



FREERANGE

Code of Practice

**ANIMAL PROTECTION
DENMARK**



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Introduction

All suppliers of pigs to Friland A/S's Free-range concept must comply with all applicable national legislation, regulations and requirements for keeping free-range pigs. In addition to national regulations, Danish Crown's *Code of Practice* along with the DANISH Product Standard and the DANISH Transport Standard, form the basis of pig production. Being a cooperative owner in Danish Crown are a requirement for supplying pigs to Friland A/S.

Furthermore, Friland A/S and Animal Protection Denmark cooperated in drawing up this Code of Practice. The Danish Free-Range concept is '*Approved by Animal Protection Denmark*'. All farmers are authorised and subject to annual third-party certification. In addition to this fundamental scheme, there are two additional Danish national schemes:

- *The Animal welfare label (Dyrevelfærdsmærket)* which is driven by the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, and suppliers of Free-range pigs are inspected annually by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.
- *The DANISH Product Standard* which is driven by the Danish Agriculture and Food Council. The German Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH (QS) acknowledges this standard as equivalent to QS's quality standard 'Agriculture Pig Farming'. All farmers are authorised and subject to third-party certification.

On top of the above-mentioned Danish production standard, suppliers to the Free-Range concept must comply with:

- California Code of Regulations proposition 12 for Breeding Pigs. This additional set of rules are third-party certified every 12 months.
- Haltungsform level 3. This additional set of rules are third-party certified every 12 months.

The basic principles of this Code of Practice focus on welfare of pigs – whether on the farm, during transport or at the abattoir – may be summarised in the following five sentences:

1. Pigs must be free to move about easily and engage in their most natural species-specific behaviour.
2. Pigs must suffer no harm – physically or psychologically.
3. Pigs must not suffer hunger but must have free access to natural feeding stuff and water to maintain good health and vigour.
4. Pigs must not be exposed to infection and must not suffer any harm.
5. Pigs must not in any way be frightened or distressed.

In practice, this means that pigs must at all times be provided with sufficient space and have free access to bedded areas and outdoor areas.

To the greatest possible extent, daylight must be provided, and the pigs must be handled so that mixing of different size and age groups is minimised to prevent fighting.

All market pigs under this Code of Practice must be born in outdoor huts.

Pigs held in outdoor systems all year round must have free access to huts or other facilities to protect them from wind, heat, cold, rain and snowfall.

Furthermore, pigs kept in outdoor paddocks must have access to wallows to protect them from heat stress and sunburn.

Development

Amendment of Code of Practice

Friland A/S reserves the right to amend this Code of Practice as deemed necessary.

Friland A/S and Animal Protection Denmark collaborate on any amendments, which must be mutually agreed upon.

To facilitate this, a committee comprising representatives from farmers, Animal Protection Denmark, and Friland A/S has been established.

Commencement

When amendments are made and/or new rules are introduced, suitable transitional periods will be ensured to enable farmers to develop their production in accordance with the new rules, thereby ensuring that the introduction of new rules will not give rise to practices that distort competition in primary production.

Readers must make sure that they have the latest version of this Code of Practice. Visit our homepage www.friland.com to download the latest version.

Deviations and sanctions

Sanctions for violations of this Code of Practice vary based on the deviation.

Administrative issues are addressed by submitting documentation within a specified timeframe. Repeated administrative violations lead to intensified consequences, such as unannounced inspections, advisory visits, or additional spot audits.

Violations of animal welfare and production requirement may result in additional unannounced audits within three months, certificate suspension, a new start-up visit (with a fee), certificate cancellation, and exclusion. Pig deliveries to the Free-Range concept cannot resume until issues are rectified and re-inspected.

Farmers must comply with all relevant legislation, regulations and statutory requirements listed in the introduction section. Headlines regarding traceability and animal welfare is described in this Code of Practice.

Authorisation and inspection

Only authorised breeders – of both piglets and slaughter pigs – may produce pigs for Friland A/S's Free-Range concept.

