



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.
ardystio bwyd Cymreig safonol

Welsh Organic Scheme

STANDARDS FOR PIGS PRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF STOCK AND CONVERSION		
6.01	Movement records. All pig movements onto and off the holding must be recorded as required by law.	<i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
6.02	A herd register must be maintained identifying all pigs on the holding, their source and organic status.	<i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
6.03	The sale or purchase of all breeding and growing pigs from registered herds must be accompanied by a valid organic certificate and a completed FMD.	Feed and medicine declaration. FMD Record Sheet RS3 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
6.04	Origin of herd. The choice of breed must take into account the climate, the nature of the ranging area and the proposed production system. Preference should be given to native breeds.	<i>COS Annex I B3.1</i>
6.05	Sows and gilts intended for breeding must be sourced from registered organic herds and managed organically thereafter.	<i>COS Annex I B3.2</i>
6.06	Where there is an existing breeding herd on land that is to commence a 24 month conversion period, it may be simultaneously converted with the land, providing the management of the herd is fully compliant with the standards from the start of conversion.	The area of land under conversion must allow at least 1ha for every 10 sows in the herd. <i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
6.07	Not Allocated.	
6.08	Where a herd has been severely depleted due to disease or other involuntary cause, and sufficient organically reared replacements are not available, its reconstitution may be approved from a non organic source providing they have not previously given birth.	This derogation must receive prior approval by QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B3.6</i>
6.09	All sow replacements should preferably be homebred. Where this is not possible and suitable organically reared sows or gilts are not available, a number of gilts, not exceeding 10% of the number of breeding sows in the herd on 1 st January, may be obtained from a non organic source.	This derogation must receive prior approval by QWFC. Record Sheet RS9 This is an annual allowance. <i>COS Annex I B3.8</i>
6.10	In herds of less than five sows , one non organic replacement per year is permitted, subject to the conditions at 6.09	<i>COS Annex I B3.9</i>

6.11	Where a major extension to the herd or a breed change is planned, or when a new livestock specialisation is developed, a maximum of 40% may be sourced as non organic. If a rare breed is involved, the replacements may be breeding sows.	This must receive prior approval from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B3.10</i>
6.12	Boars may be sourced from non organic herds provided they are subsequently managed and fed organically.	<i>COS Annex I B3.11</i>
6.13	Where non organic breeding stock are sourced, a health assessment must be made and a period of quarantine applied if deemed necessary.	QWFC may require quarantine in certain circumstances. <i>COS Annex I B3.13</i>
CONVERSION PERIODS		
6.14	Pigs may only be sold for organic meat if born to sows that have been managed to organic standards from mating .	<i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i>
6.15	Pigs born to sows under simultaneous conversion rules for 24 months may only be sold for organic meat after the land becomes organic.	<i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
6.16	Sows that are not subject to simultaneous conversion rules must be managed organically once the land attains organic status*. The piglets born following the subsequent mating may be sold for organic meat.	* The non herbivore shortened conversion period derogation (see 1.14) may allow a 12 month conversion period for pig production. <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B1.5</i>
6.17	Non organic replacement gilts must be mated on the organic holding for their piglets to be organic.	See 6.08 & 6.09 <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1, 3.12</i>
6.18	Pigs reared under simultaneous conversion rules may be traded between registered holdings, subject to 6.03. They may only be sold as organic once both their holding of birth and destination holding have attained organic status.	<i>COS Annex I B2.3.1c</i>
6.19	Not Allocated.	
FEEDING STANDARDS		
6.20	Records. An accurate feeding record for each identifiable group of pigs must be kept. The record of the ration must include the feeding period, the number of pigs, the ingredients and their organic status, the quantity fed daily or over the period and an estimate of the average liveweight in the group.	Feeding groups:- eg. Sows, weaners, growers. The periods of access to the grazing area must be recorded. A 'QWFC approved' record format must be used.(See RS6) <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
6.21	A record of all purchased feeds must be kept, together with their product labels and organic status.	A list of all purchases. All delivery notes. <i>COS Annex III 6.1</i>
6.22	Declarations must be obtained from feed suppliers that products are from non genetically modified sources.	A statement on the label is sufficient. <i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
6.23	Feeding Principle. Feeding for quality production rather than quantity must be the aim. Nutritional requirements must be met.	<i>COS Annex I B4.1</i>
6.24	All pigs must be fed a 100% organic diet	A derogation on this standard exists until 31/12/2011. (6.28) <i>COS Annex I B4.2</i>

