Standards Manual

[For producers, auditors and stakeholders]

APIQ®
AUSTRALIAN PORK INDUSTRY
QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Version 5.2 12/2022

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APIQ✓® is operated by Australian Pork Limited on behalf of the Australian Pork Industry.

Australian Pork Limited

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ✓®) is the industry sponsored on-farm Quality Assurance (QA) program. QA Certification allows producers to demonstrate that they meet legal requirements, industry Standards and customer specifications. It requires producers to document procedures on-farm outlining how key tasks are carried out, monitoring the tasks, recording the results of those actions and checking that the results comply with the Standards.

APIQ✓® provides the framework and tools pig producers can use to demonstrate that they meet the Standards. The APIQ✓® Standards are divided into seven (7) Modules:

1. Management
2. Food Safety
3. Animal Welfare
4. Biosecurity
5. Traceability
6. Environment
7. Transport

Other modules may be added to APIQ✓® where APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators have been agreed and approved by the Australian Pork Limited (APL) Board, in order to take account of evolving industry requirements.

APIQ✓® also provides options to undertake Verification of particular additional requirements for specific needs. This version of the *Standards Manual* includes these Verification Options:

A. Gestation Stall Free Verification;
B. Customer Specifications Verification for Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd; and
C. Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards for African Swine Fever.

APIQ✓® has three Certification options available. They are:

» Indoor (IN) specified as APIQ✓®
» Free Range (FR) Specified as APIQ✓®FR
» Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw (OB) Specified as APIQ✓® OB[1]

APIQ✓® Certification incorporates the legal requirements set out in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs (3rd Edition, 2007)*. Certification enables producers to demonstrate that they are meeting relevant State and Federal legislation and following good agricultural practice.

APIQ✓® also supports the requirements of the industry-wide traceability system, the PigPass National Vendor Declaration (PigPass NVD) by providing the supporting QA framework.

This manual contains the APIQ✓® Standards, which are the cornerstone of the program. The APIQ✓® Standards are outcome-focused and supported by Performance Indicators. Supplementary information is contained in the *APIQ✓® Reference Manual,* the *APIQ✓® Compliance Guide for Producers and Auditors.*

Australian Pork Limited manages the program on the industry's behalf through APIQ Management (APIQM). A wide range of stakeholders have provided technical and policy input to the program, including producers, scientists, QA and audit experts, retailers and customer organisations, government, and supply chain members. The program was also trialled on-farm in different herd sizes and types of production systems.

APIQ✓® certification is a valuable status conferred on producers who comply with the relevant prescribed Standards. The APIQ✓® system is critical to ensuring confidence in industry standards and quality and the industry's reputation more broadly. Producers who fail to comply with the APIQ✓® Standards or applicable laws at all times can expect their certification status to be reviewed and, if appropriate, suspended or cancelled.

1 On the 31st of August 2015, APL and the ACCC agreed to revise 'Outdoor Bred' to include the qualifying statement 'Raised Indoors on Straw' on the condition that the qualifier '*must be equally prominent and located with the Outdoor Bred term*' and on the understanding that straw is interchangeable with other forms of bedding such as, but not limited to, sawdust and or rice hulls.

MANAGEMENT STANDARDS SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
1.1	Management Requirements	The management system ensures that the enterprise demonstrates commitment to the QA principles provided in APIQ✓® at all times. APIQM is notified within 10 business days when there is a change of piggery ownership and/or a change in the nominated person responsible for the on-farm management of the APIQ✓® program. Staff are trained to ensure that they are competent in their specific tasks, and are familiar with the requirements of their role and the APIQ✓® system. All APIQ✓® certified piggeries must have a client relationship with a registered veterinary practitioner.
1.2	Production System Definitions	Indoor (IN) is the default definition for APIQ✓® certification that applies to all piggeries that do not meet specific requirements to be defined as Free Range (FR) or Outdoor Bred - Raised Indoors on Straw (OB). FR piggeries must keep all stages of production outdoors, with appropriate access to shelter. They must comply with the APL Definition of 'Free Range' and the APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for FR. OB piggeries must comply with the APL Definition of 'Outdoor Bred Raised Indoors on Straw' and the APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for OB production. Any communication or marketing material produced that describes or depicts the production system on farm accurately reflects the systems used.

