



## **DANISH ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE CONTROLS ON THE PREVENTION OF TAIL-BITING AND AVOID- ANCE OF TAIL-DOCKING**

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### **General comments**

Tail biting occurs in weaner pigs and in breeding- or slaughter pigs, therefore only provisions and guidelines applicable to these categories of pigs are mentioned, when defining compliance criteria in the tables below.

With regard to the compliance criteria it should be noted that apart from assessing of the resource based legal requirement, inspectors are instructed to also take animal based indicators (body condition, injuries, behaviour etc.) into account.

Apart from the initiatives mentioned in the tables below other initiatives has been taken with the aim of reducing the number of tail-docked pigs. A Danish action plan for better pig welfare from 2014 includes an objective to reduce the number of tail-docked pigs. To this end a number of actions are initiated, they include research projects, a government animal welfare label, where one of the basic requirements is a ban on tail –docking, a control campaign targeting enrichment and rooting material,

funding development of technologies to provide straw to pigs, and a position paper on pig welfare, in which the Commission is requested to revise Directive 2008/120/EC. Furthermore a working group on pig welfare is established with representatives from Germany (the two länder North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony) and Denmark. One aim of this group is to harmonise as far as possible the enforcement of the provisions in Directive 2008/120/EC.

It is still being considered whether actions, further to those mentioned in the tables below, shall be taken to ensure that the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 is fully implemented. There may therefore be a future need to update the Danish action plan, in this case you will be informed.

## 1. Drawing up compliance criteria and making them publicly available

Parameter: Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336	Legal requirements: Directive 2008/120/EC, Directive 98/58/EC	Define Compliance Criteria	Please insert 2018 Deadlines for: 1: update SOPs/ guidance 2: Inform pig-sector/ make publicly available 3: implement enforcement action 4. other
<b>Enrichment material</b>	“permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities” (Directive 2008/120/EC Annex I, Chapter I, 4)	Compliance criteria are set out in the guideline on enrichment material, which is drawn up by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA).  The guideline provides guidance on suitable materials, their distribution and quantity. It states that enrichment materials must be manipulable, destructible and that at least a sufficient part of it shall be rootable. Rootable implies that the material shall be positioned on the floor in a manner, which enables the pigs to move it around performing rooting behavior. The guideline also include a	1. It is the opinion of the DVFA that the guideline already sets sufficient compliance criteria.  2. The guideline and a drop-down list with picture examples of manipulable material are available on the DVFA website. This is being discussed with the pig-sector

		table of suitable enrichment and rooting materials, guidance on the number of objects (wooden logs, ropes etc.), which should be provided to a certain number of pigs, and guidance on how enrichment materials should be distributed in the pen. Materials must be natural; this means that e.g. chains, plastic toys and tires are not considered to be suitable enrichment materials.	when relevant, e.g. during dialogue meetings, which are typically are held two times a year. 3. Assessment of enrichment material is an integral part of welfare controls in farms. Furthermore, control campaigns aimed at enrichment material may be carried out when deemed necessary
<b>Cleanliness</b>	“a lying area physically and thermally comfortable as well as adequately drained and clean which allows all the animals to lay at the same time” (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter I, 3)	Further to EU-legislation the Danish legislation requires that for weaner pigs, breeding and slaughter pigs a part of the floor must be solid or drained (no more than 10% openings). In pens, where weaner pigs, breeding and slaughter pigs are kept, at least 1/3 of the unobstructed available floor area shall be solid or drained or a combination thereof. In pens only used for weaner pigs at least ½ of the unobstructed floor area shall be solid or drained or a combination thereof.  The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds, which is drawn up by the DVFA, gives compliance criteria on the above mentioned. Furthermore the guideline also state that the reason for dirty pigs shall be clarified, and gives examples.	1. It is the opinion of the DVFA that the guideline already sets sufficient compliance criteria. 2. The guideline is available on the DVFA website and is being discussed with the pig-sector when relevant, e.g. during dialogue meetings, which are typically are held two times a year. 3. Assessment of this requirement is an integral part of welfare controls in farms.
<b>Thermal comfort and air quality</b>	“air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations must be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals” (Directive 98/58/EC Annex, 10)	<u>Air quality</u> The guideline on animal welfare control in pig herds does not set specific compliance criteria.  <u>Cooling system</u> Further to EU-legislation Danish legislation requires that a misting system or a similar device is installed in pens for weaner pigs above 20 kg, and in pens for breeding	<u>Air quality</u> 1. An update of the guideline is planned to take place during the first half of 2018. 2. The updated guideline will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector will be involved in setting compliance criteria, as this

