



# Code of Practice



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### Introduction

All suppliers of organic pigs to Friland A/S's organic concept must comply with all applicable national legislation, regulations and requirements for organic farming. To ensure compliance with the organic rules, all supplying herds are inspected once a year by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. In addition to the requirements set out in the European Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, there are three additional Danish national schemes:

- *'Approved by Animal protection Denmark'* the scheme is defined by Animal Protection Denmark and subject to annual third-party certification by Baltic Control.
- The *Animal welfare label (Dyrevelfærdsmærket)* is driven by the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, and annual inspections are carried out by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.
- *Business Recommendation scheme (Anbefalinger til øget dyrevelfærd ved produktion af økologiske grise)*. Business Recommendation scheme is a collaboration between distributors of organic Danish pork, Organic Denmark, Animal Protection Denmark and the Danish Agriculture and Food Council.

The basic principles for the 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 snowfalls.

Furthermore, pigs kept in outdoor paddocks must have access to wallows, enabling them to adjust their body temperature and to protect against sun burn.

### **Development**

#### **Amendment of Code of Practice**

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

#### **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](http://www.friland.com) to download the latest version.

#### **Violation**

Any suppliers breaching the rules stated in this Code of Practice will automatically be expelled, and their supply to Friland A/S will be terminated.

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 control**

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

The authorisation of breeders is subject to approval of the farm by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and Animal protection Denmark (impartial control body). Once granted authorisation, breeders must accept (in writing) to rear their animals in conformity with the standards presented by Friland A/S.

Farms must be authorised well in advance of making their first delivery.

Inspectors from Baltic Control and the Danish Agricultural Agency will inspect the farm at least once a year. Some inspection visits will be unannounced.

At inspection following documents must be available:

- Valid declaration of organic certification issued by Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
- Valid certificate issued by Animal Protection Denmark
- Agreement to follow the Business Recommendation scheme
- Agreement to follow The Animal welfare label
- Danish Crown's 'DANISH' Code of Practice certificate
- List of feed ingredients and delivery notes
- Veterinary journals
- Invoices showing feed purchases and visits by veterinarian
- Organic-Delivery declaration
- 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

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### 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 before farrowing at the latest. From that point, all conditions under this Code of Practice must be accepted and observed.

In order to ensure and further breeding progress, 20% of the breeding animals may be purchased from conventional herds.

Only animals born organic may be slaughtered and sold as organic.

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

## 2 Sow unit

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### 2.1 Farrowing

All organic 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.

Each sow must be allowed a straw-bedded lying area of at least 3.8 m<sup>2</sup>. Minimum paddock area for a sow with piglets is 300 m<sup>2</sup>.

### 2.2 Nursing sows

Nursing sows may be used under the following conditions: The nursing sows (both intermediate sow and nursing sow) must have access to at least 10 m<sup>2</sup>, including at least 6.2 m<sup>2</sup> 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 applicable legislation must be complied with at all times.

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

- The nursing enclosure must not have a bottom.
- The bottom 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 max. 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.

Only one ring in the middle of the snout is allowed.

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### **2.4 Teeth clipping**

Teeth clipping is prohibited. Routine polishing 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 7th week. Weaning age depends on the circumstances in each individual herd. However, weaning of piglets younger than 40 days is not allowed.

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

### **2.8 Housing of breeding animals**

Gestating 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. However, it is only accepted to keep gestating sows from grazing on pasture from November 1st until 15th of April

Sows, gilts and breeding boars must always have free access to an outdoor area, either in the form of pasture or outdoor runs.

#### **Areas and space requirements**

	Total area per animal, m <sup>2</sup>	Total indoor area per animal, m <sup>2</sup> a)	Straw-bedded lying area, m <sup>2</sup> b)	Straw-bedded lying area in huts, m <sup>2</sup> b)	Total area of outdoor run, m <sup>2</sup> per animal c)
Gestating sows and gilts	4.4	2.5	1.25	1.3 / 0,95	1.9
Boars	14.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	8.0
Lactating sows				3.8	300.0 d)

a) Half of indoor floor area must always be solid.

b) Only straw is acceptable as bedding material.

c) The outdoor run must always be at least 20 m<sup>2</sup>.

d) Only paddocks are acceptable.

### **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 m<sup>2</sup> with a straw-bedded area of at least 2 m<sup>2</sup>. The pen must be at least 10 m<sup>2</sup> if used for mating.

Insemination stalls are allowed. However, sows or gilts may only be restrained in stalls for a short

time to perform artificial insemination or confirm pregnancy.

### **3 Weaned pigs and finishers**

#### **3.1 Housing**

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/m <sup>2</sup>	Indoor area per pig/m <sup>2</sup>	Solid indoor floor per pig/m <sup>2</sup>	Straw-bedded area per pig/m <sup>2</sup> a)	Outdoor area per pig/m <sup>2</sup>
Up to 35 kg	1.00	0.60	0.30	0.18 b)	0.40 c)
Up to 50 kg	1.40	0.80	0.40	0.24	0.60 c)
Up to 85 kg	1.90	1.10	0.55	0.28	0.80 c)
Up to 110 kg	2.30	1.30	0.65	0.33	1.00 c)
>110 kg	2.70	1.50	0.75	0.38	1.20 c)

- a) Only straw is acceptable as bedding material.
- b) 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 m<sup>2</sup> per pig weighing 25 kg. If the pigs are housed in huts, the minimum bedded area is 0.25 m<sup>2</sup>.
- c) Yet the outdoor area must always be at least 20 m<sup>2</sup> (for pigs up to 40 kg minimum 10 m<sup>2</sup>).

