

# Farmgate biosecurity – people

## Introduction

This document is written for PEDv, but good biosecurity protocols are equally relevant to all pig diseases and should be adhered to as strictly as possible.

**Any** person entering a pig unit has the potential to carry in disease organisms on their boots, clothes, hair, skin or even in the nasal tract, and also in any foods they may bring in especially pig meat products.

This includes staff as well as visitors and applies to **anyone** who steps across the perimeter of the unit.

PEDv is most readily transferred in infected pig faeces, although there is some evidence of aerosol spread in North America. The virus particles are extremely infective and only a tiny amount of infected faeces is enough to cause disease if it reaches your pigs.

This document has two aims:

1. To prevent PEDv from entering a unit
2. To prevent PEDv from leaving a unit where there is a confirmed breakdown.

## General ambitions for good people biosecurity

- Stop all unnecessary visits on to the pig farm – if possible confine to an off-site office
- For staff and visitors to be aware of the risks they pose and how to limit them
- Minimise visitor contact with pigs as far as possible.

## Visitor and staff vehicles

- Do not allow any unnecessary vehicles on site
- Provide a signposted staff and visitor parking areas outside the unit perimeter
- Ideally hard surfaced and well-draining
- This should be regularly swept clean and disinfected
- Cars should arrive clean of manure and organic material, including footwells.

## Staff

- No farm staff should have any contact with pigs (including pet pigs) or pig manure outside of their employment and this should be included in the employment contract
- Farm staff who have livestock other than pigs at their own home must arrive at work personally clean (hands, hair etc) and in clean clothes and footwear that has not been exposed to their own livestock
- All staff should be provided with (and must wear) outerwear and boots that are left on the unit
- Staff who have returned from travelling overseas (especially North America and Asia) should notify the farm manager before returning to work if they have had contact with any pigs, including wild boar
- Staff should not bring in any pig meat products to the farm.



## Visitors

- Confine to off-site office where possible
- If essential to enter the farm e.g. maintenance or vet consultancy visit then must adhere to specified period of ‘pig freedom’
- This period of ‘pig freedom’ will vary depending on the health status of the unit and should be discussed with the farm vet. It should be specified in advance and is usually:
  - At least 15 hours (overnight) freedom from pigs and pig manure
  - 72 hours in the case of nucleus breeding herds
- Visitors should arrive in clean clothes and footwear
- Visitors must sign in using a ‘Visitors Book’, including the date and details of last pig contact
- The manager must be confident of the visitor’s credentials and low biosecurity risk before permitting entry
- Ideally visitors should shower in (including hair) and move into a ‘clean’ area to change into unit specific clothes including protective outerwear and footwear
- Minimum standard is to insist visitor’s wear only farm-supplied outer clothes and boots (or wrapped disposable overalls)
- The **Danish/Bench Entry** system is an excellent alternative to a walk through shower (see below)
- Equipment or tools required by the visitor and brought onto the farm, must be visibly clean, and where possible should be disinfected or covered with a new disposable plastic bag
- Visitors should not bring any foodstuffs on to the farm
- Minimise visitor contact with pigs where possible.

