

# Self-assessment checklist for Pig Farming

## to the Guideline Agriculture Pig Farming

You can use this checklist to document your self-assessment and to prepare for the audit. The **self-assessment** must be carried out **at least once a calendar year** and must cover all areas relevant to your company. This tool is based on the requirements defined in the **Guideline Agriculture Pig Farming**.

 **Additional explanations and interpretation aids** can also be found in the **explanatory notes** to the **Guideline for Agriculture Pig Farming** (applicable requirements).

This self-assessment checklist **does not replace the daily inspection of** all animals and all housing and supply facilities.

Document overview: On our [website](#) you will find work aids to make documentation easier, if required.

### Company data

Name of the company

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Street and house number  
Postcode and city

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Official location number(s) (VVVO no.) and production scope(s)

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Contact person, legal representative

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Date

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Criterion/requirement	Remark
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## 2 General requirements

### 2.1 General system requirements

#### 2.1.1 General company data

**Note:** Has anything changed in the company data since the last self-assessment (e.g. change of farm manager, vet, coordinator, sty lease)? Was the coordinator informed?

Is a current overview of the company with the following master data available?

- Address of the company and its locations (incl. location numbers, if applicable geodata, route directions)
- Telephone number, e-mail address
- Legal representative, contact person
- Person responsible for incident and crisis management
- Number of animal places
- For on-farm mixers: Type of feed used, number of animal places or feed quantity as well as change of feed

Are the following documents up to date?

- Overview with contact/master data
- Company sketch or plan, location map
- Documentation for external storage locations (in particular feed, bedding material)
- Declaration of Participation and Power of Attorney

**Basis:** In the event of an incident or crisis, QS and the coordinator must be informed of critical incidents (e.g. via online form or paper of incident).

Can be demonstrated how QS can be informed quickly and comprehensively in the event of an incident or crisis?

Is a complete and up-to-date emergency plan available at each location, including contact details?

## 3 Pig production requirements

### 3.1 Traceability and labelling

#### 3.1.1 Purchasing, incoming goods and services

Are all purchases of goods, services and animals for pig production documented (e.g. delivery notes, invoices, bag tags for feed)?

#### 3.1.2 [K.O.] Marking and identification of livestock

Are all animals properly marked or identifiable (ear tag)?

Can the animals be traced back to the company of delivery to an abattoir (ear tag, stamp)?

