

## **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ANIMAL WELFARE (PIGS) CODE OF WELFARE AND DRAFT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) has completed a review of the 2005 code of welfare for pigs and is consulting on the draft *Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare* and the MAF draft economic analysis of the implications of the proposed code standards, for dry sows in particular. We invite you or your organisation to make a submission(s). The closing date is Wednesday 21 April 2010.

Codes of welfare advise owners or persons in charge of animals about how they can comply with their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to meet the animals' physical, health and behavioural needs and to alleviate pain and distress. The Act's obligations are written in general terms and it is codes of welfare that contain the detailed minimum standards of care and recommendations for best practice. Minimum standards in codes of welfare have legal effect as they may be used in evidence in the prosecution of offences under the Act. Demonstrating compliance with minimum standards may be used in defending a prosecution.

The draft code of welfare applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of pigs. It covers the welfare of pigs in all types of management systems regardless of the reasons for which they are kept (i.e. including pigs owned by non-commercial operators and pets). The minimum standards and recommendations for best practice in the code relate to stockmanship, the provision of food and water, shelter including housing, meeting behavioural needs, handling and husbandry procedures, disease and injury control, emergency humane destruction and welfare assurance systems.

The draft code has been reviewed in consultation with representatives of farmers, veterinarians and animal welfare organisations. NAWAC has determined that the draft code meets the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act for release for public consultation and is now seeking public feedback before finalising the code.

### **Review of the Pigs Code**

The review was set in the 2005 code so NAWAC could re-examine the use of confinement systems in pig production, such as dry sow stalls and farrowing crates, in light of developments since 2004. The review also enabled NAWAC to convert the code to a new style in which minimum standards are now statements of welfare outcomes to be met rather than prescriptions of husbandry practice. The minimum standards are accompanied by examples of indicators of how the achievement of the minimum standard might be measured.

### **The issues**

The use of dry sow stalls and farrowing crates is frequently criticised as failing to meet the obligations of the Animal Welfare Act because their use prevents sows from meeting a need defined in the Act as the "opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour". Worldwide, there is a growing public and consumer opposition to these forms of confinement of pigs. Some science also supports the need for change.

### **What are "normal patterns of behaviour"**

The Animal Welfare Act defines the five physical, health and behavioural "needs" of animals but qualifies them by saying that how they are met depends on the species, their environment and their circumstances. In doing so, the Act recognises that domestication and farming practices may modify the repertoire of behaviours that animals may display.

Pigs are social animals and prefer to live in groups. Sows have a strong urge to build a nest in the days leading up to farrowing, and only when she is farrowing and raising a litter will a sow choose to be isolated from others. Pigs of all ages are very vocal and often display behaviours such as rooting, chewing and other forms of oral and nasal stimulation. These natural behaviours are positive and should be catered for as far as possible.

However, pigs of all ages and in all production systems fight to establish dominance when they meet for the first time. Their place in the resulting dominance hierarchy is maintained through aggression and dominant pigs use bullying behaviours for access to food, water and space. Injuries from fighting can be severe enough to cause death. Subordinate pigs may suffer from lack of access to food and water resulting in nutritional stress, often leading to weight loss. Dominant sows may become over-weight to the detriment of their health. Aggression among sows can be particularly severe in the first four weeks of gestation. Sows' behaviour during and after farrowing, can create a number of hazards for their piglets. Piglets can be crushed as the sow lies down and she may also kill and eat piglets.

The challenge in modern pig production is to manage the aggression while giving pigs the opportunity to express a greater range of behaviours. The draft code of welfare briefly addresses techniques to achieve this, noting that above all, good stockmanship is the most important requirement. Where the aggressive behaviour is severe, such as in sows, confining them and denying them freedom to express some normal (good and bad) behaviours may be advantageous to overall welfare and helps to ensure that all members of the group can satisfy their needs for food, water and shelter and to avoid physical harm.

### **NAWAC's conclusions**

NAWAC re-affirms the view it stated in the 2005 code that the use of dry sow stalls and farrowing crates should be phased out eventually but only when key criteria can be met. These criteria include the availability of alternative technology and management systems which deliver better welfare outcomes overall at a practical and economic cost which allows New Zealand producers to remain competitive with producers of imported product. For dry sow stalls, this means allowing greater freedom of movement and socialisation while effectively managing aggressive behaviour. For farrowing crates, it means comparable protection of the piglets while allowing sows greater freedom of movement and fulfilling their desire for nest building and isolation from the herd at the critical period around birth.

NAWAC has examined what is happening in other countries in terms of these criteria. While there is a lot of investigation into alternative farrowing systems there is not yet any indoor system that NAWAC considers will provide better welfare for the lactating sow and her piglets at this time.

The situation regarding alternative systems for managing dry sows is more complex. Dry sow stalls and alternatives such as group housing both have welfare benefits and costs. The scientific evidence for distinguishing between them on welfare grounds, during the first four weeks of gestation, is equivocal because few studies have attempted to take a holistic approach to evaluating the welfare implications of the various housing systems. NAWAC policy states that for a close confinement system to be acceptable, compared to other management systems, demonstrable and significant animal welfare benefits must accrue from such close confinement. NAWAC does not accept there is sufficient scientific evidence of such benefits. Therefore, NAWAC proposes that **the use of dry sow stalls be discontinued**. In reaching this position NAWAC has recognised society's ethical concerns, noted that there has already been some movement away from dry sow stalls over the past six years within the New Zealand pig industry, and considered MAF's draft economic analysis. The draft economic analysis, based on data provided by the pork industry, indicates that a suitable date can be determined that limits the impact on industry of the transition to alternative systems.

Accordingly, the draft code proposes minimum standards that:

- limit the use of farrowing crates to four weeks post-farrowing from the date of issue of the code;
- limit the use of dry sow stalls to four weeks post-mating after 31 December 2012 (aligns with the European Union directive); and
- prohibit the use of dry sow stalls after a date to be determined following the consultation.

NAWAC and the New Zealand Pork Industry Board will continue to independently monitor domestic and overseas research and developments for better ways to manage farrowing sows that can be adopted by New Zealand producers. NAWAC will consider a future review of the code as and when such developments can be shown, on balance, to lead to better welfare outcomes.

The New Zealand Pork Industry Board has agreed that reducing the use of dry sow stalls to a maximum of the first four weeks of gestation is an interim step towards improved sow welfare. They have undertaken to continue to pursue and adopt suitable practicable systems for the management of dry sows as they are developed either in New Zealand or overseas. However, they do not support the prohibition of the use of dry sow stalls and claim this could have significant impacts on their industry. NAWAC is most concerned that this should not happen. The replacement of New Zealand-produced pork with imported pork produced to much lower welfare standards is not ethically supportable. MAF's draft economic analysis indicates that substantial import substitution is unlikely.

## Submissions

Comments are invited on any aspect of the draft code. In your submission, please specify those aspects that you support or oppose. Please give the reasoning behind your comments as well as any alternatives to the provisions of the draft code that you wish to recommend.

As part of your submission, we would particularly welcome your comment on the following questions about the proposed code of welfare:

1. Do you consider a code of welfare for pigs to be necessary? Are there any alternatives which would achieve the same outcome as having a code of welfare. If so what are they?
2. Do you agree that the minimum standards in this code are the minimum necessary to ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of pigs will be met? For example, do the minimum standards reflect good practice (not just current practice), current scientific knowledge and available technology? If not, what alternative(s) do you suggest? Please state your reasons.
3. Do you agree the example indicators given are appropriate to describe how to measure or assess the achievement of the intended outcome of the minimum standards? If not, what alternative(s) do you suggest? Please state your reasons.
4. Do you agree that the recommendations for best practice in this code are appropriate? If not, what alternatives do you suggest? Please state your reasons.
5. Do you believe there should be a standard on the minimum amount of light pigs should receive? If so what do you suggest? Please provide evidence for your suggestion.
6. What barriers do you see to the implementation of the proposed code and how might they be resolved?
7. What benefits do you see from having this code? Benefits may include, for example, increased certainty about animal welfare requirements or market gains.
8. What impacts do you think this code will have on New Zealand society, the economy, and the environment?

As part of your submission, we would particularly welcome any comments you may have on MAF's draft economic analysis and on the following questions:

1. Do you agree that the draft economic analysis has adequately taken into account all necessary factors? If not, what else should be included?
2. Are the assumptions in the draft economic analysis reasonable? Some of the main assumptions include the cost to farmers of converting and operating their farms, consumer responsiveness to increases in pigmeat prices, and the degree of overseas competition and import substitution. If not, what assumptions do you suggest? Please state your reasons.
3. The draft economic analysis estimates, depending on the date of prohibition, pigmeat price increases of about 4.4% to 4.7% and decreases in the availability of pigmeat of about 3.1% to 6.7%. The total cost for the pigmeat market is estimated at up to \$3.9 million per annum, or \$266 per sow per annum. What is your view on the size of these impacts?

The draft code and draft economic analysis have been developed, given the best available information at this time. NAWAC will carefully consider all submissions received, and other matters that it is required to consider under the Animal Welfare Act, before finalising the code and recommending it to the Minister of Agriculture for issue. MAF will consider all submissions received on the draft economic analysis and if appropriate, modify it. Any implications of such changes will also be considered by NAWAC before finalising the code. Your responses to the above questions will help both NAWAC in its analysis and the Minister's consideration of the code in the future.