Once granted authorisation, breeders must accept (in writing) to rear their animals in conformity with the standards presented by Friland A/S.

Inspection visits can both be announced and unannounced.

At inspection following documents must be available:

- Certificate issued by Animal Protection Denmark
- Agreement to follow The Animal welfare label
- A valid DANISH certificate
- Updated housing records
- Field maps (outdoor animals)
- List of feed ingredients and delivery notes
- Housing plan (measurements and space inside)
- Veterinary journals

- Records of withdrawal periods
- Invoices showing feed purchases and visits by veterinarian
- Declarations for transport and delivery at abattoir
- Quarterly print-out showing moving of pigs
- Housing plan (measurements and space inside)

In connection with inspections, random feed samples for analysis may be taken.

Also, the livestock veterinarian may be contacted directly.

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1 Origin of animals

1.1 Requirements

Both piglet and finisher production must be authorised in accordance with this Code of Practice.

In order to eliminate the risk of infection transmission to our pig population, the importing of live animals is prohibited.

Conditions for acceptance of livestock into this programme begin for the gilts one month prior to farrowing at the latest. From that point, all conditions under this Code of Practice must be accepted and observed.

Producers of finishers must keep documentation of origin – a so-called sales declaration.

2 Sow unit

2.1 Farrowing

All Free-range pigs must be born in outdoor huts.

No later than seven days prior to farrowing, sows and gilts must be moved to the farrowing paddock where they must be offered individual farrowing huts.

Each sow must be offered a sufficient quantity of straw to enable nest building and to ensure that the piglets are kept warm.

The straw-bedded lying area must be at least 3.8 m² per sow. Minimum paddock area for a sow with piglets is 300 m².

2.2 Nursing sows

Nursing sows may be produced/used under the following conditions: The nursing sows (both intermediate sow and nursing sow) must have access to at least 10 m², including at least 6.2 m² of outdoor area, regardless of pig-shelter type.

- The calculation of the number of square metres is based on the internal dimensions of the shelter.
- All other applicable legislation must be complied with at all times.

The nursing enclosure may be used if the rules below are complied with:

- The nursing enclosure must not have a solid floor.
- The lower part of the sides of the enclosure may be closed (max. 60 cm), while the upper part must be open to ensure good air circulation.
- The sow may be kept in this special enclosure for maximum four days.

The use of nursing sows must be recorded in the logbook.

2.3 Ringing

Ringing of breeding animals is allowed. Ringing may be necessary to protect soil structure and environment so that sows do not ruin pastures that bind nitrogen from the manure.

2.4 Teeth clipping

Teeth clipping is prohibited, however grinding or filing of teeth is allowed according to the legislation in force.

2.5 Tail docking

Tail docking is prohibited.

2.6 Castration

Male pigs are surgically castrated with the use of local anaesthesia injected into the testicles at least five minutes before castration. Following castration, the pigs are injected with analgesia (pain relief). The procedure is performed by the farmer after a training session with a veterinarian.

Castration must be performed using sharp and clean tools and within 2-7 days of the pigs being born. Castration is performed to prevent mating and fighting and to ensure that the meat does not smell of boar.

2.7 Weaning

Piglets are weaned in the 5th week from farrowing (35 days). Weaning age depends on the circumstances in each individual herd. However, weaning of piglets younger than 30 days is not allowed.

Piglets must have access to supplementary feed from 21 days of age.

2.8 Housing of breeding animals

Gestating sows, dry sows, gilts and boars must be kept in outdoor or loose housing systems. Indoor areas must be in the form of either huts or pigsties.

Sows and gilts must have free access to an outdoor area in the form of either pasture or outdoor runs. No outdoor runs are required for breeding boars.