1.3	APIQ✓® Free Range (FR) Standards	The piggery provides suitable paddocks with feed, water and shelter facilities to meet all pigs' social and physiological requirements when kept in an outdoor environment. Impacts on the environment and stocking rates are managed according to APIQ✓® Environmental Standards. Animal Welfare outcomes are managed as naturally as possible.
1.4	APIQ✓® Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw (OB) Standards	In agreement with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), as of 31 August 2015; APL has added to the descriptor 'Outdoor Bred' the qualifying statement 'Raised Indoors on Straw' to ensure consumers are not deceived or mislead in any way. Production systems where breeding pigs are managed free range and where weaners are transferred to and grown/ finished to sale or slaughter in housing furnished in bedding, may now be certified as '*Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw*'. In all instances the qualifier statement must be equally prominent and located with the 'Outdoor Bred' term. The piggery provides suitable paddocks with feed, water and shelter facilities to meet the social and physiological requirements of breeding pigs kept in an outdoor environment. At weaning, piglets are transferred to and grown/finished to sale or slaughter in housing furnished with bedding, feed and water to meet their physiological and social needs. Housing meets the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs*, which requires: protection from the elements and predators, space allowances, bedding, feed and water, airflow, health and wellbeing. APIQ✓® Environmental Standards for Outdoor Pigs are met. Cull sows from APIQ✓® OB Certified farms may be sold as Free Range if they have been kept under conditions that meet the sow management criteria specified for APIQ✓® OB Certified farms for at least the last reproductive cycle before being culled.

Management Standards and Performance Indicators

1.1 Management Requirements

Standard	**The management system ensures that the enterprise demonstrates commitment to the QA principles provided in APIQ✓® at all times.** **APIQM is notified within 10 business days when there is a change of piggery ownership and/or a change in the nominated person responsible for the on-farm management of the APIQ✓® program.** **Staff are trained to ensure that they are competent in their specific tasks, and are familiar with the requirements of their role and the APIQ✓® system.** **All APIQ✓® certified piggeries must have a client relationship with a registered veterinary practitioner.**

Performance Indicators:

A. The enterprise has a system in place to demonstrate compliance with APIQ✓® Standards, including as a minimum:
   - A *Piggery Management Manual* including a quality policy, enterprise description, organisational structure chart, and a system for document control which identifies all quality program resources.
   - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Work Instructions (WIs), which can be written and/or visual[2] resources.

B. There is a nominated person from the enterprise who is responsible for ensuring that it meets management practices and documentation required for APIQ✓® Certification.
   - APIQM is notified of proposed changes to ownership before the change of ownership takes place.
   - If the nominated person from the enterprise who is responsible for ensuring that it meets management practices and documentation required for APIQ✓® Certification changes, then:
     - APIQM is advised within 10 business days of the change taking place.
     - The continuation of the APIQ✓® Certification must be approved in writing by APIQM.

C. Within the organisation structure the following are identified:
   - Key person(s) and their roles and responsibilities.
   - Supervisory positions or positions of authority.
   - Tasks for each person that are carried out as part of the APIQ✓® system.

D. A system is in place to ensure that records and documents, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Work Instructions (WIs), are maintained and current.

E. The enterprise must conduct and record an annual Internal Audit, approximately six (6) months but no later than eight (8) months, after their APIQ✓® Compliance Audit is conducted. The audit includes:
   - Review of the record keeping/SOP documentation to ensure they are maintained and current.
   - Any non-conformances are identified and recorded.
   - The appropriate corrective and preventative actions are taken as required and are recorded.
   - Outstanding non-conformances are scheduled to be addressed in a reasonable timeframe.

2 SOPs and/or WIs may include manuals, documents, videos, charts or any items used on-farm to explain and outline processes and procedures.

