



Code of Practice

**ANIMAL PROTECTION
DENMARK**



Friland A/S, Tulipvej 1, DK-8940 Randers SV

Tel: (+45) 89 19 27 60.

frilandinfo@friland.dk www.friland.com

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. Furthermore, Friland A/S and the Danish Animal Welfare Society cooperated in drawing up this Code of Practice. The Danish Free-range concept is recommended by the Danish Animal Welfare Society. All farmers are authorised and subject to annual third-party certification by Baltic Control. In addition to this fundamental scheme, the Heart scheme 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. All farmers who deliver to Friland A/S comply with Danish Crown's Code of Practice 'DANISH'.

The basic principles of this Code of Practice focus on the welfare of the pigs, whether on the farm, during transport or at the abattoir.

The principles 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 to allow them to move about easily. They must always have free access to pens or other bedded areas as well as to 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 a mud pool to protect them from 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 the Danish Animal Welfare Society cooperate on any amendments and must agree on any amendments.

For this purpose, a committee representing farmers, the Danish Animal Welfare Society and Friland

A/S has been set up.

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.

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 are responsible for observing all relevant legislation, regulations and statutory requirements. If inspectors from the impartial control body, DB Control, establish a breach of the legislation in force, the inspectors are entitled to report this to Friland A/S. Friland A/S may decide that such breach is damaging to the credibility of this Code of Practice, and therefore should result in expulsion from this Code of Practice.

Authorisation and control

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

The authorisation of breeders is subject to approval of the farm by DB Control (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 will pay at least one inspection visit a year to each farm. At least 20% of the inspection visits will be unannounced.

The following documents must be available for inspection:

- Certificate from the Danish Animal Welfare Society scheme
- Agreement to follow the Heart scheme
- Danish Crown's 'DANISH' Code of Practice 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 (with Friland logo)
- Quarterly print-out showing moving of pigs

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

Also, the livestock veterinarian may be contacted directly.

A control fee will be charged to cover authorisation and inspection expenses.

1 Origin

1.1 Requirements

Both piglet and finisher production must be authorised.

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.

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 before farrowing, sows and gilts must be moved to the farrowing area 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 can be 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 Weaning

Piglets are weaned in the 5th week (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.

2.3 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 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.

Use of nursing sows under the label is provisionally allowed until 1 January 2022

2.4 Ringing

Sows may be ringed. Ringing may be necessary out of consideration for the environment so that sows do not ruin pastures that bind nitrogen from the manure.

2.5 Tooth clipping

Tooth clipping is prohibited. Routine polishing of teeth is allowed according to the legislation in force.

2.6 Tail docking

Tail docking is prohibited.

2.7 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.

2.8 Housing of grown 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 yards.

Sows and gilts must have free access to an outdoor area in the form of either pasture or an outdoor run. 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
Gilts	1.9	0.95	0.95	0.75
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.

2.12 Mating section

Indoor mating 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.

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.

Mating boxes are allowed.

3 Weaned pigs and finishers

3.1 Housing of finishers

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)
25-35 kg	0.52	0.24	0.22 b)
35-45 kg	0.60	0.28	0.25 b)
45-55 kg	0.72	0.33	0.30 b)
55-65 kg	0.82	0.38	0.34 b)
65-75 kg	0.90	0.41	0.38 b)
75-85 kg	1.00	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 kg	1.30	0.60	0.54)

- 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).

During the period 1 October – 1 May, curtains may be used in front of the outdoor areas if they are used only in bad weather, like rain or wind. The curtains must be electronically controlled and be able to generate a log of use.

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. 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 mating section, where mechanical ventilation is allowed.

For existing livestock buildings, an exemption may be granted from the requirement for natural ventilation.

4 Requirements in outdoor areas at housing units

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.

The outdoor area may be provided with a porch roof. The roof must observe 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.

We refer to "*Guidelines for definition of out-door area*" at the end of the Code of Practice.

The outdoor area must be with a solid floor, approved membrane or similar feature to allow manure to be collected. Optionally, the outside area may either be with straw flow or straw-bedded, but bedding is not a requirement in the outside area.

In order to be able to collect rainwater and manure, drained or slatted flooring is allowed in part of the outdoor area. A maximum of 50% of the area that is not straw-bedded (total area minus the straw-bedded lying area) may be slatted.

All pigs over 20 kg must have access to water spray when the average daytime temperature exceeds 15 °C.

Exemption:

An exemption may normally be granted from the requirement that drained flooring must be established in all of the outdoor area for slaughter pigs. When combining drained flooring (opening between slats/joists **less than** 10%) and slatted flooring (opening between slats/joists **more than** 10%) in the outdoor area, the slatted area must not exceed 30% of the outdoor area. In both cases an exemption must be applied for.

Any exemption granted will be temporary and will expire on 31 December 2030 at the latest.

4.1 Outdoor paddocks

Outdoor paddocks must be provided with good and effective fencing to ensure 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.

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.

5 Management

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.

6 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, 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.