Areas and space requirements

| | Total area per animal, m ² a) | Straw-bedded lying area, m ² b) | Straw-bedded lying area in huts, m ² b) | Total area of outdoor run, m ² per animal c) |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Gestating sows | 2.8 | 1.25 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Breeding gilts | 2,23 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.75 |
| Replacement gilts | 2,23 | 0,6 | 0,85 | 0,54 |
| Boars (single) | 6.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | |
| Boars (with sows) | 6.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | |
| Lactating sows | | | 3.8 | 300.0 d) |

a) Only 50% of the non-bedded area may be slatted.

b) Only straw is acceptable as bedding material.

c) The outdoor run must always be at least 20 m².

d) Only paddocks are acceptable.

Female breeding animals who are six months of age or older must always be kept in loose housing systems except during temporary periods for animal husbandry purposes. However, the animals may be restraint for:

- A continuous period of maximum four hours at a time.
- No more than six hours in any 24-hour period.
- No more than 24 hours total in any 30-day period.

2.9 Service section

Indoor mating and service is accepted. In practice this means that for a short period (from the weaning period until the end of the heat period – seven days at the most), sows may be kept in buildings

without access to outdoor areas. However, the total space requirements must always be obtained.

Indoor pens for individual housing of sows in mating section must be at least 4.0 m² with a straw-bedded area of at least 2 m². The pen must be at least 10 m² if used for mating.

Insemination stalls are allowed. However, sows or gilts may only be restrained in stalls for up to four hours to perform artificial insemination or confirm pregnancy.

3 Weaned pigs and finishers

3.1 Housing

Weaners and finishers may be housed in straw-bedded pens provided they have free access to an outdoor run all year round.

The following minimum area requirements must be observed:

| Average weight/pig | Total area per pig/m² | Straw-bedded area per pig/m² | Outdoor area per pig/m² |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| Up to 25 kg | 0.40 | 0.18 a) | 0.17 b) |
| 25-30 kg | 0.52 | 0.24 | 0.22 b) |
| 30-50 kg | 0.70 | 0.28 | 0.30 b) |
| 50-55 kg | 1.10 | 0.33 | 0.30 b) |
| 55-65 kg | 1.10 | 0.38 | 0.34 b) |
| 65-75 kg | 1.10 | 0.41 | 0.38 b) |
| 75-85 kg | 1.10 | 0.46 | 0.42 b) |
| 85-95 kg | 1.10 | 0.50 | 0.46 b) |
| 95-110 kg | 1.20 | 0.55 | 0.50 b) |
| 110-120 kg c) | 1.30 | 0.60 | 0.54 b) |
| > 120 kg | 1.40 | 0.60 | 0.54 b) |

- a) In the period after weaning, the straw-bedded lying area may be adjusted to the size of the pigs in order to create the ideal environment for the pigs. However, at least 0.18 m² per pig weighing 25 kg. If the pigs are housed in huts, the minimum bedded area is 0.25 m².
- b) Yet the outdoor area must always be at least 20 m² (for pigs up to 40 kg minimum 10 m²).
- c) The Free-Range concept does not market heavy pigs. The quality premium is only maintained within the weight range of 81-100.9 kg; therefore, the average maximum live weight will not exceed 120 kilograms.

At this stage, pigs must be housed in groups of same age, size and weight. As a principal rule, mixing of pigs after weaning should be kept to a minimum. A description of the flow of pigs within the system must be made to document this.

During the period October 1st. – May 1st., curtains may be used in front of the outdoor areas if adverse weather conditions, such as rain or wind, are deemed to negatively impact the welfare of the animals. These curtains must be electronically controlled and capable of generating a usage log.

3.2 Requirements in huts/indoor areas

Pigs must always be provided with a lying area liberally supplied with straw bedding to allow the pigs to lie down in a dry place free from draught.

Huts must be inspected frequently to ensure that they are always dry and well-bedded with straw.

Slatted flooring is not allowed in the lying areas. Only 50% of the non-bedded area may be slatted.

Housing units must have sufficient fresh air and daylight. Housing units must have natural ventilation except for the service section, where mechanical ventilation is allowed.