Please note that submissions are public information and may be the subject of requests under the Official Information Act 1982. If you consider that any (or all) of the information in your submission should be treated as confidential or commercially sensitive, please state this clearly in your submission. Any decision to withhold information requested under the Official Information Act may be reviewed by the Ombudsman.

The draft code and the draft economic analysis can be inspected at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington and are available electronically at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare).

Please address your submission to:

[animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz) or

NAWAC Secretary  
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
NEW ZEALAND

Please also use this address if you no longer wish to receive draft codes of welfare when they are released for public consultation.

**Public consultation closes on Friday 16 April 2010.**

# Pigs

## Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2009

*A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999*

# PUBLIC DRAFT

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## **Preface**

[to be inserted by NAWAC when code is Gazetted by the Minister]

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 What is the purpose of this code of welfare?**

The purpose of this Code is to inform the owners of pigs and persons who are in charge of them about the minimum standards they must achieve in order to meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. The achievement of high standards of animal welfare in any pig production system requires skill and good judgement. Unless pigs are managed and handled well, their welfare cannot be adequately protected.

This code therefore stresses the importance of good stockmanship. There are several instances in this Code where matters are left to the judgement of the stockperson rather than being prescribed. The minimum standards provided, rather than prescribing how husbandry should be carried out, define the outcomes required for the pigs in order to meet their physical, health and behavioural needs. This approach allows the stockperson to be flexible in resolving problems that have an impact on the animals. Accordingly, this code is intended to encourage all those responsible for its implementation to adopt good practice in husbandry, care and handling.

This code also includes information and example indicators, to provide guidance on ways in which a minimum standard may be met. The inclusion of recommended best practice is intended to encourage all those responsible for its implementation to adopt a standard of husbandry, care and handling exceeding that required by minimum standards.

### **1.2 Who does this code apply to?**

This code is intended for all persons responsible for the welfare of pigs. Under the Act the “owner” of an animal and every “person in charge” of an animal is responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare. Responsibility for meeting minimum standards relating to the provision, design and maintenance of the facilities and equipment, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of performance of employees will lie with the owner and every person in charge of the pigs.

The owners or persons in charge may place the pigs in the care of others for purposes such as feeding, day-to-day management, rearing, transport and slaughter but this does not absolve them from their responsibility to ensure these tasks will be carried out in accordance with this code.

Responsibility for meeting minimum standards during the operation of particular tasks lies with the person responsible for carrying out that particular task. That person is “in charge” of the animals at that particular point in time. In practice, the person in charge will depend on the minimum standard in question.

### **1.3 What animals does this code apply to?**

This code applies to the welfare of all pigs in all types of management systems regardless of the reasons for which they are kept (i.e. including pigs owned by non-commercial operators).

### **1.4 What happens if I do not follow the minimum standards in this code?**

Failure to meet a minimum standard in this code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Animal Welfare Act. A person who is charged with an offence against the Animal Welfare Act can defend him or herself by showing that he or she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in this code.

The recommendations for best practice in this code have no legal effect and are included to encourage higher standards of animal welfare.

## **1.5 How does this code relate to other codes?**

Codes of welfare have been developed, or are being developed, for individual species of animals and for the transport of animals. Other codes of welfare should be consulted where appropriate (see Appendix V, “Codes of Welfare”, to this code and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry website at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/)).

## **1.6 How does this code balance physical, health, and behavioural needs?**

While the Animal Welfare Act does not provide for trade-offs between the physical, health and behavioural needs as defined in s4 of the Act, it qualifies needs by referring to a case-by-case application according to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal. This code acknowledges that, in general, some trade-offs between the needs of pigs are inevitable in order to arrive at the best overall welfare outcome because the requirements to satisfy various needs may be in conflict.

Two forms of methodological approach have been adopted in determining welfare status; motivational priorities and welfare indicators represented as biological functioning (primarily concerned with productive/reproductive performance and its effects on the animal), affective state (primarily concerned with an animal’s emotional state and its ability to cope with or adapt to its environment) and natural state (primarily concerned with behaviour as compared with the putative natural or native environment). Information from both approaches has been taken into account in defining the minimum and the recommended best practice welfare requirements for pigs in this code.

## 2. Stockmanship

### **Introduction**

Good stockmanship is the most important determinant of good animal welfare. The knowledge, skills, abilities and attitude of the stockhandlers are integral to the standard of welfare experienced by the pigs. Stockmanship is the ability to identify an animal's needs and ensure that action is taken to address those needs in a way that demonstrates an affinity with and empathy for the animal concerned.

Regardless of the pig production system employed, there will be inherent problems and particular welfare risks which the stockhandler needs to manage for the benefit of the animals. Stockhandlers need to be familiar with the risks that are characteristic of the production system in which they work. Good stockmanship is particularly important to ensure the welfare of pigs in larger groups, group housing or in outdoor conditions because it is more difficult to observe pigs individually in those systems.

Those responsible for the care of pigs should be competent and well trained. Staff should be appropriately instructed in the care and maintenance of pigs and how their actions may affect the animals' welfare. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of pigs is essential for monitoring their health and welfare. It is important that those in charge of pigs should be able to recognise early signs of distress, disease or aberrant behaviours so that prompt action is taken or expert (e.g. veterinary) advice sought.

Owners, managers or persons in charge are required to ensure that their staff have either the relevant knowledge and training, or appropriate supervision and support to ensure that the health and welfare needs of the pigs in their care are met. Personnel should undergo training either formally, or on the job, by experienced supervisors. All staff, including contract or temporary staff, should be trained and competent in their relevant tasks.

### **Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockmanship**

**Pigs must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who collectively possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with this code.**

#### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockmanship**

- Pig health and welfare is in accordance with the minimum standards listed in this code
- Stock handlers are familiar with the minimum standards listed in the code and a copy of the minimum standards is available on site at all times
- Job descriptions or other documentation of expectations of personnel duties include reference to pig health and welfare
- Evidence of training/competence can be demonstrated
- Pigs are well habituated to human contact and do not show fear of humans

**General Information**

Persons involved in the farming of pigs should be encouraged to receive external training from accredited training providers where relevant.

Information on qualifications and accredited training providers is available from the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation, PO Box 10 383, Wellington, or from the NZQA web site:  
<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/>

### 3. Food and Water

#### 3.1 Feed: General

##### **Introduction**

The amount of food and nutrients pigs require in any management system is affected by factors such as climate, the nutritional composition and quality of the diet, the age, gender, size and physiological state of the pigs (e.g. pregnancy, lactation), and their state of health, growth rate, previous feeding levels and level of activity and exercise.

These factors and the natural variation in the needs of individual animals mean it is not appropriate to specify the complete range of quantities and nutrients required. Approaches that simply use a regime of feeding pre-determined quantities are therefore discouraged. The need to adjust feeding levels to meet individual needs can be determined by monitoring body condition score, or by weighing at regular intervals. (See Appendix I for guidelines).

Feeding systems for groups of pigs require good design and management to maximise the opportunity for each pig to receive sufficient daily food. Measures to satisfy appetite as well as nutritional needs are important for pig welfare. Hungry pigs housed in groups are prone to showing aggression when competing for food, which can result in serious injury.

Outdoor pigs have greater feed requirements than indoor pigs because of the greater variability of environmental conditions, levels of activity and feed wastage.

Owners or persons in charge of pigs need to have a reliable source of feed and some reserves on hand in case supply or delivery fails.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 2 – Feed**

- (a) All pigs must receive adequate quantities of food and nutrients each day to enable each pig to:**
  - (i) maintain good health;**
  - (ii) meet its physiological demands; and**
  - (iii) avoid metabolic and nutritional disorders.**
- (b) Feed must be provided in such a way as to prevent undue competition and injury.**
- (c) When the body condition of any pig falls below 2 (on a scale of 1–5) immediate remedial action must be taken to resolve the issue.**

#### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 2 – Feed***

- Pigs are not vocalising unnecessarily
- Feeding frequency is appropriate to the age and growth rate of the pigs
- Trough space and the number of feeders are appropriate for the number and size of the pigs
- Competition at feeders and feed troughs is actively monitored e.g. by assessing rates of

injury, such as vulva bites and other injuries, and where necessary, access to feed or feeder space allowance is adjusted

- The design and operation of automated feeding systems allow access in a way that minimises intimidation, bullying and aggression
- Automatic feeding systems are checked at least once every 24 hours to ensure they are in working order and any problems rectified promptly.
- Weight loss and incidence of shoulder ulcers during lactation are minimised
- Body weights or body condition scores (see Appendices I of this code) are maintained at level appropriate for the class of pig:
  - Breeding sows after weaning not less than 2 and preferably not less than 3
  - Breeding sows at farrowing are not less than 3, and are preferably 3.5 - 4
  - Growers, finishers, boars not less than 2 and preferably not less than 3
- The diet is balanced nutritionally.
- Dung/manure appearance is “normal” i.e. no evidence of diarrhoea, or constipation

#### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Weaners and young growing pigs should be provided with frequent small meals of fresh, palatable feed.
- (b) Adult and growing pigs should be given enough bulky feed or high fibre feed to satisfy hunger.
- (c) Changes in the composition of the diet should be managed to avoid digestive upsets.