## Incoming deliveries; equipment, semen etc

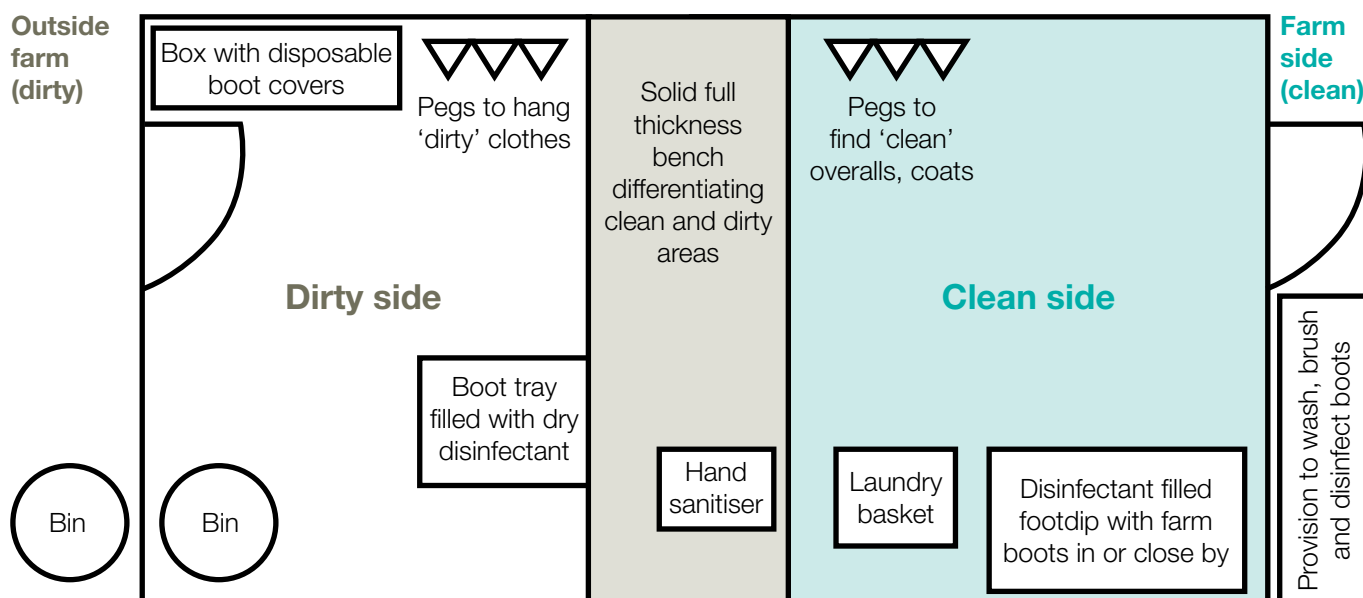
- Discuss your biosecurity protocols with your suppliers, and make it clear what risks they may pose to you and other pig farms they may visit
- Remember you are the customer and so have the right to demand good biosecurity from your suppliers, or if not satisfied, refuse entry
- Ideally a secure, clean, watertight delivery box should be situated outside the farm perimeter (consider thermal requirements for medicine and semen delivery)
- For semen, the health status of the source stud should be known and the information regularly updated
- The number of suppliers should be minimised – a single-source is preferred
- Delivery vehicles and personnel should not enter the farm or make direct contact with farm staff e.g. shaking hands
- Packaging should be disposed of outside the farm
- Disinfectant wipes should be used routinely on incoming goods where possible.

## Danish/Bench Entrance

- This procedure can be used where a walk-through shower is not available
- It is based on a single designated entrance onto the farm which **all** personnel (staff and visitors) must pass through on entry and exit
- It can also be used by building as required
- It only works if **everyone** follows **all** of the steps **everytime**.

**When entering the farm/building:**

- Always enter through the Danish entry
- Reach inside the door to collect some disposable boot covers and put these on before entering
- Remove outer coats etc and hang on pegs
- Step into the dry disinfectant boot tray and sit on the bench
- Remove shoes, leaving them on the boot tray on the dirty side
- Without touching the floor swing legs over to the clean side
- Disinfect hands with hand sanitizer
- Put on farm overalls, boots and gloves kept on the clean side of the entry
- Enter the production area.

**When leaving the farm/building:**

- Always leave through the Danish Entry
- Thoroughly clean, brush and disinfect boots before entering the Danish Entrance
- Once inside, remove farm boots and leave in the disinfectant footdip on the clean side
- Remove farm clothing and hang on pegs on the clean side
- Disinfect hands with hand sanitizer or wash them thoroughly with soap and water if available
- In sock feet, swing legs over the bench to the dirty side
- Put on outside shoes (still with disposable covers)
- Collect any belongings and exit
- Once outside, remove disposable boot covers and place in outside bin.

**Both sides must be kept clean**

**Summary points for reducing risk of spreading PEDv for farm visitors:**

- Contact farm manager prior to visit
- Only visit if essential
- Ask about the farm's Biosecurity Protocols and adhere to them
- Ensure car is clean of manure and organic material (outside and especially footwell inside)
- Park in designated Visitor's Car Park
- Wear clean clothing and footwear
- Enter the farm through the designated entry point (ideally Danish/Bench Entry system)
- Sign the Visitor's Book
- Change into boots and overalls specific to that farm (consider disposable overalls)
- Do not enter restricted access areas without permission
- Do not have direct contact with animals without permission.