F. Staff induction and training is conducted and recorded and ensures that:

- New staff are inducted[3] on commencement of employment and induction is completed within one (1) month.
- New and existing staff are trained and competent in their required tasks and ongoing training needs are identified.
- All staff are familiar with SOPs and WIs for their specific tasks.

G. The piggery's nominated veterinary practitioner or practice will:

- Have personal knowledge of the farm and have visited the site.
- Be responsible for prescribing any prescription animal remedies used.
- Investigate and advise on any animal welfare, biosecurity or disease management concerns.

1.2 Production System Definitions

Standard	**Indoor (IN) is the default definition for APIQP® certification that applies to all piggeries that do not meet specific requirements to be defined as Free Range (FR) or Outdoor Bred - Raised Indoors on Straw (OB).** **FR piggeries must keep all stages of production outdoors, with appropriate access to shelter. They must comply with the APL Definition of 'Free Range' and the APIQP® Standards and Performance Indicators for FR.** **OB piggeries must comply with the APL Definition of 'Outdoor Bred Raised Indoors on Straw' and the APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for OB production.** **Any communication or marketing material produced that describes or depicts the production system on farm accurately reflects the systems used.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Indoor Piggeries:

- Have all stages of production (weaners, growers and breeding stock) fully or partially housed.
- Meet the APIQ✓® Environmental Standards for Outdoor Pigs where pigs are kept outdoors in areas[4] that are not within the piggeries controlled effluent system.
- May meet the definition of a feedlot piggery under the APL *National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries*.
- Do not meet the APL Definition of 'Free Range' (FR) and the APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for FR or the APL Definition of 'Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw' and the APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for OB production.

3 Induction: The formal introduction of a new employee to a piggery's operations, policies, procedures and systems and the commencement of training to ensure that an individual is appropriately trained to perform the tasks for which they are employed.

4 Areas where pigs are kept may include but is not limited to paddocks, yards, pens or verandas.

B. Free Range Piggeries:
   - Have all stages of production (weaners, growers and breeding stock) kept outdoors, with access to appropriate shelter as defined in the APIQ✓® Free Range Standard.
   - Meet the APL Definition of Free Range[5].
   - Do not meet the definition of a feedlot piggery under the APL *National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries* (2018).
   - Meet the requirements of the APIQ✓® FR Standard (1.3 below).
   - May be certified as APIQ✓® FR Certified and are eligible to use the APL PorkMark and APIQ✓® Free Range logo in visual communications according to APIQ✓® Certification Policy guidelines.

C. Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw Piggeries:
   - Have breeding stock kept outdoors, with access to appropriate shelter; and weaners/growers in housing furnished with bedding, feed and water to meet their physiological and social needs.
   - Do not have weaners or growers housed directly on concrete or slatted floors (this type of housing is classified under APIQ✓® as conventional housing).
   - Do not meet the definition of a feedlot piggery under the APL *National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries* (2018).
   - Meet the APL Definition of Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw[6].
   - Meet the requirements of the APIQ✓® OB Standard (1.4 below).
   - May be certified as APIQ✓® OB Certified and eligible to use the APL PorkMark and APIQ✓® Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw logo in visual communications according to APIQ✓® Certification Policy guidelines.

D. Communication and/or marketing material produced that describes or depicts the production system on farm is factually accurate in relation to the production system[7] used.

5 The APL Free Range Definition can be found on the APL website www.autralianpork.com.au

6 The APL Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw Definition can be found on the APL website www.autralianpork.com.au

7 For example, in all situations where *Outdoor Bred* certification is approved, the qualifier '*Raised Indoors on Straw*' must be used in an equally prominent manner.