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<b>3.1.3 [K.O.] Origin and marketing</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Only piglets and fattening pigs from QS-eligible companies may be purchased.</p> <p>Is a copy or carbon copy of the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes) available at the location?</p> <p>Is it ensured that existing waiting times for the delivery of animals to third parties are indicated on the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery note)? Are any foreign bodies remaining in the animal (broken injection needles, subcutaneous transponders) also indicated?</p>	
<b>3.1.4 [K.O.] Stock records</b>	
<p>Are stock records (e.g. <u>stock books</u>) kept in a timely manner?</p> <p>Are animal losses recorded separately?</p>	
<b>3.1.5 Livestock transport</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> QS animals may only be transported by QS-authorized livestock transport companies.</p> <p>Is livestock transport regulated accordingly?</p>	
<b>3.2 Husbandry, care and handling</b>	
<b>3.2.1 [K.O.] Monitoring and care of livestock</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> The welfare of the animals must be checked at least once a day; immediate action must be taken in the event of any abnormalities.</p> <p>Are dead animals removed from the livestock area as quickly as possible?</p>	
<b>3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements</b>	
<p><b>Note:</b> <i>Have there been any structural changes to the husbandry facilities since the last self-assessment?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do the (new) husbandry facilities fulfil the QS requirements?</li> <li>• Is it ensured that the husbandry does not lead to avoidable damage to health or behavioural disorders?</li> <li>• Are there items in the livestock area that pose a risk of exposure to harmful substances or injury with splinter residues in the tongue?</li> <li>• Do the animals come into contact with faeces and urine no more than is unavoidable?</li> </ul> <p>Is it ensured that all pigs except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sick and injured animals that are separated from the group,</li> <li>• Gilts and sows in the period from one week prior to the farrowing date, during the suckling period and after weaning up until four weeks after successful service,</li> <li>• Pigs which are persistently incompatible with other pigs or which are subject to such behaviour</li> <li>• Gilts or sows in companies with less than ten sows and</li> <li>• Boars intended for breeding,</li> </ul>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<p>should always be kept in groups?</p> <p>Do pigs kept individually always have visual contact with other pigs?</p> <p>Can individually kept pigs turn around freely at any time during periods when group housing is compulsory?</p> <p>Are all systems and equipment (especially lighting, ventilation and supply equipment such as drinking troughs and feeding systems) in perfect condition?</p>	
<p><u>Sow Production:</u> Are gilts and sows provided with sufficient amount of nesting material in the week before the expected farrowing date?</p>	
<p><u>Suckling piglets:</u> Is the piglets' lying area always sufficiently littered or insulated and heated and is the perforated floor covered?</p>	
<p><b>3.2.3 [K.O.] Handling sick and injured animals</b></p>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Rejected, aggressive, weak, sick or injured animals must be immediately separated, treated or killed in accordance with animal welfare regulations.</p> <p>Are suitable accommodation facilities (recovery pens) available for sick and injured animals or can these be set up if necessary?</p> <p>Are the recovery pens provided with sufficient dry and soft litter or pad to cover the lying area for each pig? Are feed and water easily accessible for the animals?</p> <p><b>Basis for culling:</b> Every non-treatable animal must be immediately stunned and culled in accordance with animal welfare regulations.</p> <p>Are all measures taken to ensure that the animals are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering?</p> <p>Are the five steps for culling being followed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determination if culling is necessary</li> <li>• Proper anesthesia with appropriate devices</li> <li>• Control of anaesthesia (success of anaesthesia)</li> <li>• Immediate killing of the anaesthetised animal (with appropriate methods)</li> <li>• Control of death entry</li> </ul> <p>Is the equipment for culling in accordance with animal welfare regulations available and ready for use (e.g. bolt shooting including ammunition and sharp knife)?</p>	
<p><b>3.2.4 Sty floor</b></p>	
<p><b>Note:</b> <i>Have there been any structural changes to the sty floors since the last self-assessment?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do the (new) floors meet the requirements? Are there any signs of wear and tear?</li> <li>• Are the sty floors and walkways non-slip and slip-resistant?</li> </ul> <p>Is the lying area dry?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<p><b>3.2.5 Sty climate and noise</b></p> <p><i>Optional: Has an (ITW) sty climate check been carried out since the last self-assessment?</i></p> <p>Are the air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and concentration of the gas harmless to the animals?</p> <p>Is the noise level of technical annexes kept to a minimum and is continuous and sudden noise avoided?</p> <p>Is it possible to reduce the heat stress (e.g. high-pressure misting system) at high sty air temperatures?</p> <p>Are the specifications for the minimum temperature in the lying area complied with?</p> <p><b>Basis:</b> For an electrically operated ventilation system, a replacement device must be available to ensure sufficient air exchange.</p> <p>Is a functional back-up device available?</p>	