6.25	Where in-conversion feeds are fed, they may be included at up to 60% of the annual dry matter if home produced or 30% if sourced elsewhere.	In-conversion feeds see 1.09 & 1.12. The ration must have a minimum 40% organic content. <i>COS Annex I B4.4</i>
6.26	Forage must be included in the daily ration for pigs. This should preferably be grazed, but must be provided during any housed period.	The term 'forage' includes fresh, dried and ensiled materials. <i>COS Annex I B4.11</i>
6.27	Piglets must be fed on natural organic milk for at least 40 days, preferably suckled.	All piglets not meeting these standards must be marked and sold as non organic. <i>COS Annex I B4.5</i>
6.28	Where a fully organic diet cannot be provided, up to 25% of the daily ration of a feeding group may be sourced from an approved non organic supply, providing the average annual non organic consumption of the feeding group does not exceed the specified percentage limits.	<u>Annual Non Organic Limits</u> 15% from 25/8/2005 to 31/12/2007 10% from 1/1/2008 to 31/12/2009 5% from 1/1/2010 to 31/12/2011 <i>COS Annex I B4.8</i>
6.29	In exceptional circumstances a producer may apply for permission to exceed the non organic allowance.	Eg. Fire, weather or disease. Application to QWFC. Approval only by Defra <i>COS Annex I B4.9</i>
6.30	Feed Sources Prohibited feed additives include antibiotics, coccidiostats, medicinal substances and any growth promoter or stimulant.	<i>COS Annex I B4.17</i>
6.31	Any feed ingredient that has been produced with the use of genetic modification is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
6.32	Non organic feed materials of agricultural origin can only be used if listed in Annex A.	Expelled oilseeds, not extracted. <i>COS Annex I B4.13</i>
6.33	Where a compound or blended feed is used, it must be sourced from an organic certified mill and labeled as an approved product by an organic certification body.	<i>COS Provision 5 12 to 18</i>
6.34	The only permitted feed materials of animal origin are milk and milk products. Fishmeal and other marine products should be fed only to fulfil the amino acid requirement and should be sourced only from sustainable fisheries.	<i>COS Annex I B4.14</i>
6.35	Permitted feed additives of mineral origin are listed in Annex B.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>
6.36	Dietary vitamins should preferably derive from naturally occurring feed materials, but supplementary synthetic vitamins may be included in pig rations.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>
6.37	Permitted binders, preservatives and processing aids are listed in Annex C.	Lactic, formic, acetic and propionic acids may be used to preserve crimped grain and silage only with prior permission from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B4.12</i>
6.38	Not Allocated.	
6.39	Not Allocated.	
6.40	Not Allocated.	
6.41	Not Allocated.	
DISEASE PREVENTION AND VETERINARY TREATMENTS		
6.42	Herd Health Plan A health plan must be developed for the pig enterprise, preferably with the assistance of a vet, and reviewed at least annually.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>

6.43	A health plan should address all potential herd health issues, its emphasis always on prevention rather than cure and its ultimate aim to fully dispense with the need to administer veterinary drugs.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
6.44	An annual assessment will be made of the health plan, and if approved, will form the basis of the herd health management for the following year.	Any subsequent treatments that have not been previously assessed will require prior approval by QWFC. <i>COS Annex III 5.1</i>
6.45	A record of all veterinary purchases and all treatments must be kept.	Diagnosis must also be recorded and both the statutory and organic withdrawal periods. <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2 COS Annex I B5.6</i>
6.46	Disease prevention must be the overriding policy in an organic pig enterprise. This must be achieved by a combination of :- a. Appropriate breed selection. b. Encouragement of strong disease resistance. c. Use of high quality feed and regular exercise. d. Avoidance of overstocking. e. Biosecurity and quarantine measures.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.3, 5.2</i>
6.47	An animal that becomes sick or injured must receive immediate attention , even if its treatment results in it losing its organic status.	<i>COS Annex I B5.3</i>
6.48	In selecting a veterinary product, an organic farmer should first consider with the vet the efficacy of herbal or homeopathic products and trace elements for treatment of a condition. As a last resort, and to prevent suffering or distress to the animal, a veterinary medicine or antibiotic may be used.	This priority should be reflected in the health plan. <i>COS Annex I B5.4a,b,d</i>
6.49	The use of veterinary medicines or antibiotics for routine disease prevention is prohibited. Only where preventative husbandry measures have failed can this be justified and then only if part of an approved health plan.	<i>COS Annex I B5.4c,d</i>
6.50	Vaccination to counter an <u>identified</u> disease risk is permitted. Vaccines should be specific to the disease identified.	Multiple vaccines should not be used unless multiple cover is necessary. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
6.51	The use of growth promoters is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
6.52	The use of hormone treatments in order to synchronise mating is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
6.53	The compulsory treatment of livestock and buildings to control a specific disease under national or community legislation is authorized.	If organophosphates are used on pigs, the treated animals must be permanently marked and not sold for organic meat. <i>COS Annex I B5.5b</i>
6.54	The use of organophosphates on pigs is not permitted.	Unless subject to (6.53) <i>COS Annex I B5.5c</i>
6.55	Following treatment of a pig with veterinary medicines, a withdrawal period of at least twice the statutory period before slaughter must be observed. Where no withdrawal period is stated or where the stated period is zero days a minimum of 48 hours is required.	Medicines administered outside their licensed use will require 28 days withdrawal for meat. <i>COS Annex I B5.7</i>