#### ***General Information***

Body condition scoring is a useful method of visually and manually assessing whether animals are receiving adequate nutrition. Refer to Appendix I for a body condition scoring scale in pigs. Note however that weight for age may be a more reliable indicator than body condition score for young rapidly growing pigs, especially those that are genetically bred for fast lean growth rates.

Information on recommended nutrient requirements of different types of pigs can be obtained through recognised industry experts (e.g. [www.nzpork.co.nz](http://www.nzpork.co.nz))

### **3.2 Feed: New-born Piglets**

#### ***Introduction***

It is essential that new-born piglets receive an adequate supply of colostrum from the sow or an appropriate colostrum substitute, as soon as possible after birth, and ideally within 24 hours, at a time when their digestive tract is still able to absorb the proteins that give immunological protection. Colostrum also provides a highly digestible source of energy. Sows' milk contains a range of proteins and other substances that protect the piglets from infections and digestive upsets. Continued access to sows' milk is therefore important for the welfare of the piglets.

Piglets receiving inadequate milk from their dam should, if possible, be transferred (fostered) to another appropriate lactating sow or may be hand-reared. Fostering should be carefully managed to ensure that the sow accepts her newly formed litter.

### **Minimum Standard No. 3 – Feed: New-born Piglets**

- (a) All piglets must receive colostrum or an appropriate substitute as soon as possible after birth.
- (b) If a lactating sow dies, her milk supply fails, or if her piglets are receiving inadequate nutrition, the piglets must be fostered, hand-reared or killed humanely.
- (c) Fostering must be carefully managed to ensure that the sow accepts and is able to feed all of the piglets.

#### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 3 – Feed: New-born Piglets**

- Morbidity and mortality rates of piglets fall within acceptable norms for the industry
- Growth rates, body condition and weaning weights of piglets fall within acceptable norms for the industry
- No excessive bite wounds on the sows udder
- Sow's udder is in good condition and she allows suckling
- Sows are monitored for milk production
- All piglets show typical vigour, body condition, vitality and freedom from injuries.
- No sow including a nurse sow is used to suckle piglets for longer than 6 weeks in any lactation

#### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Sows should be managed to prevent piglets from other litters sucking from recently farrowed sows, to ensure the sow's own piglets get the colostrum and milk they require.

### **3.3 Water**

#### **Introduction**

The provision of an adequate supply of water is critical for maintaining pig health and welfare. A pig's daily consumption of water varies with factors such as environmental temperature, age, liveweight and diet. Herd hierarchy and social interaction can limit access of individual pigs to drinking water. This may be aggravated in outdoor environments especially during hot weather when water consumption will rise, and in winter when water supplies may freeze.

### **Minimum Standard No. 4 – Water**

- (a) An adequate daily supply of water that is palatable, not harmful to health and at a temperature that does not inhibit drinking must be accessible to all pigs, other than piglets.
- (b) Alternative arrangements must be available in case of equipment or supply failure to ensure that pigs receive their daily water requirements.

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 4 – Water**

- Pigs are not vocalising unnecessarily
- Watering points are appropriate for the number and size of pigs and device used
- Competition at water sources is monitored
- Water reticulation systems are regularly checked and supply of clean water and use are monitored

**Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Water palatability and chemical and microbiological safety should be monitored on a regular basis especially for newly established piggeries.
- (b) In hot or very cold weather the water supply should be checked at least twice a day to ensure that the requirements of the pigs are being met.

## 4. Shelter including Housing Facilities

### **Introduction**

There is a wide range of pig production systems both indoor and outdoor. The standard of the facilities in which pigs are housed and sheltered, and the way in which these facilities are operated, has a direct impact on the health, productivity and welfare of pigs.

Whichever production system is used, pigs of all ages need to be provided with a dry, warm lying area and protection from excessive heat, cold and climatic extremes.

The provision and efficient operation of a suitable environment in indoor systems is typically reliant on technology, and the effective stockhandler in this environment must be fully familiar with its operation. Increasingly, growing pigs are group housed in eco-barns and similar deep litter systems. The requirements of pigs for space, ventilation, heating and air quality are also defined in this section.

### 4.1 Shelter for Pigs Outdoors

#### **Introduction**

Successful farming of pigs outdoors is dependent on a range of environmental features of which a free-draining soil, low rainfall, and a temperate climate are the most important. Many areas of New Zealand are unsuitable for large scale systems of outdoor production. Even where environmental conditions are suitable, there will be periods when weather conditions are difficult, and pigs need sufficient shelter provided to enable them to cope. Since outdoor pigs are directly exposed to climatic variations, the role of the stockhandler is crucial and good facilities are essential if good welfare is to be achieved in outdoor systems.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 5 – Shelter for Pigs Outdoors**

- (a) Pigs must be provided with dry and draft-free but adequately ventilated shelter.**
- (b) Pigs must be provided with the means to minimise the effects of adverse weather, including the effects of heat and cold stress.**

#### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 5 – Shelter for Pigs Outdoors**

- Arks or huts are insulated sufficiently to minimise internal temperature variation
- Accommodation is designed to cope with the most demanding weather conditions expected, especially protection from wind and driving rain, sun and overheating
- Ventilation is managed to avoid excess heat in summer and cold in winter
- Bedding material is provided to assist pigs to maintain body temperature in cold weather
- Minimal signs of cold or heat stress in pigs

**Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Farrowing arks and huts should be re-sited between batches of piglets and bedding, such as straw should be removed in order to limit the build-up and transfer of disease organisms.

**General Information**

Strategies to manage heat stress include wallows, feeding at night, provision of shade and a well ventilated paddock. Because pigs do not sweat, most temperature loss occurs by evaporation through skin and secondarily from lungs and nose. Air movement is a critical component for cooling. Mud is more effective than water for cooling pigs.

Strategies to manage cold stress include providing sleeping enclosures, provision of extra bedding/straw, hanging a movable screen over doorways to retain the warm air and feeding close to the housing. In cold conditions or climates, the benefits of additional space may be offset by chilling and associated health and welfare problems when there are too few pigs to heat the air space sufficiently. Stocking density for pigs kept outdoors will be determined by local government regulations and will depend on the nature of the land and rainfall.

Particular attention needs to be given to new-born piglets because they have difficulty maintaining body temperature independently of their environment.

## **4.2 Housing and Equipment for Pigs Indoors**

**Introduction**

Provision of adequate space, appropriate temperature and good ventilation are priorities in the design of any piggery accommodation and are inter-related. Space allowances for pigs must provide for their comfort at all times throughout the year, and throughout their growing cycle. If the environment is not controlled during hot weather, enough space should be provided to allow pigs in a pen to lie in lateral recumbency without the need to have body contact with other pigs. During cold periods, accommodation should provide warmth to reduce huddling or inappropriate dunging patterns.

Advice on welfare aspects should be sought from suitably qualified persons when new buildings are planned, existing buildings modified or equipment purchased.

## Minimum Standard No. 6 – Housing and Equipment

- (a) Housing systems must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that provides suitable (comfortable) temperatures, fresh air, and hygienic conditions.
- (b) Group housed pigs must be able to stand, move about and lie down without undue interference with each other in a space that does not include the dunging area.
- (c) Pigs must be provided with separate feeding and dunging areas.
- (d) All pigs must be able to be inspected.
- (e) The risk of injury, disease or stress for pigs must be minimised by appropriate design, construction and maintenance of housing and equipment.
- (f) Pigs must be provided with natural or artificial light of at least 20 lux appropriate intensity each day.
- (g) All mechanical equipment used in pig production must be maintained in good working order.
- (h) Alternative means of temperature regulation, ventilation, and for the feeding and watering of stock must be available in case of power or computer failure or mechanical breakdown.
- (i) Systems must be designed to minimise the impact of flooding in the event that water pipes or fittings burst.
- (j) Appropriate fire prevention measures and a fire emergency plan must be in place. This also applies to feed milling areas where they are adjacent to pig housing.

### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 6 – Housing and Equipment*

- Incidence of slipping, lameness and injury is monitored, promptly treated and kept less than 5%
- Incidence of aggressive behaviour is monitored and steps taken to lessen the impact of aggression when it becomes problematic
- The frequency of wounds from fighting is monitored and kept less than 15%
- Sleeping areas are of sufficient size to accommodate all the pigs lying comfortably on their sides without sharing space
- Natural and/or artificial light of at least 20 lux at pig level is available for inspection
- An equipment maintenance programme exists and a maintenance schedule is documented
- Staff are trained to manage the ventilation and temperature regulation equipment
- Spare parts for ventilation and heating equipment are available on site
- The emergency plan is documented and staff are familiar with it
- An alarm is fitted with a back-up power source to warn of ventilation system breakdown from power failure or mechanical reasons
- Electrical fittings and attachments to mains voltage are out of the reach of pigs, or protected from interference or damage by pigs
- Absence of toxic hazards e.g. paint, timber preservatives
- Pig distribution and behaviour monitored during daily inspections and corrective action to

adjust temperature or ventilation taken as required

- Alarm systems and emergency power supply tested on a regular schedule and test results documented
- Staff trained for emergency response
- Fire fighting equipment tested on a regular schedule.