<p><b>3.2.6 Lighting</b></p> <p>Is the lighting appropriate for the animals (duration and intensity)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is artificial lighting required for the care and feeding of the animals? Is the sty then illuminated for at least eight hours continuously?</li> <li>• Does the artificial lighting in the area where the animals spend time have at least 80 lux or at least 40 lux in clearly defined lying areas?</li> <li>• Does the artificial lighting correspond to the day-night rhythm?</li> <li>• Is there an "orientation light" outside the lighting times?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances</b></p>	
<p>Do the space available and the lying surfaces per animal comply with the QS requirements?</p>	
<p><b>3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system</b></p> <p>In the case of electric ventilation: Is there a functioning alarm system that reports a power failure or a failure of the ventilation system and works independently of the power grid?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<b>3.2.9 Emergency power supply</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> In the event of a power failure, a sufficient supply of fresh air, feed and water must be ensured via an emergency power supply.</p> <p>For emergency power supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the existing emergency power supply functional?</li> <li>• If an emergency power generator is required: Are the necessary technical connections for the emergency power generator available?</li> <li>• Is there a written contractual agreement if an emergency power generator is borrowed from a third party if necessary?</li> </ul>	
<b>3.2.10 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport</b>	
<p>Is the loading and unloading equipment constructed in such a way that animals cannot injure themselves and can be loaded safely? Is the tread surface non-slip?</p> <p>Is the loading area adequately illuminated?</p> <p>Is there a safety railing for ramps?</p>	
<b>3.2.11 [K.O.] Activity material</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> <u>Each pig of all ages</u> must have <u>constant</u> access to a sufficient quantity of safe and healthy activity material (animal:material-ratio 12:1).</p> <p>Can the pigs investigate, move and rearrange the material?</p> <p>Is the food organic and rich in fiber?</p> <p>If products declared as feedstuffs are used as manipulable material: Are the requirements of criteria <i>3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed</i>, <i>3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement</i> and <i>3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material</i> complied with?</p>	
<b>3.2.12 [K.O.] Piglet castration</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> The castration of the piglets is only permitted with effective elimination of pain. Suitable painkillers must be used when castrating male piglets to relief postoperative pain after castration.</p> <p>Is appropriate evidence of the use of painkillers available (e.g. medical records, combined record, stock book)?</p>	
<b>3.3 Feed and feeding</b>	
<b>3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> All pigs must be supplied with sufficient quantities and quality of feed every day.</p> <p>Are the quantity and feed quality sufficient?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<b>3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities</b>	
<p>Are all plants, containers and feeding lines, feed transport boxes, equipment (e.g. shovels) and vehicles clean?</p> <p>Are feeding systems cleaned after the use of medicines?</p>	
<b>3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> All feed must be protected against contamination and impurities.</p> <p>Is all feed protected against contamination and impurities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is animal feed stored and transported separately from waste, slurry, manure and hazardous substances, seeds, medication and chemicals?</li> <li>• Are all feedstuffs stored carefully (clean, dry, using safe building materials and paints, protected from the weather)?</li> <li>• Is all feed protected from pests, rodents, birds, wild boar, other wild animals and pets?</li> <li>• Are storage facilities cleaned before storage if necessary and are the storage facilities and the stored feed checked regularly?</li> <li>• Is mixing avoided and are silo cells clearly marked?</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>Dust bags used to fill silos, big packs and other containers/packaging used for feed delivery should remain on site for biosafety reasons and must be disposed of if necessary.</i></p>	
<b>3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Only feed may be purchased and used that originates from feed producers or traders who are eligible to supply QS or certified by recognized standards (excluding primary agricultural products).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>Have there been any changes to the feed suppliers since the last self-assessment and have they been added to the list of customers and suppliers?</i></p> <p>If transporters (forwarders) are commissioned with the transport of unpackaged feed: Is it ensured that the transporter is eligible to deliver into the QS scheme?</p>	
<b>3.3.5 Assignment of compound feed deliveries (bulk feed) to location numbers</b>	
<p>Is the location number passed on to suppliers or producers when ordering compound feed (bulk feed)?</p> <p>Is the location number shown on the accompanying documents from the supplier?</p> <p>Are the correct location numbers communicated to the supplier in the event of missing or incorrect information?</p>	
<b>3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Only feedstuffs that fulfils the QS requirements and the legal requirements may be used. Feed materials must be listed in the "QS list of feed materials".</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<p><b>Note:</b> Has anything changed in feed production at the location since the last self-assessment (e.g. feedstuffs used)?</p> <p>Are the facilities and equipment used for feed production checked annually and maintained or repaired if necessary?</p> <p>Are additives used in compliance and is their use documented in accordance with HACCP principles?</p>	
