

PED biosecurity briefing for processors

What is it?

Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) is a gastro-intestinal disease of pigs caused by a coronavirus and new severe outbreaks have emerged in the USA and China. It poses no risk to humans.

The outbreak in the USA has affected 39 states since first identified on May 17, 2013 with a peak of cases in spring 2014. PED continues to be identified on US premises although the number of new cases has remained stable since the height of the outbreak. The US strain of PED is more aggressive than strains seen previously in the UK with mortality of 50 to 100% of affected piglets being experienced on infected US pig farms. The UK industry must be vigilant and maintain good biosecurity. **There are no severe outbreaks in the UK currently – keeping it out is key.**

Symptoms

- Watery diarrhoea and mild systemic signs such as fever, anorexia and lethargy
- Disease has mostly been seen in piglets, but has been seen in fattening pigs and adults, often associated with moving and/or mixing of groups
- On post-mortem, the small intestine is filled with yellow fluid, thin walled and distended.

What is needed from abattoir staff?

These symptoms can be seen with other endemic diseases such as salmonella and swine dysentery, but if any symptoms are considered to be suspicious or unusual, inform the Official Veterinarian for the plant.



Images courtesy of Stephen McOrist

Biosecurity

To prevent introduction of new strains of PED to the UK and limit spread around the industry if it were introduced:

Lorry washing:

- Ensure that washing facilities at the abattoir are optimal (BPEX guidance overleaf)
- Encourage hauliers to wash out on site.

Overseas visits:

- Anyone visiting farms or abattoirs overseas should take strict precautions to minimise the risk of bringing back infectious agents not currently present in the UK
- Use the clothing and footwear provided by farms overseas
- Shower and thoroughly clean hands and fingernails as soon as possible after contact with pigs
- Wash all clothing and thoroughly clean and disinfect all footwear on return from overseas trips
- Try to ensure there is no direct contact with pigs in the UK for up to 72 hours after the contact with pigs overseas.

Standard Operating Procedure for Livestock Lorry Washing

- For vehicles with goose/swan necks on the front: Once pigs have been unloaded at the lairage, push out the straw from each of the front decks to the main decks to reduce time at washing bay
- Detergent the tailboard before opening
- Push out straw from top deck, detergent the floor and interior structures (gates, ceilings, side walls), raise the deck
- (3 deck vehicles) Push out straw from middle deck, detergent floor and interior structures raise the deck (3 deck trailers)
- Push out straw on bottom deck and detergent the floor and interior structures
- Detergent the remainder of the trailer and lorry on outside (including belly box)
- Lower all decks
- Wash and rinse top deck and all interior structures (gates, ceilings and side walls). Raise this deck
- (3 deck vehicles) Wash and rinse middle deck and interior structures (gates, ceilings and side walls). Raise this deck
- Wash and rinse bottom deck, interior structures (gates, ceilings and side walls), interior loading ramp and gates
- Wash and rinse outside of the lorry. However, during periods of warm weather this process should be carried out at any stage once the wash/rinse process has started after top deck is washed and rinsed or even before to prevent detergent drying into the trailer
- Disinfect bottom deck interior structures (gates, ceilings and side walls)
- Lower middle deck and disinfect interior structures (gates, ceilings and side walls)
- Lower top deck and disinfect interior structures (gates, ceilings and side walls) Interior of trailer now ready for next load of pigs
- Disinfect interior loading ramp and gates
- Disinfect outside of truck and trailer
- Close the ramp, wash, rinse and disinfect
- Clean (Disinfect) foot wells, rubber mats and foot pedals of cab
- Clean and disinfect any PPE used in the cleaning/loading procedure.

N.B

- PED and swine dysentery can be inactivated by temperatures above 71° C when applied for a minimum of 10 minutes
- Complete drying after C&D is also an effective inactivation method.