### **General Information**

Poor maintenance of concrete, slatted or perforated floors can cause lameness or foot damage. An important aspect of slatted floor design is the width of the slat and the width of the gap in relation to the size of the pig it is designed for.

The minimum space allowance for growing pigs can be calculated by the formula: Area (m<sup>2</sup>) per pig = 0.033 x liveweight<sup>0.67</sup> (kg). A table showing the space required for growing pigs of different weights is available through NZPork ([www.nzpork.co.nz](http://www.nzpork.co.nz)).

Pigs in groups share space to some extent in most conditions. In periods of hot temperatures (>25 °C), enough space needs to be provided to allow growing pigs in a pen to lie in lateral recumbency. The space required for every growing pig to lie down laterally without sharing space can be calculated with the following formula: Area (m<sup>2</sup>) per pig = 0.047 x liveweight<sup>0.67</sup> (kg). A table showing the space required for growing pigs of different weights is available through NZPork ([www.nzpork.co.nz](http://www.nzpork.co.nz)). Note that this represents the static area occupied by a growing pig that is lying down. Total space requirements to meet movement and social needs may have to be increased in some situations, depending on the interaction of a number of factors characterising the housing and management system, including feeding strategies, group size, age, breed, temperature, insulation, ventilation, pen shape, flooring, lighting and other husbandry factors.

In deep litter housing systems the effluent is absorbed by the bedding material and in the event of burst pipes or fittings, water may not flow out of the pen, and flooding may occur.

Spraying floors with emulsified oils or water misters may assist in providing good air quality within shelters if they are dusty.

Information is available from [www.nzpork.co.nz](http://www.nzpork.co.nz) on space allowances and other aspects of housing design. Information on suitable fire fighting equipment can be obtained from Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington.

## **4.2.1 Temperature**

### **Introduction**

Because pigs have a narrow thermal comfort range, their welfare will be directly influenced by temperature extremes. This is particularly true for newborn piglets which have a relatively poor capacity to maintain core body temperature.

### **Minimum Standard No. 7 – Temperature**

- (a) Newborn piglets must be housed at temperatures that will assist them to reach and maintain normal body temperatures.**
- (b) Heating devices (e.g. infrared lamps, heat pads) must be securely fixed and**

**protected from interference by the sow and piglets.**

**(c) Ventilation control or other measures must ensure housed pigs do not become overheated or cold stressed during extremes of weather.**

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 7 – Temperature**

- Bedding is provided for piglets in unheated creep areas
- Piglet behaviour is monitored daily for indicators of thermal comfort. Hunched backs, sluggish movements, shivering and huddling suggest that the piglets are cold; panting and lying away from the heat source suggest that piglets are hot
- The sow’s welfare is not compromised by excessive heat from the creep area e.g. no panting and showing good appetite
- Housed pigs are protected from wide or abrupt temperature fluctuations
- Growing and adult pig behaviour is monitored at least once per day. Corrective action is taken if signs of cold or heat stress are observed.

**General Information**

The comfortable temperature range for a sow is significantly cooler than for piglets, so their varying requirements need to be balanced. Management strategies for indoor systems when ambient temperatures are hot include a reduction in stocking density, ventilation control and the use of cooling devices. These may need to be implemented to ensure that pigs do not experience heat stress when internal house temperature and humidity are high. Guidelines on optimum temperature ranges for categories of pigs are available from NZPork ([www.nzpork.co.nz](http://www.nzpork.co.nz)).

**4.2.2 Air Quality**

**Introduction**

Air quality in enclosed houses is important for pig comfort and welfare to provide fresh air, remove excess heat and moisture, minimise the transmission of air-borne infectious agents, remove waste gases and minimise dust particles in the atmosphere.

A balance is required between the needs to provide fresh air, prevent the build-up of noxious gases, keep pigs warm and protect pigs from draughts.

**Minimum Standard No. 8 – Air Quality**

- (a) Adequate ventilation must be provided in order to prevent the build-up of dust, and concentrations of gases such as ammonia, to levels that are harmful to pigs.**
- (b) Immediate and appropriate action must be taken to reduce ammonia levels if they exceed 25ppm at pig level within the housing facility.**

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 8 – Air Quality**

- Humidity, dust or ammonia (as detected by smell) levels that are not unpleasant to a human
- Minimal signs of heavy breathing and respiratory difficulties
- Inspections show minimal signs of discomfort, distress or disease (e.g. sneezing, coughing, runny eyes or noses)

**General Information**

Ammonia is produced as a component of animal effluent. Increases in air ammonia concentrations can occur for short periods in enclosed housing because of the need to restrict airflow to avoid draughts and chilling of pigs during cold or windy weather. High ammonia concentrations for prolonged periods can cause eye and respiratory irritation in pigs resulting in discomfort and respiratory disease and reduced growth rates. As a guide to the level of ammonia within the shed, 10-15ppm of ammonia in the air can be detected by smell and an ammonia level over 25 ppm will cause eye and nasal irritation in people.

The stockhandler needs to check regularly for the presence of noxious gases at pig level, since levels that are uncomfortable to the pig may not be recognised at normal human standing height.

Particular care with ventilation is required when pigs are kept over static effluent storage systems as dangerous fumes may result from the effluent. Stirring of effluent during pumping out the tanks poses a particular risk to stock above the effluent pit.

## 5. Behaviour

### **Introduction**

While domestication has made pigs easier to handle, some undesirable behavioural traits persist that may need to be managed to ensure pig welfare. These problems occur in all production systems but may require additional attention indoors where there are higher stocking densities. Pigs are hierarchical animals and will seek to establish a 'pecking order'. This may result in aggression and bullying by dominant pigs.

Where pigs of all ages are kept in groups, aggression can create welfare problems, which may be severe if they are not well managed. Also mixing unfamiliar pigs can result in fighting and injury unless preventative measures are put in place. Aggression can also occur at feeding times and is manifested by bullying, fighting and vices such as vulva, tail or ear biting. It is essential to be alert for these behaviours both to manage them and to identify and minimise the factors that cause them. Aggression can be mitigated by a variety of practices of which a high standard of stockmanship is essential.

Two systems that are employed to manage aggressive behaviour of sows are sow stalls and farrowing crates. However, in so doing these systems also limit sows' ability to express some other behaviours. One of the purposes of this section of the code is to establish a clear direction towards housing systems which provide pigs with the opportunity to engage in a greater range of behaviours while maintaining physical and health needs. Behaviours to be encouraged include relative freedom and choice of movement, social contact, nest building, rooting and other forms of oral-nasal stimulation.

Alternatives to temporary confinement systems (such as dry sow stalls and farrowing crates) are being investigated in many countries including New Zealand. Emerging systems aim to promote safety from injury from other animals while allowing greater freedom of movement and greater behavioural expression. New management practices and continuous improvement of current practices to manage aggression are encouraged to enhance the welfare of pigs.

### **Minimum Standard No. 9 – Behaviour**

- (a) Pigs must be housed and managed in ways that enable them to display as wide a range of behaviours as possible, within the constraints of the housing system, while minimising the welfare impacts of aggression.**

#### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 9 – Behaviour**

- Pigs show normal levels of activity, including vocalisations
- Pigs show minimal negative behaviours (e.g. stereotypies, tail, ear and vulva biting)
- Low level of negative social interactive behaviours observed
- Frequency of skin lesions, bites and other wounds from fighting are monitored and are kept less than 15%
- Sufficient quantities of nesting material are provided in the week before expected

farrowing, and particularly in the 24 hours prior to farrowing where the design of accommodation allows

***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Rooting material such as straw, or other material that can be manipulated, should be provided for all pigs.
- (b) Pigs with ear, vulva or tail bite wounds should be immediately separated from pen mates, where practicable, and treated if necessary. If the pig responsible for biting can be identified, it should be removed to an individual pen.
- (c) Genetic selection methods should be used as a means to reduce levels of aggression in pigs.
- (d) Where undesirable behaviours are detected, management and environmental conditions should be reviewed to identify the cause, and appropriate steps taken to reduce or remove the causal factors.
- (e) Facilities in which pigs are group housed but are individually fed, i.e. either individual feeding stations or via a computerised feeding system, should be monitored to reduce aggression at feeding times.
- (f) Every effort should be made to minimise mixing of unfamiliar pigs. When pigs are destined for slaughter and mixing is inevitable, they should be mixed at the time of loading onto the vehicle rather than before.
- (g) Where mixing has to occur, ways of reducing aggression, appropriate to each particular management situation should be considered.

***General Information***

Environmental enrichment can be provide through the provision of “toys” (e.g. a length of hanging chain, rock or “football”), positive human contact (such as pats, rubs and talking) or the use of a radio in growing sheds to accustom pigs to a range of noises and voices.

Aggression can be mitigated through a variety of practices such as attention to group size and composition, adequate space, feeding method, diet and the satisfaction of appetite, selection for temperament, provision of straw or other bedding to encourage foraging behaviour, individual feeding stalls, individual pens and baffles such as bales of straw to create escape areas where pigs can withdraw.