3.3 Requirements for outdoor areas

The requirement for outdoor areas may for a short period (no more than three days) be departed from in connection with the handing-over of pigs for sale or slaughter.

3.4 Outdoor runs

Outdoor runs must be established in such a way that the animals' need for fresh air is met, while at the same time being environmentally safe.

In order to divert rainwater and manure so flooring is kept dry, drained or slatted flooring is allowed in part of the outdoor area. At least 50% of the outdoor flooring must be solid. However, drained floor with openings, that does not exceed more than 10% of the flooring is considered as solid. The outdoor area must be with an approved membrane or similar feature to allow manure and rainwater to be collected.

Optionally, the outside area may either be with straw floor or straw-bedded, but bedding is not a requirement in the outside area.

The outdoor area may be partially roofed or total roofed if the roof observes the 45° rule.

The balustrade must be so open that the pigs are able to look out. In practice, this means that the solid part of the balustrade must not be higher than 60 cm.

As a principal rule, the distance between the balustrade and other buildings must be 10 metres to give the pigs a view.

For more details we refer to '*Guidelines for definition of out-door area*' at the end of the Code of Practice

All pigs weighing over 20 kg must have access to temperature-regulating measures, for example water spray systems, when the average daytime temperature exceeds 15 °C.

3.5 Outdoor paddocks

Outdoor paddocks must be equipped with good and effective fencing to ensure that predators are kept out and that external passers-by cannot enter the paddocks or feed the animals.

All pigs weighing over 20 kg must have access to wallows, enabling them to adjust their body temperature and to protect against sun burn when the average daytime temperature exceeds 15 °C.

To prevent nitrogen percolation paddocks must, to the greatest extent, be covered by an efficient grass vegetation.

4 Management

Tethering of pigs or housing in crates is only allowed for a very short period (no more than four hours) in connection with illness, treatment, insemination or identification of an animal.

All pigs should be carefully inspected each day, giving special attention to signs of injury, illness or distress. It must be possible to identify the herd of sows by ear tags.

All equipment and mechanic feeding systems must be kept clean and should be inspected frequently to always appear well-maintained and in good repair. Moreover, the whole farm is expected to appear tidy.

A very high standard of husbandry is essential. Staff must be well-instructed.

4.1 Parallel production/traceability

For reasons of credibility, administration and control, conventional and Free-range production cannot take place on the same premises.

Should it not be possible for a producer of finishers to buy piglets from an approved Free-range herd, a provisional exemption may be granted to produce conventional pigs.

Under no circumstances may conventionally reared pigs be transferred to the farm before the delivery of Free-range pigs has stopped.

If a farmer wishes to resume deliveries of Free-range pigs, an inspection visit must be paid in order to document that conventional pigs are no longer present.

5 Feed and water

All animals must be fed on a daily basis according to standards fitting their needs. Feed rations should be of good quality and contain all necessary nutrients, micro minerals and vitamins according to the applicable standards for the sector.

- Adding growth promoters such as; antibiotics or other drugs, colouring agents etc. to the diet is **prohibited**. Antibiotics must not be used on a routine basis at any stage of production.
- Feed for fatteners from 30 kg to slaughter must be GMO- free.
- The only animal-based feed source allowed is dairy products.

Feed must not contain any ingredients that may negatively impact the health of the pigs, the meat quality (including off-taste) or the health status and safety of the end-product.

Only informatively labelled feed components will be approved. Delivery notes, labels etc. must be filed methodically. Documentation must be kept for at least one year (and always until the next inspection). This is checked in connection with herd visits.

All pigs **must** be offered good-quality roughage as part of their diet to make them feel satisfied. Straw is not accepted as roughage. However, smooth stalked meadow grass straw is allowed.

Pigs must always have free access to fresh and clean drinking water.

6 Disease prevention and health control

In order to prevent disease, own-checks must include a health control programme which can be presented in connection with herd visits.

