Pig Legislation: Introduction and current challenges

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Contents

- Why pig
- Development of legislation
- Areas covered
- Areas not covered
- Future challenges
Why pig

- Plays an important economic role
- Rapid intensification
- Cumulated scientific knowledge
Main areas covered
Space allowances

Lie at the same time, rest and get up normally (~Brambell)

(space allowance in m²) = k (constant) x W^{0.67} (body weight 2/3)

(‘k’ is differing at different ambient temperatures and body weights)
Space allowances for piglets and fatteners

\[(\text{space allowance in m}^2) = k \times W^{0.67}\]  
('k' is differing at different ambient temperatures and body weights)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Live weight (kg)</th>
<th>(m^2)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not more than 10</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 10 but not more than 20</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20 but not more than 30</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 30 but not more than 50</td>
<td>0.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 50 but not more than 85</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 85 but not more than 110</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 110</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Space allowances for gilts and sows

- 1.64 m² and 2.25 m² respectively,
- 0.95 m² per gilt and at least 1.3 m² per sow, must be of continuous solid sides greater than 2.8 m (2.4 m in smaller groups)

\[(\text{space allowance in m}^2) = k \times W^{0.67}\] (body weight 2/3)

('k' is differing at different ambient temperatures and body weights)
Space allowances for boars

**Legislation**
- Adult boar must be at least 6 m²
- Where pens are also used for natural service – 10 m²

**Science**
- Boars should be provided with sufficient space to allow all normal movements including those involved in mating.
- Boars should have sufficient space allowance for courtship and mating behaviour.
Concrete slatted floors

The principle for determining gap width is that the claw should not go into the gap.

The type of material (quality, physical properties, edges etc.) and the design should be considered when determining the gap width.

In order to minimize the likelihood of a claw going into a gap, the width of a gap should not exceed half the width of the contact area between the foot and the floor and the solid area between the gaps should be sufficient to support the foot.

the maximum width of the openings must be:
- 11 mm for piglets,
- 14 mm for weaners,
- 18 mm for rearing pigs,
- 20 mm for gilts after service and sows;

the minimum slat width must be:
- 50 mm for piglets and weaners, and
- 80 mm for rearing pigs, gilts after service and sows
Manipulable material

- Sows and gilts – permanent access
- Piglets
- Sows - nesting

- Material is determined
Light

**Legislation**
- intensity

**Science**
- Intensity
- Flashing
- Duration
- Further research
Noise

- Legislation
  - Level
  - No constantness

- Science
Floor design

Set of provisions

- heat insulation, drainage, cleanliness, smooth, non slippery, etc.
Feeding rules

- All pigs must be fed at least once a day.
- Where pigs are fed in groups and not *ad libitum* or by an *automatic system* feeding the animals individually, each pig must have access to the food at the same time as the others in the group.
- All pigs over two weeks of age must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of fresh water.

More details on
- quality, quantity, consistence, creep feed, colostrum
Suckling

- piglets must have sufficient space to be able to be suckled without difficulty
Mutilations

Legislation

- Range of provisions on
  - Teeth clipping
  - Tail docking
  - Castration
  - Nose ringing

Science

- Castration methods are in focus
Parasite treatment

- Legislation
  - Pregnant sows and gilts must, if necessary, be treated against external and internal parasites.

- Science
  - In outdoor rearing systems the risk of some internal parasites may be higher.
Weaning

Legislation

- No piglets shall be weaned from the sow at less than 28 days of age
- Piglets may be weaned up to seven days earlier if they are moved into specialized housings

Science

- Weaning of piglets should not be carried out before they have a significant feed intake from creep feed and not before 4 weeks of age.
Group forming

- Prevention
  - from fighting
  - from (re)mixing
  - from letting ill animals with others
Training

Legislation
- Availability of proper training

Science
- Number of recommendations for future research
Areas not covered
Areas not covered

- Pen design
- Thermal comfort
- Air quality
- Details of feeding
- Disease prevention, treatments
- Check of welfare
Future challenges

- Space requirements
- Individual confinement of gilts, sows
- Pen design
- Rooting
- Castration
- Implementing welfare check
Thank you for the attention!