		<p>and slaughter pigs. The purpose is to give the pigs a possibility to regulate their body temperature especially during warm periods.</p> <p>Compliance criteria on this requirement are part of the guideline on welfare controls in pig herds.</p>	<p>is a part of the work in order to establish the risk assessment tool mentioned below.</p> <p>3. A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to update them on a number of initiatives in order to fully implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.</p> <p><u>Cooling system</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is the opinion of the DVFA that the guideline already sets sufficient compliance criteria.</li> <li>2. The guideline is available on the DVFA website, and it is being discussed with the pig-sector when relevant, e.g. during dialogue meetings, which are typically are held two times a year</li> <li>3. Assessment is an integral part of welfare controls in farms.</li> </ol>
<b>Health status</b>	<p>"sufficient number of staff who possesses the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, 1)</p> <p>“sick or injured animals shall be accommodated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry</p>	<p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds does contain some guidance on staff.</p> <p>An order, which will require that the person responsible for a pig herd of a certain size shall have relevant training, is planned to enter into force on 1 July 2018.</p>	<p><u>Staff</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An update of the guideline with regard to compliance criteria on staff is planned for the second half of 2018</li> <li>2. The updated guideline will be available on the DVFA website.</li> </ol>

	<p>comfortable bedding. (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, 4)</p> <p>"specialised housings (for piglets weaned less than 28 days of age) which are separated from housings where sows are kept" (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter II, C3)</p>	<p><u>Ill or injured pigs</u></p> <p>Further to EU-legislation Danish legislation requires that pig farms shall have a sufficient number of hospital pens available, and that as a minimum there shall always be one place in a hospital pen ready for use.</p> <p>The hospital pen shall fulfill the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft bedding in 2/3 of the minimum area. The soft bedding may be constituted by a soft rubber mat, a sufficient amounts of straw or other bedding material to give comfort and prevent direct contact between the animal and the floor;</li> <li>• Hospital pens shall have a heat source and a cooling facility;</li> <li>• No draught in the pen;</li> <li>• Stocking density shall be about half the stocking density as set out in Directive 2008/120/EC.</li> </ul> <p>The guidelines on animal welfare controls in pig herds provide guidance on ill or injured animals, including which pigs are required to be housed in a hospital pen.</p>	<p>The pig-sector will be informed about the update.</p> <p>3. The plan is to inform inspectors at erfa (experience exchange group) group meetings, which are held regularly.</p> <p><u>Ill or injured pigs</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is the opinion of the DVFA that the guideline already sets sufficient compliance criteria.</li> <li>2. The guideline is available on the DVFA website and is being discussed with the pig-sector when relevant, e.g. during dialogue meetings, which are typically are held two times a year</li> <li>3. Assessment is an integral part of welfare controls in farms.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Competition for food and space</b></p>	<p>“unobstructed floor area” (Directive 2008/120/EC, Article 3, 1a).</p> <p>"measures taken to prevent fighting (...) adequate opportunities to escape and hide from other pigs" (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter II, D 1, 2)</p> <p>“feeding and watering equipment must be designed constructed and placed so that (...) the harmful ef-</p>	<p><u>Unobstructed floor area</u></p> <p>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds states that when the size of the unobstructed floor area is assessed, the area occupied by trough and other objects, including the space under suspended objects shall be deducted from the total floor area.</p> <p><u>Measures to prevent fighting</u></p> <p>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds gives examples on possible measures to prevent</p>	<p><u>Unobstructed floor area and measure to prevent fighting</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is the opinion of the DVFA that the guideline already sets sufficient compliance criteria.</li> <li>2. The guideline is available on the DVFA website and is being discussed with the pig-sector when relevant, e.g. during dialogue meetings, which are typically are held two times a year</li> </ol>