Techniques used to minimise aggression when mixing unfamiliar pigs include introducing pigs into a pen that has feed on the floor, introducing all of the pigs into a new pen at the same time, using group sizes of more than 50 pigs and using a pen with room for the pigs to move away, or with baffles such as bales of straw that pigs can hide behind.

## 5.1 Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets

### Introduction

Sows' behaviour during and after farrowing can create a number of hazards for their piglets. They can crush the piglets as they lie down and may also kill and eat piglets.

The purpose of any farrowing facility should be to provide the piglets with an area where they have ready access to the sow, where they can maintain body temperature and where they can avoid being laid on by the sow. The facility should also provide comfort for the sow and ideally, allow her some freedom of movement and the opportunity to engage in nest building behaviour. Meeting the needs of piglets can conflict with the needs of the sow, so systems used to manage farrowing sows and suckling piglets must balance their differing requirements.

In outdoor production, arks are the farrowing facility. The most common indoor facility is the farrowing crate. Both have the objective of ensuring a survival rate of piglets as high as is practicable. Farrowing crates also aid with the practice of fostering piglets between sows, a process which protects the welfare of smaller piglets or where the litter size is large and there are more piglets than the sow can adequately feed. Crates also provide the advantages of enabling individual feeding and health care. The disadvantages of farrowing crates for the sow include the restriction of movement and a reduced ability to carry out nest building.

### Minimum Standard No. 11 – Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets

- (a) Accommodation for farrowing and lactating sows must be of suitable design and sufficient size to allow the sow to lie down at full length and without leg restriction. The sow must also be able to be supported as she lies down, and be able to rise and stand comfortably without undue risk of injury to her litter.
- (b) When standing in a farrowing crate the sow must not touch both sides of the stall simultaneously, and her back must not touch any bars along the top.
- (c) The farrowing system must provide an area to which the piglets can retreat when the sow moves.
- (d) If sows are to be confined in farrowing crates, it must be for no more than four weeks post farrowing in any reproductive cycle.

#### **NAWAC comment for public consultation:**

*As was stated in the 2005 Code of Welfare, NAWAC wants to see a progressive shift for indoor housing systems to those in which the lactating sow and piglets have the benefits conferred by farrowing crates while giving the sow increased opportunity to express a greater range of behaviours. Although investigation of alternative systems is being undertaken in many countries, NAWAC is not able to identify viable alternative systems for adoption in New Zealand at this time. New Zealand Pork Industry Board have agreed that the requirements of Minimum Standard 11 are an interim step, not an endpoint, and have undertaken to continue their pursuit and adoption of suitable practicable systems that address NAWAC's concerns. New Zealand Pork Industry Board will report the results of their investigation and adoption of systems that meet these aims to NAWAC and the public, annually.*

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 11 – Managing Interactions between Sows and Piglets**

- There is an unobstructed area behind the sow when farrowing
- Piglet mortality rates are low
- Piglets are able to move to an area where they are safe from being crushed
- Sows can lie down at full length and without leg restriction, and rise and stand comfortably
- The configuration of the sides of the farrowing crate or ark provide support for the sow as she lies down
- There is space for the sow to suckle all piglets together at the same time and space is available on the narrowest side of the crate to allow piglets to escape
- The floor in the piglet area has a solid surface or is covered with a mat, is littered with straw or another suitable material

***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Sows should be introduced to clean farrowing quarters three to five days before the piglets are due to be born.
- (b) Sows should be provided with nest building material e.g. straw from at least 48 hours before farrowing.
- (c) Sows in farrowing crates should be provided with more space within 7 days of farrowing.
- (d) New-born piglets outdoors should be confined to the farrowing ark for the first week after birth.

***General Information***

Sudden disturbance of a sow can lead to piglet crushing. It is important to approach farrowing areas without alarming the sow.

Most piglet mortality occurs within the first 4 days after farrowing. At that time the sow becomes more active and piglets are also more mobile.

## 5.2 Managing Dry Sows

### **Introduction**

Sows and mated gilts are particularly aggressive during early pregnancy and may be housed individually to manage this. Mixing of sows usually results in various degrees of fighting as they establish a hierarchy and this reduces the well-being of some individuals in group housing systems.

Dry sow stalls have been developed as a means of managing the negative aspects of hierarchical aggression, the risks to the welfare of individuals, and foetal survival as the result of aggression. These welfare benefits need to be balanced against the welfare costs of restriction of movement and of the ability to express some other behaviour patterns such as foraging, social and explorative behaviour in a varied environment.

Individual sow housing ensures that nutrition, health, hygiene and stress can be effectively managed in the first weeks of pregnancy and thus minimises embryonic losses and sow injury. After the first four weeks of gestation have passed, sows become calmer as pregnancies become established and levels of progesterone increase. At this time, aggressive behaviours are more easily managed and the benefits of greater freedom of activity and social interaction in group housing should be provided. Alternative systems are available for managing these problems.

The transition from individual to group housing presents significant management challenges and calls for a high level of stockmanship. Stockhandlers need to be alert to aggressive interactions in dry sows and mated gilts. Individual pigs that are not coping well need to be provided with alternative management. Methods to manage aggressive interactions will be increasingly important as intensive confinement systems for dry sows and mated gilts are progressively phased out. Sows in larger groups with more, and varied space generally fight less.

### **Minimum Standard No. 12 – Managing Dry Sows**

- (a) Where sows and mated gilts are housed in dry sow stalls, they must be able to stand in their natural stance without contact with any side of the stall and be able to lie comfortably on their sides without disturbing neighbouring sows.**
- (b) Sows in stalls must have a dry, smooth, non-slip sleeping area.**
- (c) After 31 December 2012 mated sows and gilts must not be confined in dry sow stalls during any one pregnancy for more than the first 4 weeks after mating.**
- (d) Confinement in dry sow stalls must not be used from a date to be determined following consideration of evidence in submissions on the draft code and economic analysis.**
- (e) Individual pigs that are not coping well must be provided with alternative management.**
- (f) Pigs must not be restrained by tethering.**

### ***NAWAC comment for public consultation:***

*Dry sow stalls and alternatives such as group housing both have welfare benefits and costs. The scientific evidence for distinguishing between them on welfare grounds, during the first four weeks of gestation, is equivocal because few studies have attempted to take a holistic approach to evaluating the welfare implications of the various housing systems. NAWAC policy states that for*

*a close confinement system to be acceptable, compared to other management systems, demonstrable and significant animal welfare benefits must accrue from such close confinement. NAWAC does not accept there is sufficient scientific evidence of such benefits. Therefore, NAWAC proposes that the use of dry sow stalls be discontinued. Based on MAF's draft economic analysis NAWAC's current preferred option is for the phase out of dry sow stall use by December 2017. This option will be reconsidered when we receive submissions on the draft code and draft economic analysis.*

**Note:**

**Section 73(3) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 provides that the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) may, in exceptional circumstances, recommend minimum standards that do not fully meet the obligations to ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met. In making this recommendation NAWAC must have regard to, among other things, the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition, and the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.**

**NAWAC considers that the use of dry sow stalls does not fully meet the obligations of the Act. Minimum Standard 12 (c) reduces the transition period for the phasing out of dry sow stall use beyond 4 weeks after mating to 31 December 2012. Minimum Standard 12 (d) allows a transition period for phasing out all dry sow stall use.**

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 12 – Managing Dry Sows**

- Sows do not show stereotypic behaviours
- Sows can lie down at full length and without leg restriction, and rise and stand easily and comfortably
- Sows are not forced to lie down in water, faeces or urine
- Sows are able to undertake investigatory behaviours

**General Information**

Continuous welfare improvement and new management developments are strongly encouraged to enhance the welfare of breeding pigs. This can be achieved through development of systems that allow individual management of feed and health and a greater freedom of movement while improving opportunities to express normal behaviour and to minimise aggressive behaviour.

Exposure to or contact with a boar or boars may help reduce aggression between sows kept in group situations.

## **5.3 Managing Boars**

**Introduction**

While artificial insemination is widely used in New Zealand pig farming systems, most farms also keep a number of boars for breeding purposes. Breeding boars may be kept on their own, in small groups, or with a group of breeding gilts or sows. Boars that are kept on their own are normally taken out several times a week for heat detection or mating purposes and will receive behavioural and social enrichment from this activity.

### **Minimum Standard No. 13 – Managing Boars**

- (a) Boars must be provided with sufficient space that they can stand up, turn around and lie comfortably in a natural position, and maintain separation of dunging, lying and eating areas.
- (b) Boars must not be tethered or kept in stalls.

#### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 13 – Managing Boars***

- All boars have an area where they can lie down, stand up and turn around comfortably

#### ***General Information***

Boars need adequate exercise to ensure that their physical needs are met. Where boars are kept in groups, they need to be selected for mutual compatibility and skin lesions and wounds from fighting are monitored and their frequency is kept to a minimum.

Boars can be kept with a group of breeding gilts or sows, provided that persistent bullying does not occur.

Boars that become lame need to receive appropriate treatment or be culled promptly.

The floor of the mating area needs to have a non-slip surface and adequate drainage.

