

Key figures for pig accommodation in England – legislative requirements





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Introduction

The information presented here is transposed and summarised for information only and does not replace relevant welfare legislation and guidance. A copy of the Defra 'Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs' must be kept on each holding and be available to anyone responsible for looking after the pigs.

The Code can be found at

gov.uk/government/publications/pigs-on-farm-welfare

Further clarification can be found on the Defra website.

Guidance, caring for pigs (April 2013):

gov.uk/government/publications/pigs-on-farm-welfare/caring-for-pigs

Minimum floor area

See Note 1 for general information about flooring.

Weaners and rearers Av. weight of pig (kg)	Minimum unobstructed floor (for pigs housed in groups) m ² /pig
≤ 10	0.15
10–20	0.20
20–30	0.30
30–50	0.40
50–85	0.55
85–110	0.65
≥ 110	1.00
Gilts after service – see Note 2	1.64
Sows – see Note 2	2.25
Boars – see Note 2	6

Notes

Note 1 – Flooring (general)

Where pigs are kept in a building, floors should be:

- Smooth but not slippery so as to prevent injury to pigs
- Designed, constructed and maintained so as not to cause injury or suffering to pigs standing or lying on them
- Suitable for the size and weight of the pigs
- Rigid, even and stable, when no litter is provided

Note 2 – Floor area: gilts, sows and boars

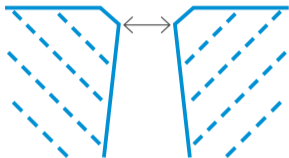
Groups of 6 or fewer – unobstructed floor area must be increased by 10%.

Groups of 40 or more – floor area may be decreased by 10%.

Note 3 – Concrete flooring

The relevant standard for the manufacture of concrete floors used in pig housing is BS EN 12737:2004 + A1: 2007.

The narrowest point is usually below the top surface.



More information on slot and beam widths is provided on the Defra website: Guidance, caring for pigs (April 2013):
gov.uk/government/publications/pigs-on-farm-welfare/caring-for-pigs

Concrete floors – slot and beam width

Class of pig and weight of pig (kg)	Max. permitted tolerance (mm)	Max. width of openings (slots) (mm)	Max. width of openings (slots) inc. tolerance (mm)	Min. beam width (mm)	Min. beam width inc tolerance (mm)
Piglets	No tolerance	11	11	50	50
Weaners ≤ 40	±2	14	16	50	48
Rearing and finishing pigs 20–125	±3	18	21	80	77
Gilts after service, sows 25–250	±3	20	23	80	77
Boars	±3	20	23	80	77

See Note 3 (page 6).

Water daily requirement and flow rate

Weight of pig (kg)	Min. daily requirement (litres)	Min. flow through nipple drinker (litres/min)
Newly weaned	1.0–1.5	0.3
Up to 20 kg	1.5–2.0	0.5–1.0
20–40 kg	2.0–5.0	1.0–1.5
Finishing pigs up to 100 kg	5.0–6.0	1.0–1.5
Sows and gilts pre-service and in-pig	5.0–8.0	2.0
Sows and gilts in lactation	15–30	2.0
Boars	5.0–8.0	2.0

Trough space – rationed feed

Weight of pig (kg)	Trough space (mm/pig)
5	100
10	130
15	150
35	200
60	230
90	280
120	300

Pens, lighting, noise and temperature

All pigs

A pig should be free to turn round without difficulty at all times. Note this has relevance to the space behind free access stalls.

For pigs kept in groups:

Dry sows and gilts – Sides of pen must be greater than 2.8 m in length (except where there are groups of 6 or fewer pigs), when sides must be no less than 2.4 m in length.

Gilts after service and pregnant sows – Part of the area required (equal to at least 0.95 m² per gilt and 1.3 m² per sow) must be of continuous solid floor, of which a maximum of 15% is reserved for drainage openings. The voids can be evenly dispersed across the 'continuous solid floor'.

Boars – The minimum unobstructed floor area for an adult boar must be 6 m², except when boar pens are also used for natural service, in which case they must be 10 m² and free from obstacles.

Lighting – Where pigs are kept in an artificially lit building, lighting with an intensity of at least 40 lux for a minimum of 8 hours per day should be provided, with an appropriate period of rest from such lighting (infrared piglet lamps excluded).

Noise – Pigs should not be exposed to constant or sudden noise above 85 dBA.

Temperature requirements

Category of pigs	Temperature (°C)
Sows	15–20
Suckling pigs in creeps	25–30
Weaned pigs (3–4 weeks)	27–32
Later weaned pigs (5 weeks +)	22–27
Finishing pigs (porkers)	15–21
Finishing pigs (baconers)	13–18

Using the measuring tools

The measuring tools include tolerances.

The tools included can be used to measure the maximum permitted slot width and minimum permitted beam width for concrete floors, according to the class of pigs housed (see page 7).

Tool A is designed to measure the gap between the beams to check that the slot widths meet regulations.

Tool B is to be placed over the beams to check that the beam widths meet regulations.

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