1.3 APIQ✓® Free Range (FR) Standards

Standard	**The piggery provides suitable paddocks with feed, water and shelter facilities to meet all pigs' social and physiological requirements when kept in an outdoor environment.** **Impacts on the environment and stocking rates are managed according to APIQ✓® Environmental Standards**

Performance Indicators:

A. All pigs[8] live outdoors with free access to shelter at all times; except where temporary confinement applies[9]. Approved temporary confinement includes, but is not limited to:
   - keeping piglets in huts or shelters after birth using fenders for up to 14 days for protection;
   - keeping weaners in weaner areas post weaning until piglets are a maximum of 8 weeks of age, outdoor areas for weaners must be a minimum 150% of the shelter space provided;
   - holding sows in pens for mating during daylight hours, but not overnight;
   - holding finishers in pens prior to load out for up to 48 hours.
     (Note: These practices must be described in the piggery Standard Operating Procedures and/or Work Instructions).
   - holding pigs in pens for approved veterinary treatments with a record of confinement kept.

B. Suitable paddocks[10] with rooting and/or foraging areas are available to pigs at all times:
   - Wallows are provided where State regulations and the season permits; AND/OR
   - Shade (including but not limited to trees, tree lines, hedges, shade stands), sprinklers, or other mechanical means are provided to cool pigs when necessary.

C. Sufficient shelter is available to provide protection from the elements to all pigs at all times:
   - Steps are taken to minimise the risks to pigs from predators.
   - All pigs are able to move freely in and out of shelter provided.
   - Bedding is provided in the shelters.

D. Shelter for dry sows in groups, lactating sows and boars meets the space allowance guidelines in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs,* Appendix 3, Table 8.

E. APIQ✓® Environmental Standards for Outdoor Pigs are met.

F. Nose ringing, teeth clipping, tusk trimming, tail docking and surgical castration are not permitted.

8 Pigs purchased or selected as breeding stock for a FR production system may be sourced, bred, raised, and grown from indoor or outdoor pig production systems. Breeding stock includes gilts, sows, and boars.

9 Approved temporary confinement includes but is not limited to administering veterinary approved treatments to pigs. Refer to the current *APIQ✓® Compliance Guide for Producers and Auditors.*

10 A paddock is defined as an enclosure of sufficient size and nature that a person unassociated with the farm would reasonably view it as such, in line with ACCC requirements– refer www.accc.gov.au/consumers/advertising-promotions/false-or-misleading-claims

1.4 APIQ✓® Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw (OB) Standards

Standard	**The piggery provides suitable paddocks at all times with feed, water and shelter facilities to meet the social and physiological requirements of breeding pigs kept in an outdoor environment.** **At weaning, piglets are transferred to and grown/finished to sale or slaughter in housing furnished with bedding, feed, and water to meet their physiological and social needs.** **Housing meets the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs'* requirements for: protection from the elements and predators, space allowances, bedding, feed and water, airflow, and health and wellbeing.** **APIQ✓® Environmental Standards for Outdoor Pigs are met.** **Cull sows from APIQ✓® OB Certified farms may be sold as Free Range if they have been kept under conditions that meet the sow management criteria specified for APIQ✓® OB Certified farms for at least the last reproductive cycle before being culled.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Breeding stock[11] have free access to paddocks[12] at all times and piglets have free access to paddocks at all times, until weaning; except where approved temporary confinement applies.

Approved temporary confinement includes but is not limited to

- keeping piglets in huts or shelters after birth using fenders for up to 14 days for protection;

(Note: These practices are described in the Standard Operating Procedures and/or Work Instructions).

- holding pigs in pens for approved veterinary treatments with a record of confinement kept.

Note: OB sows may be sold as FR ONLY when temporary confinement for mating is restricted to daylight hours as specified in FR Standard 1.3 A; and after completing one full reproductive cycle.

B. Sufficient shelter is available to provide protection from the elements for all pigs at all times:

- Steps are taken to minimise risks to pigs from predators.
- Breeding Stock is able to move freely in and out of shelter provided.
- Bedding is provided in shelters.

C. Paddocks have suitable rooting and/or foraging areas.

- Wallows are provided where State regulations and the seasons permit; AND/OR
- Shade (including but not limited to trees, tree lines, hedges, shade stands), sprinklers, or other mechanical means are provided to cool pigs when necessary.

D. Shelter for boars, dry sows in groups, and lactating sows meets the space allowance in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs*, Appendix 3, Table 8.