- A disease prevention programme must be followed in order to prevent diseases, mange, lice and parasites.
- A health consultancy agreement must be instigated.
- Medication must not be used on a routine basis.
- The use of prescription drugs as well as non-prescription drugs is subject to twice the legal withdrawal period.
- Depending on local circumstances and the veterinarian's advice, inoculation of the herd of sows to prevent disease is allowed.
- Iron injections are allowed in order to prevent anaemia in piglets.

All use of veterinary medication and all use of medication to prevent disease must be recorded. The records must show the following:

- Medication dispensed by the veterinarian, including date, name of medication and quantities.
- Animals treated must be clearly identified together with name and quantity of the medication used, date of administration and post-treatment retention time.

Records containing the veterinarian's inspection reports must be available.

The farmer is responsible for calling the veterinarian's attention to the fact that this Code of Practice must be observed.

The persons responsible for the herd must be instructed in injection technique.

A working captive bolt-gun must be kept on the operation so that animals can be properly euthanized/stunned if they need to be culled. Those using the bolt-gun must be instructed in the correct use and must be able to identify the visual indicators of death, and the physical parameters that confirm this.

6.1 Disease section

Sick or injured pigs must be treated immediately. If necessary, sick pigs must be moved to a separate hospital pen. Area requirements for hospital pens are similar to general requirements. A suitable number of hospital pens must be available.

Space requirements for hospital pens

| Average weight/pig | Total indoor area per pig/m ² 1 pig per pen | Total indoor area per pig/m ² >1 pig per pen | Straw-bedded/soft lying area, per pig/m ² 1 pig per pen | Straw-bedded/soft lying area, per pig/m ² >1 pig per pen |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 7 – 15 kg | 0,41 | 0,36 | 0,27 | 0,24 |
| 15 – 30 kg | 0,69 | 0,58 | 0,46 | 0,39 |
| 30 – 60 kg | 1,14 | 0,91 | 0,76 | 0,61 |
| 60 – 100 kg | 1,70 | 1,29 | 1,13 | 0,28 |
| 100 -130 kg | 2,05 | 1,53 | 1,37 | 1,02 |
| Sows / gilts | 3,50 | 2,80 | 2,33 | 1,87 |

No hospital pen must be less than 3.5 m².

If hospital pens give access to several climate zones, access to an outdoor area is not required. A different climate zone can be established in the pen by covering part of the pen area or by spreading deep bedding.

7 Transport and handling

Loading facilities must be available on the farm.

Electrical stimulation must not be used for moving, loading or unloading pigs.

Pigs from different pens must not be mixed together in loading facilities or trucks unless this is done just before loading.

The pigs must be transported directly from the farm to the abattoir. Use of collection points/assembly yards are not accepted. Picking up pigs from other farms on the way is allowed.

Transport time must not exceed eight hours.

Transport time for piglets being transported from seller to buyer must, however, not exceed four hours.

Trucks used to transport slaughter pigs must have a lift, and the floor (including the lift) must have a rubber coating or similar coating with the same insulation, silencing and non-skid qualities.

Trucks must have full air suspension.

All pigs being prepared for movement and transport should be handled and transported with great care and attention.

