



Key figures for pig accommodation in England – legislative requirements



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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' (March 2003, PB 7950) must be kept on each holding and be available to anyone responsible for looking after the pigs. The Code can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-recommendations-for-the-welfare-of-livestock-pigs. The relevant paragraph of the Code is given, eg (55).

Further Defra clarification in the document 'Welfare Rules which apply to all Pig Holdings from 1 January 2013' is available at: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182349/pig-holdings-welfare-rule-jan2013.pdf

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Minimum floor area^{Note 1} (100)

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^{Note 2}	1.64
Sows^{Note 2}	2.25
Boars^{Note 2}	6

Note 1 – Flooring (general)

Where pigs are kept in a building, floors shall –

- a) be smooth but not slippery so as to prevent injury to pigs;
- b) be so designed, constructed and maintained as not to cause injury or suffering to pigs standing or lying on them;
- c) be suitable for the size and weight of the pigs; and
- d) where no litter is provided, form a rigid, even and stable surface.

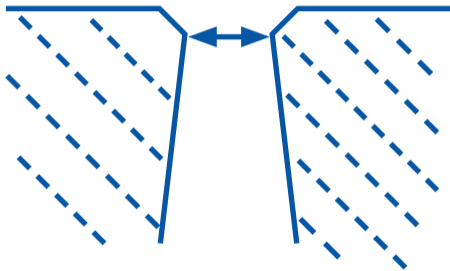
Note 2 – Floor area – gilts, sows and boars

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 in 'Welfare Rules which apply to all Pig Holdings from 1 January 2013' (see page 2).

Concrete floors – slot and beam widths^{Note 3}

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

Water daily requirement and flow rate (72)

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 20kg	1.5-2.0	0.5-1.0
20-40 kg	2.0-5.0	1.0-1.5
Finishing pigs up to 100kg	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 (69)

Wt. 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 (6,1) – A pig shall 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 (37) – sides of pen must be greater than 2.8m in length (except where there are groups of 6 or fewer pigs) when sides must be no less than 2.4m in length.

Gilts after service and pregnant sows (39) – Part of the area required (equal to at least 0.95m² per gilt and 1.3m² 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 (29) – The minimum unobstructed floor area for an adult boar shall be 6m², except when boar pens are also used for natural service in which case they must be 10m² and free from obstacles.

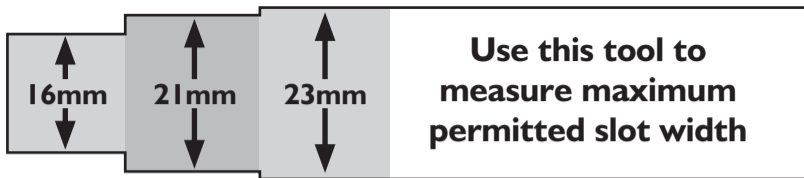
Note: Red numbers in brackets refer to the relevant paragraph in The Welfare of Farmed Animals(England) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003 No. 299), also included in (S.I. 2007 No.2078).

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

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

Temperature requirements (55)

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 measures – which include tolerances

The tools pictured above and opposite 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*).

The tool pictured above is designed to be measure the gap between the beams to check that the slot widths meet regulations.

The tool pictured opposite is to be placed over the beams to check that the beam widths meet regulations.



48mm

The diagram shows a grey rectangular block with a central rectangular cutout. A double-headed arrow below the cutout indicates its width is 48mm.

Use this tool to measure minimum permitted beam width



77mm

The diagram shows a grey rectangular block with a central rectangular cutout. A double-headed arrow below the cutout indicates its width is 77mm.



BPEX, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2TL

Email: kt@bpex.ahdb.org.uk

Website: www.bpexenv.org.uk



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