



Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

Training course on “Animal Welfare in pig production”

Welfare of intensively kept pigs: EU legislation in force

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Introduction

Basic principles for EU animal welfare legislation - Treaties

Development of EU legislation

Current EU legislation and its implementation



The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (1)

No legal basis in the treaties directly aimed at adopting policies on animal welfare

However, Article 13 requires that the Union and the Member States pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals when formulating and implementing certain EU policies such as agriculture and internal market



The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2)

Art 13: in formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since **animals are sentient beings, pay full regard** to the **welfare requirements of animals** while respecting the legislative and administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (3)

- The Treaty attributes precise roles to each Institution in the legislative process
 - **Commission** has the power of initiative : proposes to the European Parliament and the Council Union legislative proposals
 - **European Parliament** and **Council** can make amendments and adopt the proposals
 - Procedure for the adoption of the acts : **ordinary legislative procedure** for animal welfare (**co-decision**)

Developing animal welfare legislation (1)

- Based on scientific knowledge
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA): independent scientific opinions to policy makers
- Impact assessment study on socio-economic and environmental impacts of different options and administrative burden + subsidiarity and proportionality
- Consultation with main stakeholders
- Transparency: impact assessment on the web

➔ Legislative proposal



Developing animal welfare legislation (2)

- *Stakeholders' opinion taken into account during the impact assessment*
 - **Meetings**
 - **Web consultation**
- *Consumers' interests*
 - 2010 EFSA Eurobarometer : welfare of farmed animals is a concern for 64% of European citizens (60% in 2005)
 - 2005 Commission Eurobarometer : 74% of European citizens believed in their power to improve animal welfare with their purchases



Source http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/euro_barometer25_en.pdf

Current EU legislation (1)

General rules

Directive 98/58/EC on the welfare of animals at farm

rules European Convention, reflect 5 freedoms

- Hunger and thirst
- Discomfort
- Pain, injury and disease
- Express normal behaviour
- Fear and distress

Current EU legislation (2)

Main pieces of legislation

Farming

- Directive 98/58/EC – all farm animals
- Specific rules for :
 - Laying hens → Directive 1999/74/EC
 - Broilers → Directive 2007/43/EC
 - Calves → Directive 2008/119/EC
 - Pigs → Directive 2008/120/EC

Transport

Regulation (EC)No 1/2005

Killing

Regulation (EC)No 1099/2009

Current EU legislation (2)

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Current EU legislation (3)

Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs

- Ban individual stalls for pregnant sows >> since 1.1.2013
- Minimum space for each category of pigs
- Rooting material vs tail-docking
- Improve quality of the flooring surfaces

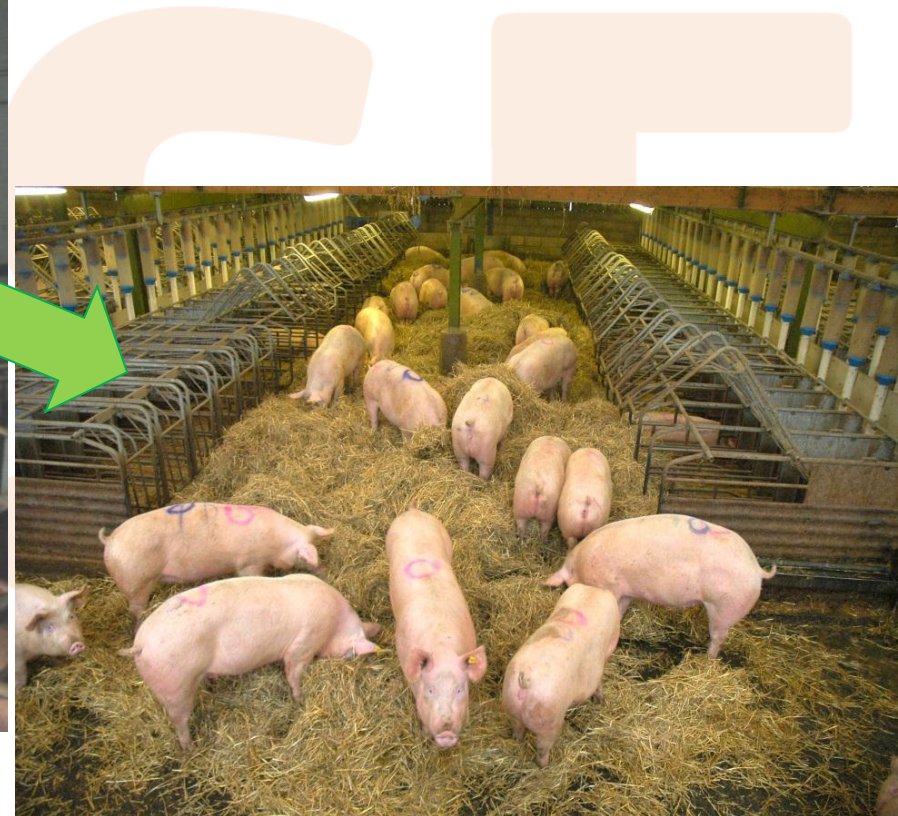


Current EU legislation (4)

Group housing of sows

- Article 3 (4) : Member States shall ensure that **sows and gilts are kept in groups** during a period starting from 4 weeks after the service to 1 week before the expected time of farrowing
- **Since 1 January 2013, group housing of sows is compulsory** in all EU pig holdings with 10 sows or more

Group housing of sows



Current EU legislation (5)

Manipulable material versus tail-docking

- Neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out routinely
- Before carrying out these procedures, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities
- Inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed
- Pigs must have access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation activities, such as straw, hay, wood,...

Current EU legislation (6)

Implementation

- Overall progress in Member States to implement animals welfare requirements for pigs (e.g. end of tethering of sows)
- However, the Food and Veterinary Office audits show lack of implementation of specific requirements
 - **Group housing of sows**
 - **Routine tail-docking and tooth clipping**
 - **Lack of provisions of enrichment materials**
 - **Stocking densities**
 - **Fibre feed for pregnant sows**

Conclusion

Continuous work going on at the Commission in order to improve the welfare of pigs, to increase awareness on this issue among stakeholders and consumers and working towards enforcement and compliance



Thanks





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Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"

Campo Boario, 64100, Teramo, Italy

Email: sancotraining@izs.it

Website: www.sancotraining.izs.it, www.izs.it

Phone: +39 0861 332673

Better Training for Safer Food BTSF

• *European Commission
Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency
DRB A3/042
L-2920 Luxembourg*