6.56	A sow that requires a fourth course of treatment of veterinary medicine or antibiotic within one year must not be sold as organic nor can any of her piglets if still suckling. A store pig that requires a second such treatment in its life must not be sold as organic.	Vaccines, treatments for parasites and compulsory treatments are excluded. A breeding sow may be reconverted subject to agreement with QWFC. A course of treatment means 'all necessary measures to restore an animal to health following a particular disease episode' <i>COS Annex I B5.8</i>
6.57	The chemical control of external parasites is permitted where justified on the grounds of animal welfare. This must be addressed in the Herd Health Plan.	Chemical treatments must be licensed for the purpose. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
6.58	The control of internal parasites should be maintained by husbandry practices as far as possible. Oral wormers and flukicides may be used where justified following diagnosis. This must be addressed in the Health Plan. Pour-on treatments and ivermectin products should be avoided if possible.	Safe and clean pasture practice achieved by rotational and alternate species grazing is preferred. Faecal worm egg counts should be made before <u>any</u> anthelmintic treatment. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
6.59	The administering of veterinary medicines should be done by a trained and competent person. There should be correct procedure for the use and storage of medicines and the safe storage and disposal of needles.	
6.60	Not Allocated.	
6.61	Not Allocated.	
HERD MANAGEMENT, WELFARE AND TRANSPORT		
6.62	Pigs must be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices.	
6.63	Reproduction should be based on natural service, however artificial insemination is permitted.	Embryo transfer is prohibited. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.1.</i>
6.64	The routine practice of tail docking and teeth cutting or grinding is not permitted.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.2.</i>
6.65	Nose rings in sows, gilts and boars are not permitted.	<i>COS Annex I B8.3.8</i>
6.66	Physical castration of piglets is permitted. It must be carried out by a qualified person, at the appropriate age and suffering of the piglets must be kept to a minimum.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.3</i>
6.67	Staff who carry out veterinary tasks must be competent.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>
6.68	When rearing pigs in groups , due consideration must be given to their age and behavioural needs.	<i>COS Annex I B 6.1.8</i>
6.69	The transport of pigs must be done under conditions that minimise stress and the likelihood of injury.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
6.70	Pigs must be loaded and unloaded with minimum force. Adequate handling facilities must be available. Electric goads and tranquillisers are forbidden.	Driving boards should be used to move pigs in the required direction. <i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
6.71	Transit time should be kept to a minimum. A schedule for the journey should be established before loading and agreed with the haulier and consignee. The nearest appropriate approved abattoir should be used.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>
6.72	Only fit and healthy animals may be transported and must be presented in a clean and rested condition. Different social groups must be kept separate during transit.	FAWL 8.02 <i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>
6.73	Vehicles for live transport of animals must be well maintained, have adequate ventilation and must be driven with care. Vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after use.	

6.74	If pigs will require feeding during transit or during a holding period at lairage, the producer must ensure that any feed given is in accordance with these standards.	
PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND PIG HOUSING		
6.75	All holdings with pigs must comply with Council Directive 91/630/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs.	<i>COS Annex I B8.3.8</i>
6.76	All pigs must have access to registered grazing land or an open air exercise area whenever weather and ground conditions permit.	These areas must permit rooting and dunging. <i>COS Annex I B8.3.1, B8.3.8</i>
6.77	For large scale production systems of more than 10 sows, the soil should be well drained to avoid excessive poaching. An arable rotation should have pigs no more than:- Sandy soils..... 2 years in 4 Heavier loams 1 year in 3 Stocking density...10 sows/ha	<i>COS Annex I B8.2.4</i>
6.78	Sufficient protection must be provided against extremes of weather .	<i>COS Annex I B8.1.2</i>
6.79	Sows must be kept in groups except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the period of suckling piglets.	<i>COS Annex I B8.3.8</i>
6.80	Piglets may not be kept on flat decks or in cages.	<i>COS Annex I B8.3.8</i>
6.81	Pigs may be housed during the winter months, providing there is adequate space to allow freedom of movement and the indoor environment is not harmful to their health. Slatted floors must not cover more than half the area available. The housing should allow access to an outdoor exercise area.	See Annex L for minimum housing and outdoor exercise areas. <i>COS Annex I B8.1.1, B8.2.3 B8.2.2, B8.3.5</i>
6.82	The lying area must be covered with sufficient dry bedding to ensure the comfort, cleanliness and hygiene of the pigs.	Any suitable natural material may be used. It may be improved with any approved mineral fertilisers. (Annex F) <i>COS Annex I B8.3.6</i>
6.83	All livestock buildings and handling facilities must be well maintained to minimise the risk of injury.	
6.84	Pigs may be finished indoors for a period not exceeding 20% of their lifetime. This period must not exceed 3 months.	Pigs slaughtered at 10 months may spend the final 2 months indoors
6.85	Pigs must be inspected regularly as appropriate.	
6.86	All housing and related equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after use.	Authorised disinfectant products are listed in Annex D. <i>COS Annex I B8.2.5</i>