<p><b>3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation</b></p>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Cooperation for feed production is only possible between QS livestock owners. The sale of manufactured feed to third parties outside the cooperation is not permitted.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Has anything changed in the cooperation since the last self-assessment?</p> <p>Is there a current contractual agreement on feed production or for purchasing groups?</p> <p>Is the traceability documentation available for a cooperation (name and address of the supplied companies as well as the type and quantity supplied)?</p>	
<p><b>3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of service providers for feed production</b></p>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Only service providers who are QS certified may be used.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Has a new service provider (e.g. mobile soy toasting plants, oil presses or mobile milling and mixing plants) been added since the last self-assessment?</p> <p>Is the new service provider QS-eligible to deliver?</p>	
<p><b>3.4 Drinking water</b></p>	
<p><b>3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply</b></p>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> <u>All pigs</u> must <u>always</u> have access to drinking water in sufficient quantity (ad libitum) and quality (clean, clear and without extraneous odour).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Has anything changed in the water supply since the last self-assessment?</p> <p>Are there enough drinking troughs available (see guideline)?</p> <p>Are the drinking troughs functional?</p>	
<p><b>3.4.2 Hygiene of the drinking facilities</b></p>	
<p>Are all watering systems clean and in good condition?</p> <p>Are watering systems cleaned after the use of medicines?</p>	
<p><b>3.5 Animal health/medication</b></p>	
<p><b>3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian</b></p>	
<p><b>Note:</b> Has anything changed since the last self-assessment (new veterinarian or similar)?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
Is there a current veterinary care contract?	
<b>3.5.2 [K.O.] Implementation of the stock care</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> The entire livestock must be inspected by a veterinarian before the initial audit and then regularly at least once per fattening cycle or at least twice a year.</p> <p>Are all veterinary inspection reports and their results available?</p> <p>If a need for action has been identified: Is an animal health and hygiene management plan available?</p>	
<b>3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines</b>	
<p>Are fully completed and chronologically ordered receipts for the purchase of the veterinary medicinal products available?</p> <p>Are the purchase and use of medicines and vaccines properly documented in chronological order?</p> <p>Are all medical instruments clean and fit for purpose?</p> <p>Are only flawless injection needles used (never bent, blunt or unclean needles)?</p>	
<b>3.5.4 [K.O.] Storage of medicines and vaccines</b>	
<p>Are all medicines and vaccines stored in accordance with the instructions of the producer (refrigerated if necessary)?</p> <p>Are the medicines kept clean and inaccessible to all unauthorized persons (children, unauthorized employees, tradesmen, etc.) (e.g. locked (refrigerated) cabinet or room)?</p> <p>Have all preparations that have passed their expiry date been disposed of properly?</p> <p>Are empty containers disposed of immediately?</p> <p>Are the feed drugs stored in such a way that feeding to animals for which they are not intended is impossible?</p>	
<b>3.5.5 [K.O.] Identification of treated livestock</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> All treated animals must be clearly identifiable at all times (especially for the duration of the waiting period).</p> <p>Can treated animals be identified beyond doubt?</p>	
<b>3.6 Hygiene</b>	
<b>3.6.1 Buildings and equipment</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Effective cleaning and pest control of all buildings and facilities/equipment must be possible.</p> <p>Are all buildings and equipment clean and in good condition?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<p><b>3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>Has anything changed in the signage and/or fencing of the site since the last self-assessment?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are all sty entrances marked with a sign "Access prohibited for unauthorised persons"?</li> <li>• In the case of outdoor and free-range keeping: Are there signs with "unauthorized feeding and trespassing prohibited"?</li> <li>• Do gates, doors and other entrances effectively prevent unauthorized access and animals from entering? Are entrances and exits locked during rest periods?</li> </ul> <p>Are clean work clothes used and is protective clothing made available to external persons?</p> <p>Is there a functioning hand wash basin, hand cleaning agent, disposable wipes or clean towels available?</p> <p>Is the hygiene sluice (if available) clean?</p> <p>Is the waste disposed properly?</p> <p>Are sties/sty compartments that have become vacant cleaned and disinfected between destocking and re-occupation?</p> <p>Is the access to landfills or household waste as well as the contact between livestock and wild animals, especially wild boar and rodents, effectively prevented?</p> <p>Are of the pig sty entrances and exits equipped with devices for cleaning and disinfecting shoes?</p> <p>Are there fixed equipment and fittings (e.g. asphalt, concrete, pavement) for loading and unloading pigs and a paved area for cleaning and disinfecting transport vehicles?</p> <p><b>Basis – if applicable:</b> For fattening pig and/or rearing pig companies with capacity for more than 700 fattening and/or rearing pigs, pig-breeding companies for more than 150 sows and mixed companies for more than 100 sows (annex 3-companies) (mixed companies: seven fattening places correspond to one sow place).</p> <p>Is the company protected against unauthorised entry by people and against intrusion by wild boars and locked during rest periods (Company enclosure, "isolated solutions" if necessary)?</p>	
