



GUIDANCE ON CONTROLLED HOUSING CONDITIONS FOR TRICHINELLA

- From 1st June 2014 all breeding sows and boars and pigs from non-controlled housing conditions must be tested for Trichinella in UK¹. This requirement applied from 1 November 2014
- Basic general requirements for controlled housing conditions such as pest control, feed storage remain in place (see below). The majority of these requirements are covered by assurance standards schemes
- Pigs that have some access to outdoor facilities could now fall under the umbrella of controlled housing conditions subject to a risk assessment carried out by producers
- At present there is no official guidance that provides a framework for the risk assessment. In the meantime FSA advises farmers to use their judgment to decide if their pigs come from controlled housing
- FSA position is that pigs that spend their entire life outside such as free range pigs are very unlikely to meet the definition of controlled housing conditions. They represent the greater risk of infection of Trichinella
- Once the FSA risk assessment framework and guidance are available, producers who need to revisit their assessment will receive no penalties against them, as long as reasonable judgement has been used to qualify 'controlled housing' in their case

TABLE

- The table below aims to provide some guidance while waiting for the publication of the FSA guidance. It by no means replaces the FSA's risk assessment
- The definitions of the production systems aim to help the farmer identify if they could consider applying control housing conditions

¹ Trichinella testing requirement also applied to wild boars and horses.

Production system ²	Subject to meeting the requirement and pending FSA's risk assessment tool the view is that the following production systems are very likely to fall under controlled housing	Risks to be managed (controlled housing)
Fully Housed <i>These pigs are born, reared and finished indoors</i>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All practical precautions with regard to building construction and maintenance in order to prevent rodents, any other kind of mammals and carnivorous birds from having access to buildings where animals are kept
Outdoor bred <i>These pigs are born outside, in fields where they are kept until weaning.</i>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest-control programme in place, in particular for rodents, effectively to prevent infestation of pigs. Records of the programme must be kept
Outdoor reared <i>These pigs are born outside in fields, where they are reared for approximately half their life (defined as at least 30kg)</i>	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All feed has been obtained from a legitimate facility. Feed must be stored in closed silos or other containers that are impenetrable to rodents Feed supplies must be heat-treated or produced and stored adequately Dead animals are collected, identified and transported without undue delay If a rubbish dump is located in the neighbourhood of the holding, the operator must inform the competent authority. Subsequently, the competent authority must assess the risks involved and decide whether the holding is to be recognised as applying controlled housing conditions
Free range and organic pigs³ <i>These pigs are born outside, in fields and they remain outside until they are sent for processing</i>	Unlikely (this does not rule out that free range could not come under controlled housing conditions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piglets coming onto the holding from outside and pigs purchased are born and bred under controlled housing conditions Traceability of pigs at all times New animals may be introduced onto the holding only if they come from holdings also officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions

²Definitions from: <http://www.porkprovenance.co.uk/productionmethods.asp#>

³ Key difference with organic pigs is that the use of pharmaceuticals is heavily restricted.



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