## 6. Handling and Husbandry Procedures

### 6.1 Handling

#### *Introduction*

Minimisation of undue stress and the avoidance of injury are key considerations whenever pigs are being restrained or handled.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 14 – Handling**

- (a) Pigs, including piglets, must not be picked up or suspended by one front leg or an ear.
- (b) Handling facilities must be available to deal with all pigs and piglets undergoing routine procedures and for animals that are sick and requiring treatment.
- (c) Stress of handling must be minimised by appropriate design of the facilities, especially entrances and raceways.

#### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 14 – Handling*

- No injuries attributable to handling are evident
- Facilities are available to allow the handling of all classes of pigs

#### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) Where stock are introduced to electric fencing, care should be taken to ensure they do not become trapped or harmed.

#### *General Information*

Nose snares are useful to restrain pigs when carrying out minor husbandry procedures. Care is required to ensure that the nose snare is of appropriate strength and design to hold the pig and that it does not injure the pig's nose as the pig pulls back. It should also allow for quick release once restraint is no longer required.

### 6.2 Moving pigs

#### *Introduction*

Patience, care, good stockhandling and well designed facilities will ensure that any distress when moving pigs is minimised, and injury to either the pigs or stock handler is avoided.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 15 – Moving Pigs**

- (a) Only the minimal force required must be used when moving pigs.
- (b) Pigs must be moved without resort to whipping or prodding of sensitive areas which include the eyes, nose, anus, vulva and testicles.
- (c) Electric prodders must not be used.

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 16 – Moving Pigs**

- Pigs flow easily when moved
- Lack of injuries such as welts or bruises
- Pigs are not excessively nervous in the presence of handlers

**Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Dogs (unless they are specifically trained for the purpose) and plastic pipes should not be used on pigs.
- (b) If an aid is required to assist in moving pigs, or to protect the stockhandler, backing (moving) boards, rattles and distractants, such as a plastic bag on the end of a handle, should be used.

**General Information**

Gate shyness is a potential problem where gateways have been electrified and it is helpful to use gate markers so that the pigs can identify when the gateway is open.

## 6.3 Weaning

**Introduction**

Weaning can be a stressful time and good management is required. Problems associated with weaning are generally related to the piglet's size and physiological maturity. Early weaning systems require good management and nutrition of the young piglets.

**Minimum Standard No. 16 – Weaning**

**Weaning must be managed in a way that avoids undue stress on the sow and piglets and therefore minimise negative impacts on their health and welfare.**

**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 17 – Weaning**

- Recently weaned pigs are warm and have access to palatable food and clean water
- Smallest pigs (runts) are individually fed or are separated into a group and specially cared for
- Age at weaning is between 18 and 33 days

**Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Compromised weaned pigs should be managed separately until they are robust enough to rejoin a group.
- (b) Groups should be constituted as soon as possible after weaning, weaned pigs should be kept with litter mates if possible, and weaner groups should be kept as stable as possible.

## 6.4 Elective Husbandry Procedures

### **Introduction**

Castration, tail docking, teeth clipping, tattooing, ear tagging and notching, nose ringing and tusk trimming are covered by the general provisions of the Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005. In principle, procedures that may be painful or stressful for the animal should only be carried out where they are justifiable to prevent undesirable consequences that could subsequently result in animal suffering. Minimising the stress, pain or discomfort of these procedures requires attention to the suitability of the area in which the operation is performed, the catching facilities, the type and amount of restraint, the selection and maintenance of appropriate instruments, good hygiene, the subsequent care of the animals, and the skill of stockhandlers carrying out the procedures.

### **Minimum Standard No. 17 – Elective Husbandry Procedures**

- (a) If tail docking is performed, it must be done before 7 days of age.
- (b) Surgical castration or tail docking of pigs over 7 days of age must be carried out by a veterinarian.
- (c) If performed, teeth clipping of pigs must be carried out before 5 days of age.

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 18 – Elective Husbandry Procedures**

- Procedures are documented and only undertaken when justified
- Pain and distress are minimised during and after the procedure
- A veterinarian has undertaken all invasive procedures

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Pain relief should be given when any elective husbandry procedure is carried out.
- (b) Surgical castration should not be undertaken.
- (c) Where tail docking is undertaken as a preventative measure for tail biting, it should be carried out on the piglets within 72 hours of birth. Only one-third to one-half of the tail should be removed.
- (d) Where performed, ear notching should be done within 72 hours of birth.
- (e) If nose rings, clips or wires are used on pigs kept on pasture, they should be placed through the cartilage at the top of the snout or in the tissue separating the nostrils.
- (f) If rings wear out quickly they should be replaced with clips.
- (g) Tusks may be trimmed as a precaution in aggressive boars. Where tusk trimming is performed, appropriate methods of restraint should be used and tusks should be severed above the level of the gums without causing damage to other tissues. Current knowledge indicates that there is no nerve supply to the tusk above the gum line; however if practical experience suggests that a boar experiences pain during trimming, analgesics should be used.

### **General Information**

Where it is necessary for permanent identification, the ears may be notched, tagged, punched or tattooed, or the body may be tattooed, or an electronic identification system used.

Before considering tail docking other measures of controlling tail biting need to be considered.

Clipping the needle teeth prevents laceration of the sows' udder and damage to litter mates. Teeth grinding may be an alternative to teeth clipping.

Nose rings are used to discourage pasture damage from rooting, a natural behaviour.

## **6.5 Pre-Transport Selection**

### **Introduction**

Transporting pigs can present problems, particularly if they are not accustomed to being herded. Patience is essential, and the proper design of yards, loading ramps and other associated services is needed to facilitate loading with minimum distress and bruising.

It is a specific requirement of the Act that pigs must be fit enough to withstand a journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Transport of pigs will also be covered by additional codes of welfare relating to the transport of animals.

### **Minimum Standard No. 18 – Pre-transport Selection**

**Pigs must be inspected prior to transport to ensure all are fit to be transported.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 18 – Pre-transport Selection**

- All pigs selected for transport are healthy and able to support weight on all four limbs

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Pigs should be moved from their housing and loaded into the transport vehicle as a single operation.
- (b) Stocking densities on transport vehicles should be adjusted to minimise heat stress.
- (c) Pigs should receive no more than two tattoos before being transported to slaughter.

### **General Information**

Pre-travel rest is not relevant for pigs so they can be loaded direct from their housing pen.

The timing of the last feed before transportation to slaughter needs to consider both the duration of transport and the time pigs will be held at the slaughter plant before slaughter. Ideally the time from last feed to slaughter should not exceed 24 hours so the conflicting needs to minimise hunger, travel sickness during transport and potential contamination from gut spillage during processing have to be balanced. Feeding close to the time of transport may increase transport stress from travel sickness.

## 7. Disease and Injury Control

### **Introduction**

There is a reciprocal relationship between the health and welfare of pigs. Normally a healthy pig has a good appetite, and is active, curious and vocal. To ensure the welfare of pigs, it is necessary for pig owners and stockhandlers to be familiar with normal pig behaviour and the signs of good and poor health.

### **Minimum Standard No. 19 – Management of Health and Injury**

- (a) The owner or person in charge must check pigs at least once each day for signs of ill-health or injury and must undertake timely preventative or remedial action as appropriate.
- (b) Those responsible for the care of pigs must be competent at recognising the signs of good health, ill-health, or injury and must consult a veterinarian as appropriate.
- (c) Medication must only be used in accordance with registration conditions, and manufacturer's instructions or professional advice.
- (d) Piglets must receive sufficient iron to prevent anaemia.
- (e) Contaminated bedding, faeces and urine must not accumulate to the extent that they pose a threat to the health and welfare of pigs.

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 19 – Management of Health and Injury**

- There is evidence of daily inspection and remedial outcomes are documented
- Animals that have failed to respond to treatment are destroyed humanely and promptly
- Cause of death, illness or injury is determined as far as possible and records of these maintained and reviewed on a regular basis
- Where the early signs of a disease outbreak are recognised or suspected or mortalities are greater than expected, the expert advice sought and any intervention is documented
- There is a documented herd health plan that includes prophylactic treatments such as vaccination schedules and parasite management
- Hygiene standards are good
- Pigs are not rubbing or scratching excessively
- Low levels of lameness, claw lesions and leg injuries are present

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) The frequency of inspections should be increased during extreme weather conditions, during outbreaks of disease, when farrowing is expected, or when groups of pigs have been recently mixed.
- (b) A veterinarian should be consulted for advice on establishing a health programme covering disease, injury and parasite control.

- (c) Separate accommodation should be available to house sick and injured pigs during their treatment and recovery.
- (d) Piglets should be given an iron supplement within 48 hours of birth if it is needed.
- (e) Records detailing deaths, sick animals, treatments given and responses to treatment should be kept to assist disease investigations.
- (f) Veterinary advice should be sought where there is:
  - (i) significant injury or disease
  - (ii) persistent or chronic pain
  - (iii) persistent ill-thrift and poor performance that does not respond to treatment
  - (iv) concern about the welfare of the animal.
- (g) If the animal is suffering from an incurable condition or a condition that does not respond to treatment, then the animal should be euthanased humanely and promptly.

