



European
Commission

Meeting of the sub-group on pigs

Tenth meeting, 8 May 2023, 14:00-17:30
(Videoconference)

– AGENDA –

Chair of the meeting: K. Zafeiropoulou, Unit 'Animal welfare', Directorate Crisis Preparedness in Food, Animals and Plants, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)

1. Opening by the Commission

2. Discussions on various topics/questions:

- Provision of enrichment material

- What exact modifications should be done to the slurry system and to the flooring (slats) in order to be compatible with loose organic enrichment?
- Which enrichment materials would be suitable during the transitional period (until the modifications of previous point are accomplished) and in which amount?
- EFSA opinion recommends the provision of at 20gr of straw /rearing pig/day, but indicates that more is better e.g. 400gr. What would be an appropriate quantity in your opinion?
- According to your practical experience, what should be the amount of enrichment material pre-farrowing (nesting material) and post-farrowing for sows and piglets?



- Tail docking

- Is a derogation to allow tail docking in case of tail biting outbreaks needed in future legislation? If yes, under which conditions should it be allowed? (Percentage of bitten animals? Other? For how long?)
- In case of providing a dual k value (higher stocking density for farmers with few tail lesions at slaughter), is the space corresponding to a $k=0,036$ enough to control tail biting behaviour? (According to EFSA opinion, this space allowance is relatively reducing tail biting to 48%, compared to 100% of current situation of $k=0,028$).
- How much should be the threshold (percentage) of tail lesions/short tails monitored at slaughterhouses under which the farmer would be eligible to use the dual provision? What criteria should be used to set this threshold?

- Space allowances

- Recent EFSA opinion recommends the provision of solid floor corresponding to $k=0,33$ for weaners and rearing pigs. Is this space adequate for all pens, including farrowing and hospital pens?
- For pigs to lie in full recumbency, a space corresponding to $k=0,047$ is needed. However, pigs usually lie on solid floor and the EFSA opinion recommends that this solid floor should correspond to a space of $k=0,033$. Does this difference have implications?
- To calculate the needed space per weaner/rearing pig one can use a formula based on weight or fixed space allowances according to weight categories. What would that mean from a farmer's and an inspector's point of view? The Swedish formula versus the k value formula: what is the difference, which is preferable and why?

- Animal welfare indicators

- Which should be the obligations of operators towards animal welfare indicators? Should there be thresholds (e.g. percentage of tail lesions/short tails) at farm or at slaughterhouse over which the operator should take action? If yes, what criteria should be used to set these thresholds?
- If there are thresholds at slaughterhouse which trigger enforcement actions, what criteria should be used to set these thresholds?

