pigs: solving the problem
3480	Condition scoring of pigs
4444	Site suitability for outdoor pig farming
9326	Farm fires: protecting farm animal welfare
	Code of practice on the responsible use of animal medicines on the farm (Veterinary Medicines Directorate)

You can get copies of these publications, free of charge, from:

Defra Publications

Admail 6000

London

SW1A 2XX

Telephone orders (for free publications): 0845 955 6000

Telephone enquiries: 0845 933 5577

E-mail: defra@cambertown.com

Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>

These publications are updated regularly. For more information on the most current versions and new publications, please contact Defra's Animal Welfare Division on Telephone 020 7904 6521.

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C. Legislation Related to Pig Welfare

S.R. No.	Title
-	Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966
-	Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 1972
S.R. 1987 No. 415	Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (NI) 1987
S.R. 1996 No. 558 (As amended)	Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations (NI) 1996
S.R. 1998 No. 203	Welfare of Animals and Poultry at Markets Order (NI) 1998
S.R. 1998 No. 237	Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (NI) 1998
S.R. 1999 No. 326	Welfare of Animals (Staging Points) Regulations (NI) 1999
S.R. 2000 No. 270	Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (NI) 2000
S.R. 2003 No. 244	Welfare of Farmed Animals (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2003
S.R. 2003 No. 495	Animal By-Product Regulations (NI) 2003
S.R. 2006 No. 538 (As amended)	Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (NI) 2006

You can get copies of the legislation quoted in this Code from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop

16 Arthur Street

BELFAST

BT1 4GD

Telephone: 028 9023 8451

E-mail: belfast.bookshop@tso.co.uk

Website: www.opsi.gov.uk

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D. Further Information or Advice

DIVISIONAL VETERINARY OFFICES

If you would like any more information or advice about this Code, please contact your local Divisional Veterinary Office or DARD's Animal Welfare and Trade Branch, Telephone: (028) 9052 5272.

ARMAGH

Mall West
ARMAGH
BT61 7JN
Tel: (028) 3752 9900
Fax: (028) 3752 9911

DUNGANNON

Crown Buildings
Thomas Street
DUNGANNON
BT70 1HR
Tel: (028) 8775 4777
Fax: (028) 8775 4888

BALLYMENA

Kilpatrick House
38-54 High Street
BALLYMENA
BT43 6DP
Tel: (028) 2566 2862
Fax: (028) 2566 2853

ENNISKILLEN

Inishkeen House
Killyhevlin
ENNISKILLEN
BT74 4EJ
Tel: (028) 6632 5004
Fax: (028) 6634 3043

COLERAINE

Crown Buildings
Artillery Road
COLERAINE
BT52 2AJ
Tel: (028) 7034 1111
Fax: (028) 7034 2235

LARNE

Crown Buildings
Pound Street
LARNE
BT40 1SH
Tel: (028) 2826 3222
Fax: (028) 2826 3220

Continued on next page.

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DIVISIONAL VETERINARY OFFICES *(continued)*

LONDONDERRY

Crown Buildings
Asylum Road
LONDONDERRY
BT48 7EB
Tel: (028) 7131 9500
Fax: (028) 7137 2489

NEWTOWNARDS

9 Robert Street
NEWTOWNARDS
BT23 4DN
Tel: (028) 9182 5825
Fax: (028) 9181 3870

NEWRY

Glenree House
Unit 2, Springhill Road
Carnbane Industrial Estate
NEWRY
BT35 6EF
Tel: (028) 3025 3200
Fax: (028) 3025 3222

OMAGH

Sperrin House
Sedan Avenue
OMAGH
BT79 7AQ
Tel: (028) 8225 1020
Fax: (028) 8225 3400

Further Information or Advice on Health and Safety

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
83 Ladas Drive
BELFAST
BT6 9FR
Tel: 0800 0320 121
www.hseni.gov.uk

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