### ***General Information***

Inspections are most easily made at feeding times as sick pigs will generally show reduced appetite.

Regular cleaning programmes or replenishment of litter needs to be carried out to ensure that contaminated bedding, faeces and urine do not accumulate to a level such that they pose a threat to the health and welfare of pigs. The frequency of cleaning and disinfection required will depend on the housing system, ambient temperature, the type of flooring and stocking density.

A herd health plan may include vaccination, parasite management, culling, medication, post-mortems, disposal of dead pigs and genetic selection.

## 8. Emergency Humane Destruction

### **Introduction**

There are circumstances when pigs with injury or disease need to be killed on the farm for humane reasons or in an emergency. The Act provides that it is an offence to kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. This means that the method of killing should cause immediate loss of consciousness which persists until the animal is dead. It is also important that the animal be handled quietly beforehand to ensure it is not unnecessarily distressed or alarmed.

### **Minimum Standard No. 20 – Emergency Humane Destruction**

- (a) When pigs have to be killed it must be done by persons competent in the handling and conduct of that act and they must confirm death by inspection of the animal.**
- (b) When a pig needs to be killed it must be handled, restrained and killed in such a manner as to minimise unnecessary pain and distress prior to death.**
- (c) Pigs must be rapidly rendered insensible and remain in that state, until death.**
- (d) Animals rendered insensible by a blow or shot to the brain must be bled out immediately to ensure death occurs before recovery from stunning.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 20 – Humane Destruction**

- Humane destruction protocols are documented
- Persons undertaking humane killing are appropriately trained
- Any pig being killed on farm is managed gently and calmly at all stages of the process
- Any equipment used to undertake humane killing is well maintained in order to operate efficiently
- All pigs are stunned before killing. (This includes a method of stunning that results in immediate insensibility and death)
- All pigs that are killed are inspected following the procedure to ensure death

### **General Information**

Killing for welfare reasons needs to be undertaken in any circumstance where there is likely to be an unacceptable delay in treating the source of suffering, where the source of suffering is untreatable, or where transportation of the animal would perpetuate or aggravate the condition to a significant extent.

A method should be chosen that will render the pig unconscious, then to ensure that death occurs, the main arteries in the neck or chest should be severed. The animal should be inspected to ensure that it is not breathing, that the heart has stopped beating, that the pupils have dilated and there is no corneal reflex to ensure that it is dead.

Methods of humane destruction are:

- Pigs up to weaning: a blow to the frontal region of the skull sufficient to fracture the skull followed by bleeding out

- Grower, Finisher and Adult Pigs: shooting with a rifle, 12 gauge shotgun loaded with buckshot or captive bolt pistol. The captive bolt pistol is held against the head at the point of intersection of line between each eye and the opposite ear. Rifles can be directed at the same site but should be held several centimetres away. Shotguns should be directed behind an ear from a distance of 20 centimetres directed toward the opposite eye.
- Large pigs: the skulls of large pigs are very dense so a captive bolt may not penetrate the skull. A shotgun or rifle is the preferred method.

The correct position of the blow or shot is critical for humane and effective killing. The optimum position for pigs is on the midline just above eye level, with the shot directed down the line of the spinal cord.



## **9. Welfare Assurance System**

### ***Introduction***

The maintenance of good records is an integral part of a welfare assurance system and good farm management.

### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) To ensure that standards of animal welfare and husbandry are maintained, each commercial pig facility should implement a welfare assurance system with written procedures for the delivery of high standards of welfare and husbandry that incorporate monitoring and reporting protocols.
- (b) The elements of the welfare assurance system should provide for the minimum standards and, where possible, the recommendations for best practice of this Code.
- (c) The welfare assurance system should provide for all incidents resulting in significant sickness, injury or death of animals to be fully investigated and documented. Where the results of an investigation may have implications for current industry management practices, a report outlining the incident and implications should, as soon as it is available, be forwarded to the appropriate industry body for consideration.
- (d) The welfare assurance system should require continual review of existing practices and procedures that could enhance the welfare of pigs.

### ***General Information***



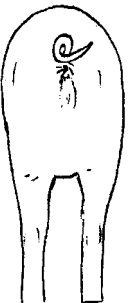
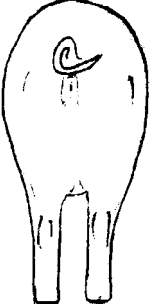
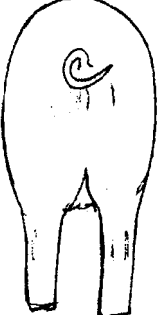
The adoption or adaptation of an industry generic welfare assurance programme for welfare and husbandry procedures will meet these recommendations.

Pork producers and the New Zealand Pork Industry Board actively encourage ongoing assessments of management practices that may improve the welfare of pigs. Where improvements to current practice are identified, these are communicated to pork producers via appropriate technology transfer methods such as seminars, workshops, and industry newsletters.

While the quality system should be based on the general principles of Standard AS/NZ 9002 or similar quality system it is not essential that it be certified under the JASANZ (Joint Accreditation Standards for Australia and New Zealand) certification scheme.

Accurate identification of animals is important.

## Appendix I: Condition Scoring of Pigs

Numerical Score	Pelvic Bones, Tailhead	Loin	Vertebrae	Ribs
	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.
	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.
	Pelvic bones covered.	Edge of transverse spinal processes covered and rounded.	Visible over the shoulder. Some cover further back.	Covered but can be felt.
	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.
	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 II: Interpretation and Definitions

<b>Act</b>	The Animal Welfare Act 1999.
<b>animal</b>	As defined in the Act: “(a) Means any live member of the animal kingdom that is – (i) A mammal; or (ii) A bird; or (iii) A reptile; or (iv) An amphibian; or (v) A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or (vi) Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or (vii) Any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of the Act; and (b) Includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and (c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but (d) Does not include – (i) A human being; or (ii) Except as provided in paragraph above, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.”
<b>available technology</b>	NAWAC takes to mean technologies which are used practically to care for and manage animals, for example, existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices and facilities.
<b>ad libitum</b>	Allowing pigs to consume an unrestricted amount of feed and/or water.
<b>adult</b>	Any pig over the age of 9 months.
<b>adverse weather</b>	Weather conditions that may pose harm or risk to the animals, including excessive heat and cold.
<b>ark</b>	A weatherproof moveable structure designed for housing sows and/or piglets in outdoor production systems.
<b>boar</b>	An uncastrated male pig over 9 months of age.
<b>body condition score</b>	A five stage scoring system used to classify the condition of pigs, based on the amount of fat and/or muscle covering its hump.
<b>corneal reflex</b>	Involuntary closing of eyelids in response to stimulation of the cornea (surface of eyeball) by touch.

<b>crate</b>	Crates are independent pieces of equipment designed for confining pigs for a number of husbandry functions, including weighing, handling for veterinary interventions, farrowing and assisting with other reproductive processes.
<b>creep area</b>	Separate area within a farrowing facility in which piglets are protected from crushing or overlying by the sow, and which is usually heated to provide a temperature that is more suitable for maintaining the welfare of piglets, at the same time as maintaining the comfort of the sow.
<b>creep meal</b>	A highly palatable, nutritious feed fed to piglets while they are suckling the sow.
<b>colostrum</b>	Milk secreted by the sow for the first few days after farrowing, characterised by high protein and antibody content.
<b>deep litter system</b>	A type of group housing system in which pigs are kept on a deep layer of bedding material, usually straw or sawdust.
<b>dry feeding</b>	Providing feed in a 'dry' form, i.e. separate from any additional water.
<b>dry sow</b>	A non-lactating sow.
<b>dry sow stall</b>	An enclosure in which mated gilts and sows are kept individually. Stalls are normally joined together in rows and may be used for total confinement or allow the pig free choice of access.
<b>elective husbandry procedures farrowing</b>	A non-essential procedure that may be done to aid management of pigs. Giving birth to piglets.
<b>farrowing crate</b>	An enclosure matched to the sow's body size, in which sows are kept individually during and after farrowing, to help reduce piglet mortality. Such crates prevent sows from turning around.
<b>farrowing pen</b>	An enclosure for confining individual sows and their litters during and after farrowing. Such pens contain a creep area and a farrowing crate or other structure for confinement of the sow.
<b>feeder</b>	Equipment from which feed is dispensed.
<b>feeding station</b>	An enclosure used in group housing systems, which animals enter into one at a time to be fed.
<b>finisher</b>	Pigs that are generally above 70 kg liveweight, until they are sold or retained for breeding. The same meaning applies for pigs referred to as "Finishing".
<b>foster</b>	A management practice whereby a piglet is moved soon after farrowing, so that it is fed by a sow that is not its mother.
<b>gilt</b>	A young female pig, selected for reproductive purposes, before she has had a litter of piglets.