- Meat and bone meal must not be used.
- Feed must not contain animal fats.
- Feed must not contain blood plasma.
- Feed for sows, weaners and slaughter pigs must not contain fish meal or similar products. The only animal-based protein 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 for sows. However, smooth stalked meadow grass straw is allowed.

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

7 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 agreed.

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 bolt-pistol must be kept on the property so that animals can be properly stunned if they need to be put to sleep. Those using the bolt-pistol must be instructed in the correct use and in the subsequent exsanguination of the pigs.

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. 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 pigsty by covering part of the pigsty area or by spreading deep bedding.

8 Farm management

8.1 Parallel production/traceability

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

Should it not be possible for a producer of finishers to buy piglets from an approved Friland 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.

9 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, i.e. not via markets. 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.

10 Killing

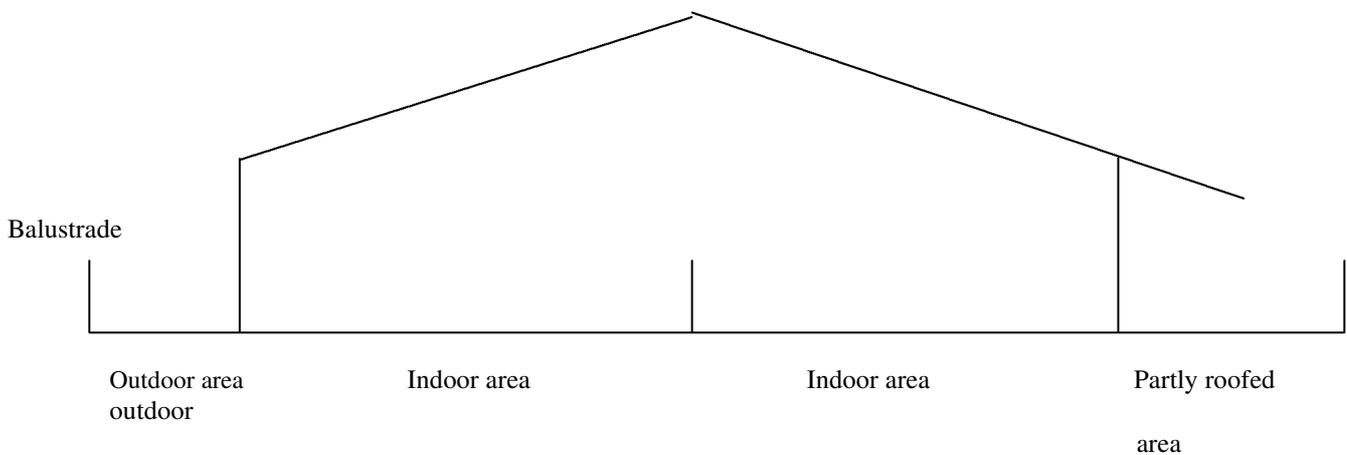
At the abattoir, all Free-range pigs must be kept in the same groups as during transport.

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

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

Guidelines for definition of outdoor area

Building with closed long side

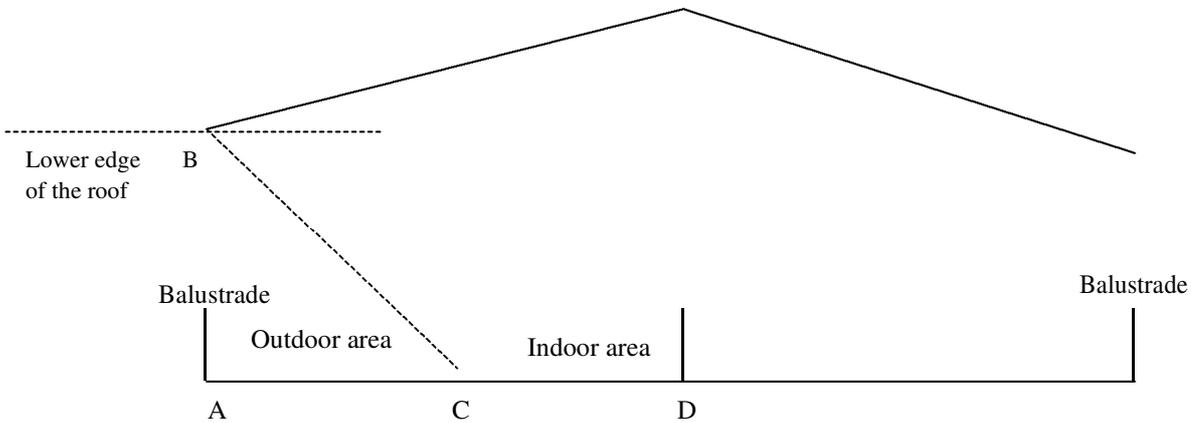


This kind of building requires a separate outdoor area.

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).

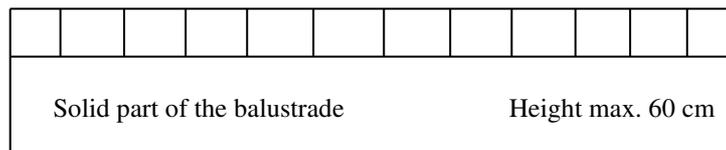
Buildings with an open long side



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:



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.