	<p>facts of competition between the animals are minimised” (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, 17)</p> <p>"permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh water" (Directive 2008/120/EC, Annex I, Chapter I, 7)</p>	<p>fighting, including examples on how pigs could be given a possibility to escape and hide from other pigs.</p> <p><u>Feeding equipment</u></p> <p>Neither the guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds nor the guideline on enrichment material give specific guidance on feeding space per pig in the different systems. Where necessary inspectors typically use pig-sector guidelines.</p> <p><u>Access to water</u></p> <p>Neither the guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds nor the guideline on enrichment material gives specific guidance on the number of drinkers per pig in different systems. Where necessary inspectors typically use pig-sector guidelines</p> <p>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds provides a table with guidance on the height above the floor for drinkers for different categories of pigs.</p>	<p>3. Assessment is an integral part of welfare controls in farms.</p> <p><u>Feeding equipment and access to water</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An update of the guidelines is planned to take place during the first half of 2018.</li> <li>2. The updated guideline will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector will be involved in setting compliance criteria, as this is a part of the work in order to establish the risk assessment tool mentioned below.</li> <li>3. A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to update them on a number of initiatives in order to fully implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.</li> </ol>
<b>Diet</b>	<p>“animals must be fed a wholesome diet appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and satisfy their nutritional needs.” (Directive 98/58/EC Annex, 14)</p>	<p>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds does give compliance criteria, however, mainly for pregnant sows and gilts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An update of the guideline will be considered together with the updates concerning other topics.</li> <li>2. The updated guideline will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector will be involved in setting compliance criteria, as this is a part of the work in order to</li> </ol>

			<p>establish a risk assessment tool mentioned below.</p> <p>3. A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to update them on a number of initiatives in order to implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.</p>
	<p>Point 8 of Annex I of Chapter I of Directive 2008/120/EC  "Neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred. Before carrying out these procedures, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities. For this reason, inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed."</p>	<p>The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds has compliance criteria with regard tail docking and tail biting. It is stated that it shall be assessed during welfare controls that tail-docking is not carried out routinely, and as it is the farmers responsibility do justify tail-docking, the farmer shall provide oral documentation of the need to tail-dock, if tail-docked piglets are present in the herd. The guideline also mentions some factors, which may contribute to the occurrence of tail biting, and gives some guidance on how to prevent tail-biting and on how to handle tail-bitten pigs.</p> <p>The guideline on enrichment material has been updated with a section on risk assessment according to the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336. However it has been decided to further update this section in order to give more compliance criteria in the guideline instead of referring to a manual on tail biting produced by the pig-sector. The update will also include guidance on how to record evidence of tail biting or ear injuries.</p>	<p>1. An update of the guideline on enrichment material is planned to take place during the first half of 2018. Furthermore, an amendment of Danish legislation, which requires farmers to carry out a risk assessment and give written documentation, is being considered. If the considerations result in legislation, this is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2019.</p> <p>1. The updated guideline will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector will be involved in setting compliance criteria, as this is a part of the work in order to establish the risk assessment tool mentioned below.</p> <p>2. A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to</p>

			update them on a number of initiatives in order to fully implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.
	Other legal requirements from 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC	<p>Further to the requirements in Directive 2008/120/EC the Danish legislation requires that if tail-docking is carried out, no more than half of the tail can be docked, and that tail-docking shall be carried out between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day of life. The guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds gives compliance criteria on how to assess that no more than half of the tail is docked.</p> <p>It is not an acceptable measure to prevent tail biting to dock more than half of the tail .</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is the opinion of the DVFA that the guideline already sets sufficient compliance criteria.</li> <li>2. The guideline is available on the DVFA website and is being discussed with the pig-sector when relevant, e.g. during dialogue meetings, which are typically are held two times a year.</li> <li>3. Assessment of tail length is an integral part of welfare controls in farms.</li> </ol>



## 2. Ensuring farmer risk assessments are carried out

<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure that where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs they:</p> <p>record/provide evidence of tail/ear injuries</p>	<p><b>Define Member State Proposed Actions</b></p> <p>An update of the guideline on enrichment material to give guidance on how to assess and record tail biting and ear injuries, is planned. The guidance may be used both by farmers and inspectors.</p> <p>A working group with members from the pig-sector, the Danish Veterinary Association (DVA) and the DVFA has been established. Its main task is to produce a risk assessment tool for farmers and information material in order to make farmers, practicing veterinarians and other consultants aware of need to perform a risk assessment, when tail-docking is carried out.</p> <p>The guidance on how to assess and record tail biting and ear injuries will also be discussed in the working group.</p>	<p><b>Please insert 2018 Deadlines for:</b></p> <p><b>1: update SOPs/ guidance</b> The guideline is expected to be updated during the first half of 2018.</p> <p><b>2: inform pig-sector/ make publicly available</b> The updated guideline will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector and DVA are involved in its development.</p> <p><b>3: implement enforcement action</b> A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to update them on a number of initiatives in order to fully implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.</p>
<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure that where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs they:</p>	<p><b>Define Member State Proposed Actions</b></p> <p>A working group with members from the pig-sector, the DVA and the DVFA has been established. Its main task is to produce a risk assessment</p>	<p><b>2018 Deadlines:</b></p> <p><b>1: update SOPs/ guidance</b> The risk assessment tool and the information material are expected to be developed within the first half of 2018.</p>