8 Slaughter

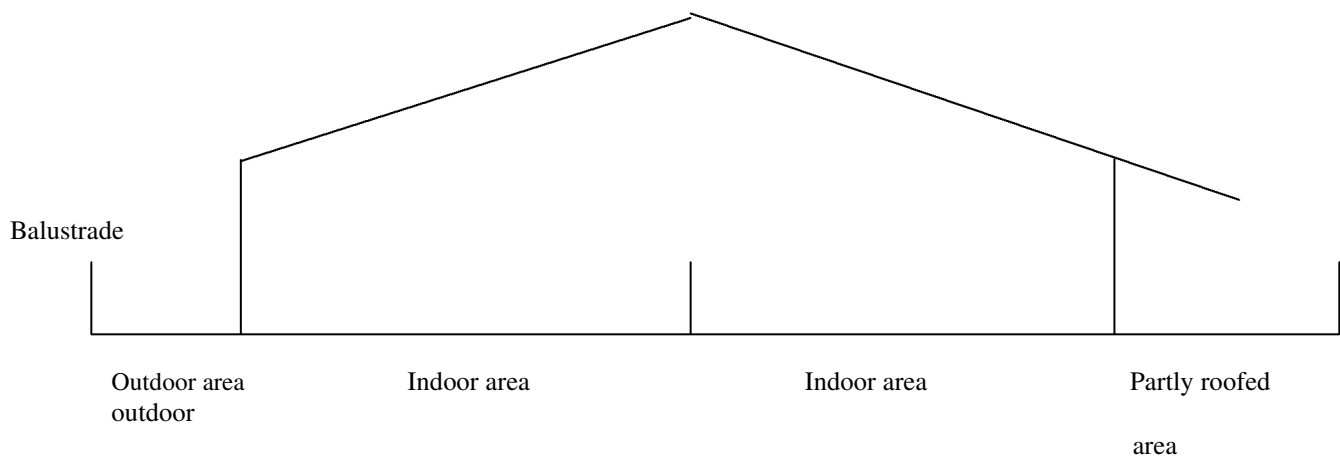
At the abattoir, all Free-range pigs must be kept in the same groups as during transport.

Free-range pigs must be slaughtered on the day they arrive at the abattoir.

Free-range pigs must be reared and slaughtered in Denmark.

Guidelines for definition of outdoor area

Building with closed long side

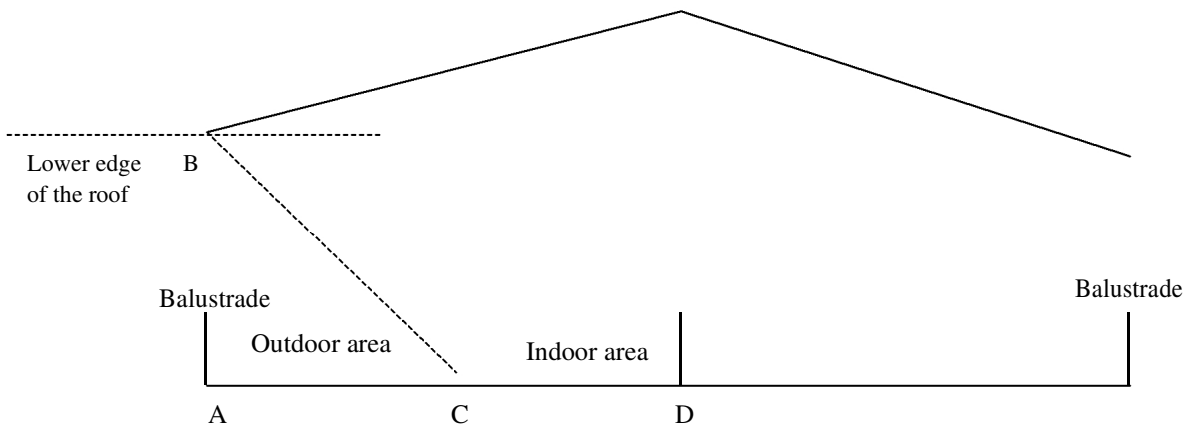


This kind of building requires a separate outdoor area.

The outdoor area may be porch-roofed.

Any porch roof must observe the 45° rule (see the drawing for **Buildings with an open long side** for definition).

Buildings with an open long side



This kind of building is so open that the outer part of the pen may be considered a roofed outdoor area.

The above drawing (not to scale) shows how the 45° rule is used to calculate what is an outdoor area and what is an indoor area. In practice, the height from the ground to the lower edge of the roof (A to B) is measured. If the measured height is e.g. 3.5 metres, the distance between A and C (3.5 metres) may be considered an outdoor area.

Balustrade:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solid part of the balustrade | | | | | | | | | | Height max. 60 cm | | |

In general, the solid part of the balustrade must not exceed 60 cm. The upper part of the balustrade must be so open to allow the pigs to look out.