<p><b>3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material</b></p> <p>Are the litter and organic manipulable material suitable for animals, hygienic, clean and visually free of fungal infestation?</p> <p>Are the litter and organic manipulable material stored cleanly and protected from access by wild boars?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<b>3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up</b>	
<p>Is the carcass storage area located on a paved surface, where possible outside the sty area? Is it secured against unauthorized access?</p> <p>Is the carcass storage of adequate size for all carcasses? Is it secured against the leakage of fluids and is it rodent-tight?</p> <p>Is the carcass storage easy to clean and disinfect?</p> <p>Are carcass storage areas/containers placed for the pick-up in such a way that vehicles from carcass disposal companies do not come near the livestock sties?</p>	
<b>3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Monitoring for pest infestation must be carried out on the entire company, including the storage facilities.</p> <p>Are traps and baits laid out in such a way that other animals do not have access to them?</p> <p>In case of pest infestation: Is the infestation effectively and properly controlled and are the control measures documented?</p>	
<b>3.6.6 Risk assessment for biosafety</b>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> From 1 July 2026, every livestock owner must prove that they have analysed their location in terms of ASF risk using the ASF risk traffic light or the ASP-Offenstall (open sty) risk traffic light (<a href="#">risk traffic light</a>) or has carried out a risk assessment using an officially recognised approach.</p> <p>Has a risk assessment been carried out since January 1, 2025?</p>	
<b>3.7 Monitoring programmes</b>	
<b>3.7.1 Salmonella monitoring</b>	
<p>Is the current salmonella category known?</p> <p>Can the salmonella category be verified for the last twelve quarters?</p> <p>If necessary (category II and III companies): Is documentation available on identifying of sources of salmonella? In the case of Category III companies, has implementation of the measures begun and have they been documented?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<h3>3.8 Transportation of own livestock</h3>	
<p>Livestock owners must comply with the following requirements 3.8.1 to 3.8.7 (depending on the length of the transport) transporting own livestock with own (or borrowed) vehicles, regardless of whether it is transported within the company, to other companies or e.g. to abattoirs.</p>	
<h4>3.8.1 Requirements for the means of transportation</h4>	
<p><b>Note:</b> <i>Have there been any changes to the means of transportation since the last self-assessment (e.g. new vehicle)?</i></p> <p>Are the vehicles and dividers in perfect technical condition and are they clean and hygienic? Is it ensured that the animals do not injure themselves, neither during loading and unloading nor during the transport?</p> <p>Is it possible to effectively clean and disinfect the vehicles and partitions?</p> <p>When using multiple decks, are the animals on the lower level protected as far as possible from contamination by urine and faeces from animals on the upper level?</p> <p>Are the animals protected against bad weather (e.g. hail, heavy rain, snow) and extreme temperatures at all times?</p> <p>Can the animals not escape or fall out?</p> <p>Is an adequate air circulation above the standing animals without restricting their natural freedom of movement ensured?</p> <p>Are the floors non-slip and littered?</p> <p>Can the animals be monitored at all times (e.g. sufficient lighting)?</p>	
<h4>3.8.2 [K.O.] Available space during livestock transport</h4>	
<p>Is the space available for animal transport complied with and documented in accordance with the guideline?</p>	
<h4>3.8.3 Cleaning and disinfection of means of transportation</h4>	
<p><b>Basis:</b> Vehicles used to transport animals to livestock loading points, assembly points or abattoirs must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving them.</p> <p>Is a disinfection control book properly kept separately for each vehicle (for transportation to the abattoir)?</p>	
<h4>3.8.4 Delivery documents</h4>	
<p>Do the documents accompanying the goods (e.g. delivery bills) contain information on the quantity, type of animal, animal markings (ear tags, stamps), location number of the sender?</p> <p>Is a copy or carbon copy of the documents accompanying the goods (e.g. delivery notes) available?</p>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
<p><b>3.8.5 [K.O.] Time intervals for feeding and watering as well as duration of transportation and resting times (for livestock transport over 50 km)</b></p> <p><b>Basis:</b> Certain time intervals must be observed for feeding and watering as well as for transportation and resting times for transports over 50 km.</p> <p>Are the duration of transportation, resting times and animal care documented?</p>	
<p><b>3.8.6 Transport papers (for livestock transport over 50 km)</b></p> <p>Are transport documents with details of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day and time when the transport started</li> <li>• Likely duration of the planned transport</li> <li>• Origin and owner of the livestock</li> <li>• Point of dispatch</li> <li>• Scheduled destination</li> <li>• Description of animals (e.g. species, type)</li> </ul> <p>carried in the means of transportation?</p>	
<p><b>3.8.7 [K.O.] Proof of qualification for drivers/carers (for livestock transport over 65 km)</b></p> <p>Is there a certificate of qualification for drivers and carers?</p>	

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**Date**

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**Signature**