At this stage, pigs must be housed in groups of same age, size and weight. As a principal rule, mixing of pigs after weaning is not allowed. A description of the flow of pigs within the system must be made to document this.

#### **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 well-bedded with straw and dry inside.

Slatted flooring is not allowed in the lying areas. At least half of the indoor floor must be solid.

Housing units must have sufficient fresh air, daylight and natural ventilation.

Environmental enrichments must be provided either indoor, outdoor or both (*long straw, hay, silage, wood chips, branches, whole crop peas or barley, compost, peat, sisal ropes*).

#### **3.3 Requirements for outdoor areas**

The requirement for outdoor areas may for a short period be departed from in connection with the handing-over of pigs for sale or slaughter.

#### **3.4 Outdoor runs**

Outdoor areas 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 flow or straw-bedded, but bedding is not a requirement on the outdoor area.

All pigs from weaning through the growing period must have access to water spray/sprinklers when the average daytime temperature exceeds 15 °C.

The outdoor area may be provided with a partial roof. The roof may cover up to 50% of the outdoor area.

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 at least 10 metres to give the pigs a view.

For more details we refer to '*Guidelines for definition of outdoor area*' at the end of the Code of Practice.

### **3.5 Outdoor paddocks**

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

All pigs over 20 kg must have access to a mud pool, 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**

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Tethering of pigs or housing in crates is only allowed for a very short period 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 so as 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 organic production cannot take place on the same premises.



## 5 Feed and water

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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.
- All feed must be produced locally. Feed produced in Denmark is considered to be produced locally for all Danish farmers.
- Use of synthetic amino acid is not allowed.
- All feed must be free from genetically modified organisms (GMO).
- Feed rations must be organic according to applicable regulation.
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- Meat and bone meal must not be used.
- Feed must not contain animal fats.
- Feed must not contain blood plasma.
- Fish meal or similar products must not be used for finishers weighing more than 40 kg.
- 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.

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

## 6 Disease prevention and health control

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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 control programme must be agreed upon and must include a minimum of two visits a year by the veterinarian.
- Medication must not be used on a routine basis. The veterinarian must be summoned in each case. The veterinarian starts the treatment and prescribes and delivers medication in each case of a sick animal.
- 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.
- Market pigs treated with antibiotics more than once in their lifetime (less than a year) cannot be marketed as organic.

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 bolt-pistol must be kept on the property 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 for sick pigs must be available.

**Space requirements for hospital pens**

Average weight/pig	Total indoor area per pig/m <sup>2</sup>	Total indoor area per pig/m <sup>2</sup>	Straw-bedded/soft lying area, per pig/m <sup>2</sup>	Straw-bedded/soft lying area, per pig/m <sup>2</sup>
	1 pig per pen	>1 pig per pen	1 pig per pen	>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 m<sup>2</sup>.

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 pigsty by covering part of the pigsty 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.

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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**

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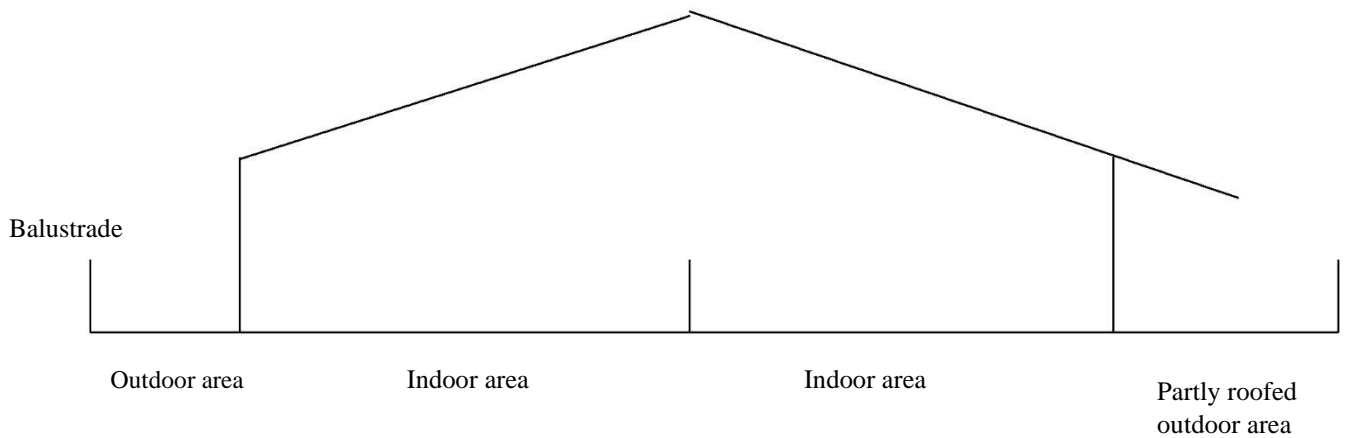
At the abattoir, all organic pigs must be kept in the same groups as during transport.

Organic pigs must be slaughtered on the day they arrive at the abattoir.

Organic pigs must be reared and slaughtered in Denmark.

**Guidelines for definition of outdoor area**

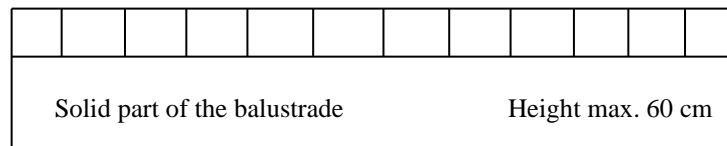
**Building with closed long side**



This kind of building requires a separate outdoor area.

The outdoor area may be partly roofed.

Balustrade:



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.