E. APIQ✓® Environmental Standards for Outdoor Pigs are met.

11 Boars and sows purchased or selected as breeding stock for an OB production system may be sourced, bred, raised and grown from indoor or outdoor pig production systems.

12 A paddock is defined as an enclosure of sufficient size and nature that a person unassociated with the farm would reasonably view it as such, in line with ACCC requirements– refer www.accc.gov.au/consumers/advertising-promotions/false-or-misleading-claims

F. Cull gilts/sows originally from an IN piggery may be sold as FR when:
   - They have completed at least their last reproductive cycle[13] living[14] according to APIQ✓® FR Standards; AND
   - A system is in place to ensure that only gilts/sows that qualify are sold as FR.

Note: An APIQ✓® Compliance Audit verifies compliance. Gilts born and reared FR can be sold as FR at any time.

G. At weaning, piglets move to group housing that is furnished with suitable bedding[15] for the duration of their growing/finishing life.

H. Acceptable housing for grower finisher pigs includes permanent or portable structures or outdoor pens with shelter:
   - With an impermeable base; AND/OR
   - Where portable structures are used they are located and moved at least every three (3) months to minimise leaching and runoff.

Note: Housing cannot be on slatted floors.

I. Housing/shelter provided for weaners, growers and finishers meets the space allowance standards of the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs,* Appendix 3, Table 5.

J. Nose ringing, teeth clipping, tusk trimming, tail docking and surgical castration are not permitted
   - However, where tail docking is deemed necessary by a veterinarian for welfare purposes, it can be carried out by a suitably qualified person before seven (7) days of age.

Note:

Performance Indicator 1.4 F is mandatory for APIQ✓® OB Certified producers seeking to market cull sows as FR.

APIQ✓® OB Certified producers may apply and be approved to use the APL PorkMark and APIQ✓® Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw Logo but cannot use the APL PorkMark Free Range Logo, even when they comply with Performance Indicator 1.4 F

APIQ✓® OB Certified producers not seeking to sell cull sows as FR are not required to comply with Performance Indicator 1.4 F**.**

Weaner/grower/finisher pigs must be born and raised in a FR system for their entire life in order to be marketed as Free Range.

13 Suitable bedding may include but is not limited to straw, rice hulls or sawdust

14 *Pig Agskills, A Practical Guide to Farm Skills* (NSW Industry & Investment, 2010). Reproductive Cycle is the period from mating to the following mating. Gilts that have not completed a full breeding cycle and were not bred FR cannot be sold as FR by an APIQ✓® FR or OB Certified producer.

15 Producers must revise their SOPs/WIs, QA documentation and records to clearly show that only cull gilts and sows that qualify as FR are sold as FR.

FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
2.1	Food Safety Risk Analysis and HACCP[16]-based Food Safety Plan	An on-farm Food Safety Plan is completed and documented based on the industry on-farm HACCP analysis that manages chemical and physical hazards, pathogen risks, and environmental hazards that could impact food safety.
2.2	Pig Treatments	A system is in place to ensure that medications and chemicals given to pigs are administered in a safe and appropriate manner that minimises the risk of chemical residues or physical hazards entering the food supply chain and minimises the potential for anti-microbial resistance to occur.
2.3	Feed Practices and Medicated Feed Management	Systems are in place to ensure that pigs are not exposed to contaminated feedstuffs or bedding, to minimise the risk of chemical residues and biological contaminants and to comply with the prohibition of swill feeding.
2.4	Medication and Chemical Management	Piggery medications and chemicals are used, stored, and handled in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or in accordance with veterinary prescriptions/ instructions, and their use is recorded.

16 Refer to 4.1.2 of the APIQ✓® Implementation Manual Version 5.2 12/2022

Food Safety Standards and Performance Indicators

2.1 Food Safety Risk Analysis and HACCP-based Food Safety Plan

Standard	An on-farm Food Safety Plan is completed and documented based on the industry on-farm HACCP analysis that manages chemical and physical hazards, pathogen risks, and environmental hazards that could impact food safety.

Performance Indicators:

A. All potentially contaminated sites and sources of contamination are identified and plans are in place to minimise risk to any pigs.