<b>grower</b>	Pigs generally with liveweights between 30 and 70 kg. The same meaning can apply for pigs referred to as “Growing”.
<b>growing pigs</b>	Weaners, growers and finishers.
<b>husbandry</b>	Care and management practices in pig keeping.
<b>hut</b>	See definition for “ark”.
<b>lactating sow</b>	A sow that has given birth, and is producing milk to feed her piglets.
<b>lux</b>	An international measure of light intensity (not to be confused with watts).
<b>mated gilt</b>	A young female pig that has been mated, but has not had a first litter.
<b>nurse sow</b>	A sow that is used to suckle piglets after her own litter has been weaned.
<b>p2</b>	A fat depth measurement which is taken at the level of the last rib, 6.5cm from the mid-line of the back (lateral to the centre of the vertebral column).
<b>pathogen</b>	A disease-causing agent of an infectious nature, such as a bacterium or virus.
<b>pecking order</b>	The social hierarchical order whereby individuals establish their dominance position within a group of pigs.
<b>pen</b>	An enclosure for confining pigs in which they can turn around. Pens may be used for housing pigs in groups, housing boars individually, management purposes such as mating or farrowing, or for confining pigs individually.
<b>piglet</b>	A pig up to the time it is weaned from the sow.
<b>proprietary liquid supplement</b>	A liquid product purchased from a commercial company to add nutrients to a pig’s diet.
<b>reproductive cycle</b>	The period from mating to the following mating, which in the context of this code is defined as 150 days.
<b>rooting</b>	A behaviour of pigs whereby they use their nose to dig in the ground or in any available material.
<b>sow</b>	An adult female pig, which has had one or more litters.
<b>stall</b>	An enclosure, closely related to the pig's body size, in which gilts, sows and boars are kept individually.
<b>stereotypy</b>	A repeated, relatively invariant sequence of movements that has no obvious goal or function.
<b>tethering</b>	A method of restraining pigs whereby a neck or girth collar is attached to a short length of chain, which is in turn fixed to the floor or the front of a pen.

<b>weaner</b>	A pig after it has been weaned from the sow up until approximately 30kg in liveweight.
<b>wet feeding</b>	Providing feed in a slurry form, where water and feed are combined.

## **Appendix III: Legislative Requirements**

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) imposes obligations on every person who owns or is in charge of an animal. This code has been issued pursuant to section 75 of the Act and will provide guidance on how to comply with the legislative requirements. However, this code does not provide an exhaustive list of the Act's requirements, and owners and those in charge of animals should note that they must comply with the minimum standards in this code *and* the general provisions in the Act. A copy of the Act is accessible at: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz>.

### **Contents of Codes**

Section 69 of the Act provides that a code of welfare may relate to one or more of the following:

- a species of animal
- animals used for purposes specified in the code
- animal establishments of a kind specified in the code
- types of entertainment specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used)
- the transport of animals
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

In deciding to issue a code of welfare, the Minister must be satisfied as to the following matters set out in section 73(1) of the Act:

- that the proposed standards are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Act will be met
- that the recommendations for best practice (if any) are appropriate.

Despite the provisions of section 73(1), section 73(3) of the Act allows NAWAC, in exceptional circumstances, to recommend minimum standards and recommendations for best practice that do not fully meet the obligations of:

- sections 10 and 11 – obligations in relation to physical, health and behavioural needs of animals
- section 12(c) – killing an animal
- section 21(1)(b) – restriction on performance of surgical procedures
- section 22(2) – providing comfortable and secure accommodation for the transport of animals
- section 23(1) and (2) – transport of animals
- section 29(a) – ill-treating an animal.

In making a recommendation under section 73(3), section 73(4) requires NAWAC to have regard to:

- the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices to new practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition
- the requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both
- the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

This code provides for the physical, health and behavioural needs (as defined in section 4 of the Act) of animals being presented for slaughter. These needs include:

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter
- opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour

- physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease,

being a need which, in each case, is appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal.

This code also takes account of:

- good practice
- scientific knowledge
- available technology.

### ***Legal Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals***

The owner or person in charge of an animal has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animal in his or her care. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act.

- (a) The owner or person in charge of an animal must:
- (i) ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge
  - (ii) where practicable, ensure that an animal that is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal or that it is killed humanely.
- (b) The owner or person in charge of an animal must not without reasonable excuse:
- (i) keep an animal alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
  - (ii) sell, attempt to sell or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of being killed, an animal, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
  - (iii) desert an animal in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.
- (c) No person may:
- (i) ill-treat an animal
  - (ii) release an animal that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances in which the animal is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
  - (iii) perform any significant surgical procedure on an animal unless that person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, or a person approved by a veterinarian
  - (iv) perform on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure (as defined by the Act) in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
  - (v) kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

### ***Regulations Review Committee of Parliament***

Codes of welfare are deemed to be regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989. As such, they are subject to the scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee of Parliament.

Any person or organisation aggrieved at the operation of a code of welfare has the right to make a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This is a parliamentary select committee charged with examining regulations against a set of criteria and drawing to the attention of the House of Representatives any regulation that does not meet the criteria.

Grounds for reporting to the House include:

- the regulation trespasses unduly on personal rights and freedoms;
- the regulation is not made in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statute under which it is made; or
- the regulation was not made in compliance with the particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statute.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint should refer to the publication *Making a Complaint to the Regulations Review Committee*, which can be obtained from the website:

<http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz>, or by writing to: Clerk of the Committee, Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

### **Strict Liability**

In the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 committed after 19 December 2002, evidence that a relevant code of welfare was in existence at the time of the alleged offence and that a relevant minimum standard established by that code was not complied with is rebuttable evidence that the person charged with the offence failed to comply with, or contravened, the provision of the Animal Welfare Act to which the offence relates. (See sections 13(1A), 24(1) and 30(1A) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, as amended by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002.)

### **Defences**

It is a defence in the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 if the defendant proves that there was in existence at the time of the alleged offence a relevant code of welfare and that the minimum standards established by the code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. (See sections 13(2)(c), 24(2)(b) and 30(2)(c).)

If a defendant in a prosecution intends to rely on the defence under section 13(2)(c) or 30(2)(c), the defendant must, within seven days after the service of the summons, or within such further time as the Court may allow, deliver to the prosecutor a written notice. The notice must state that the defendant intends to rely on section 13(2) or 30(2) as the case may be, and must specify the relevant code of welfare that was in existence at the time of the alleged offence, and the facts that show that the minimum standards established by that code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. This notice may be dispensed with if the Court gives leave. (See sections 13(3) and 30(3).)

**The strict liability provisions and the defence of equalling or exceeding the minimum standards established by a code of welfare apply to the following offences:**

#### ***Failing to Provide***

Section 12(a): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10 (which provides that the owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge).

#### ***Suffering Animals***

Section 12(b): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11 (which

provides that the owner of an animal that is ill or injured, and every person in charge of such an animal, must, where practicable, ensure that the animal receives treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal).

Section 12(c): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

### ***Surgical Procedures***

Section 21(1)(b): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, acts in contravention of or fails to comply with section 15(4) (which provides that no person may, in performing on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure, perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress).

### ***Transport***

Section 22(2): A person commits an offence who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any provision of section 22(1) (which provides that every person in charge of a vehicle or an aircraft, and the master of or, if there is no master, the person in charge of, a ship, being a vehicle, aircraft or ship in or on which an animal is being transported, must ensure that the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, and that, in particular, the animal is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation and is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water).

Section 23(1): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, confines or transports an animal in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Section 23(2): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or the person in charge of, an animal, permits that animal, without reasonable excuse, to be driven or led on a road, or to be ridden, or to be transported in or on a vehicle, an aircraft, or a ship while the condition or health of the animal is such as to render it unfit to be so driven, led, ridden or transported.

### ***Ill-treatment***

Section 29(a): A person commits an offence who ill-treats an animal.

### ***Inspection of Premises***

Section 127(1): Inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 have the power to enter any land or premises (with the exceptions of dwellings and marae), or any vehicle, aircraft or vessel, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of inspecting any animal.

Inspectors include officers of MAF Special Investigation Group, inspectors from approved organisations (e.g. Royal New Zealand SPCA, AWINZ) appointed by the Minister, and the Police.

## **Appendix IV: Codes of Welfare**

### ***Codes of Welfare***

- Animal Welfare (Broiler Chickens: Fully Housed) Code of Welfare 2003
- Animal Welfare (Rodeos) Code of Welfare 2003
- Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Zoos) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Circuses) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007
- Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007
- Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2010

### ***Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards***

- Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand, September 1991
- Welfare of Sheep, July 1996
- Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers, July 1992, amended August 1994, August 1997
- Welfare of Horses, February 1993
- Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments, August 1993
- Sale of Companion Animals, September 1994
- Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand, November 1994, amended June 1996, August 1998
- Welfare of Animals at Saleyards, May 1995
- Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock, December 1996
- Welfare of Dogs, May 1998
- Welfare of Ostrich and Emu, September 1999

### ***Guidelines***

- Welfare of Stock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes, April 1996
- Welfare of Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth, September 1997
- Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet, September 1998

<p>Codes and Guidelines may be obtained from:</p> <p><i>Executive Co-ordinator Animal Welfare MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry PO Box 2526 WELLINGTON 6140 Tel: 04 894 0366 email: <a href="mailto:animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz">animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz</a></i></p>	<p>Or can be inspected at:</p> <p><i>Pastoral House Reception Level 10 25 The Terrace WELLINGTON 6011</i></p>
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Codes and Guidelines are available on MAF's website.

The web page address is: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>.