<p>assess the risk factors leading to tail/ear biting</p>	<p>tool for farmers and information material in order to make farmers, practicing veterinarians and other consultants aware of need to perform a risk assessment, when tail-docking is carried out.</p> <p>The risk assessment tool will include the parameters mentioned in the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336, but may also include other parameters found relevant.</p> <p>The risk assessment tool may also be used by inspectors to evaluate if farmers have taken appropriate measures to prevent tail biting.</p> <p>It is the intention to have a period, where inspectors guide farmers, before sanctions are applied.</p>	<p><b>2: inform pig-sector/ make publicly available</b></p> <p>The risk assessment tool will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector and DVA are involved in its development.</p> <p><b>3: implement enforcement action</b></p> <p>A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to update them on a number of initiatives in order to fully implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.</p>
<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure that where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs they:</p> <p>change inadequate environmental conditions or management systems</p>	<p><b>Define Member State Proposed Actions</b></p> <p>As mentioned above a risk assessment tool will be developed. The idea is that according to the result of the risk assessment farmers shall take appropriate measures to correct inappropriate conditions. If this is not possible within a reasonably short time period, e.g. if buildings or equipment have to be changed, a plan shall indicate how and when corrections can be carried out.</p>	<p><b>2018 Deadlines:</b></p> <p><b>1: update SOPs/ guidance</b></p> <p>The risk assessment tool and the information material are expected to be developed within the first half of 2018. After that farmers will be given a certain adaptation period before sanctions are applied.</p> <p><b>2: inform pig-sector/ make publicly available</b></p>

		<p>The risk assessment tool will be available on the DVFA website. The pig-sector and DVA are involved in its development.</p> <p><b>3: implement enforcement action</b></p> <p>A meeting with inspectors is planned (no date at present) to update them on a number of initiatives in order to fully implement the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336.</p>
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### 3. Assessing evidence of tail/ear biting and changes to environmental and management systems including stocking density

<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs that:</p> <p>inspectors can make enforcement decisions on what is sufficient evidence of tail and ear injuries to justify tail-docking and how often should this be recorded</p>	<p><b>Define Member State Proposed Actions</b></p> <p>The planned update of the guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds and the guideline on enrichment material combined with the development of the risk assessment tool should give the inspectors a good basis to evaluate, whether there is sufficient evidence of tail biting and ear injuries to justify tail-docking, and whether sufficient measures have been taken by the farmer.</p> <p>When a non-compliance is identified the already established system of sanctions will be applied. This system include warnings, enforcement notices (injunctions or prohibitions), and reporting to the police for prosecution according to the severity of the non-compliance.</p>	<p><b>Please insert 2018 Deadlines for:</b></p> <p><b>1: update SOPs/ guidance</b></p> <p>The risk assessment tool is expected to be developed within the first half of 2018. However, as it is the intention to give farmers a certain adaptation period, enforcement decisions are not foreseen until end 2018/beginning 2019.</p> <p><b>2: inform pig-sector/ make publicly available</b></p>
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<p>What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to ensure where farmers tail-dock, or receive tail-docked pigs that:</p> <p>inspectors can make enforcement decisions on what are sufficient improvement measures by farmers, and at what frequency should they be undertaken, to change inadequate environmental conditions</p>	<p><b>Define Member State Proposed Actions</b></p> <p><b>Table 6 of Annex 3 could be used as a template to define both compliance criteria and related improvement measures</b></p> <p>See the box above.</p>	<p><b>2018 Deadlines:</b></p> <p><b>1: update SOPs/ guidance</b></p> <p><b>2: inform pig-sector/ make publicly available</b></p> <p><b>3: implement enforcement action</b></p> <p><b>4: other</b></p>

or managements systems before resorting to tail-docking of pigs		
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#### 4. Reviewing the provision of veterinary statements and quality standard requirements justifying the need to tail-docking

What actions are Member States planning to take in 2018 to review the provision of veterinary statements and quality standard requirements justifying the need to tail-dock	<p><b>Define Member State Proposed Actions</b></p> <p>Denmark has never required veterinary statements to certify that tail-docking is necessary. In the opinion of the DVFA this is the responsibility of the farmer.</p>	<p><b>Please insert 2018 Deadlines for:</b></p> <p><b>1: update SOPs/ guidance</b> NA</p> <p><b>2: inform pig-sector/veterinary sector make publicly available</b> NA</p> <p><b>3: implement other action</b> NA</p>
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