B. All identified sites and sources of contamination are managed to prevent pig access.

C. Foreign objects are removed from the pigs' environment[17].

D. Any pigs potentially exposed to food safety hazards are identified and managed in a manner that reduces the risk of contamination of pork products for human consumption in accordance with legal requirements, including pigs involved in on-farm research and development studies.

E. Critical Control Points (CCPs), identified in the Pork On-Farm HACCP Plan (SARDI Final Report)[18], are monitored for identified food safety hazard indicators and corrective actions are taken where necessary.

Table 2: Physical and Chemical Hazards

F. SOPs, WIs and records are in place to manage food safety-related risks on the piggery to acceptable levels, including pigs in on-farm research and development studies.

17 Note that used conveyor belt matting in pig houses can create a risk of wire particles entering pigs. This is a risk to be managed if using such materials in the pigs' environment.

18 Pork On-Farm HACCP Plan, SARDI. Final Report Project No. 2009/2260

2.2 Pig Treatments

Standard	**A system is in place to ensure that medications and chemicals given to pigs are administered in a safe and appropriate manner that minimises the risk of chemical residues or physical hazards entering the food supply chain and minimises the potential for anti-microbial resistance to occur.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Records for pigs that are treated with medications and chemicals are kept for a minimum of three (3) years and specify:
   - The weight of the pigs to ensure they receive the correct dose
   - The name of the medication or chemical used
   - The date of treatment
   - The amount administered
   - Label directions/off label
   - WHP and Export Slaughter Interval (ESI).
   - Repetitive treatments; AND/OR
   - Non-response to treatment.

B. Pigs with broken needles or other known retained foreign objects are identified and recorded.

C. Any off-label use of any medication or chemical, including any changes to WHPs or ESIs, is prescribed by a veterinarian and recorded in a manner consistent with the applicable veterinary prescribing legislation.

D. Recommended injection and treatment procedures are followed and the correct drug dose rates are used.

E. Staff administering treatments to pigs are competent (Refer Performance Indicator 3.2 A).

F. Use of any anti-microbial products is consistent with applicable veterinary prescribing legislation.

2.3 Feed Practices and Medicated Feed Management

Standard	Systems are in place to ensure that pigs are not exposed to contaminated feedstuffs or bedding to minimise the risk of chemical residues and biological contaminants and to comply with the prohibition of swill feeding.

Performance Indicators:

A. All purchased feed, feed ingredients, and bedding materials that may be consumed by pigs or may be in contact with pigs are accompanied by a Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD) stating any product(s) used in production and its WHP status or, where CVDs are not available, sufficient feed or bedding samples[19] must be kept to enable residue testing when required. Samples must be kept for six (6) months.

B. A system is in place to ensure that grain used for home mixing is not within a WHP.

C. There is a system in place that records all feed received and the medications in those feeds.

D. Feed storage facilities are identified and feed deliveries are checked to ensure that feed is placed in the correct facilities.

E. Feed mixing, storage, and delivery procedures prevent non-medicated feed becoming contaminated by medicated feed or feed that contains any hazardous risk materials (such as mouldy grains or other specified risk materials).

2.4 Medication and Chemical Management

Standard	Piggery medications and chemicals are used, stored, and handled in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or in accordance with veterinary prescriptions/instructions, and their use is recorded.

Performance Indicators:

A. A list of treatments (including medications, vaccines and routine husbandry products) used in the piggery is maintained and kept up to date.

B. Records of piggery medication and chemical use are available that specify or estimate pig weight (where relevant) and amount administered (Refer Performance Indicator 2.2 A).

C. Piggery medications and chemicals are stored, handled, and used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions (unless APIQ✓® Performance Indicator 2.2 C applies).

19 Refer APIQ✓® *Reference Manual* for how to collect and store samples.

ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
3.1	Planning and Contingency Arrangements in Place	Contingency arrangements are in place to manage pigs in the event of a delay in feed and/or water delivery, through mechanical or facility breakdown, extremes of weather, or other emergencies. Planning is carried out to ensure activities are conducted in a timely manner and to minimise risk to pigs.
3.2	Staff Competency Maintained	Staff perform their required duties in accordance with the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Pigs* (MCOP) and personnel managing and handling pigs are competent or are supervised by a competent person. A current copy of the MCOP is on file and accessible to all staff for reference at any time.
3.3	Facilities and Environment meet the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Pigs* Requirements	Facilities are provided and maintained to protect pigs from weather extremes and injury.
3.4	Adequate Feed and Water is Available	Feed and suitable liquid that meet the nutritional needs of pigs are provided and are accessible without excessive effort required by the pigs.
3.5	Routine Health and Husbandry Measures are in Place	Animal health and care policies and practices designed to optimise the health and welfare status of the herd are in place and routine husbandry practices are managed to minimise risks to pigs.
3.6	On-farm Euthanasia of Pigs Meets the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Pigs* Requirements	A documented program is in place for the prompt and humane destruction of sick and injured pigs.

Animal Welfare Standards and Performance Indicators

3.1 Planning and Contingency Arrangements in Place

Standard	**Contingency arrangements are in place to manage pigs in the event of a delay in feed and/or water delivery, through mechanical or facility breakdown, extremes of weather, or other emergencies.** **Planning is carried out to ensure activities are conducted in a timely manner and to minimise risk to pigs.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Contingency plans are in place that include:
   – Obtaining feed and water in the event of delay in delivery, inappropriate quality, equipment failure, or other facility or equipment emergency.

B. Procedures are in place to ensure effective airflow in forced ventilation sheds at all times. Procedures may include, but are not limited to, a failsafe back-up system to address power failures and/or an alarm to provide warning.

C. Care is taken to ensure that electrical installations and power are properly installed and earthed and will not cause harm to pigs.

D. There is a maintenance program in place for facilities and equipment, and for regular checks of facilities and alarms.

3.2 Staff Competency Maintained

Standard	**Staff perform their required duties in accordance with the** *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs* **(MCOP) and personnel managing and handling pigs are competent or are supervised by a competent person.** **A current copy of the MCOP is on file and accessible to all staff for reference at any time.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Pigs are cared for by personnel who are skilled and competent in pig husbandry to maintain the health and welfare of animals as explained in the provisions of the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs*, or personnel work under the supervision of a competent person. Competency may be demonstrated or assessed by the following methods:
   – Formal industry training in pig husbandry.
   – Individual skills assessment by a competent skilled person.
   – Documented work history outlining competency by recognising past experience or Recognising Prior Learning (RPL).

B. Staff training is recorded and evidence demonstrates that individuals are trained in or are being trained in their required tasks.
   – Training must be ongoing as responsibilities and practices change.

C. There is an induction program for new staff to become familiar with their tasks and staff are trained as required (Refer Performance Indicator 1.1 F).

D. There is a copy of the current *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs* on file at the piggery and readily accessible to staff for reference.

3.3 Facilities and Environment Meet the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Pigs* Requirements

Standard	Facilities are provided and maintained to protect pigs from weather extremes and injury.

Performance Indicators:

A. Accommodation, including feed and watering facilities, are designed, constructed, and managed in a way that complies with the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs*.

B. Facilities and equipment are checked daily, and defects are rectified. Fire protection measures are in place in accordance with the requirements of local authorities.
   - Where fire-fighting equipment is available, staff are trained in its use.
   - In large shelters/sheds that are difficult to service with fire equipment and where pigs are in one (1) space, there must be gates to open to allow pigs to escape.

Note: At all times personal safety is the priority. Where it is not possible to save pigs, staff should focus on containment to avoid the spread of fire to adjacent facilities.

C. Ventilation systems and procedures at the facility ensure that the level of air exchange provides sufficient fresh air for pigs (Refer Performance Indicator 3.1 B).

D. Accommodation or housing for pigs provides for the minimum space allowances detailed in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Pigs*.

E. Equipment for humane destruction and routine husbandry procedures is stored appropriately, maintained and fully operational.

F. Tethering is not used to restrain pigs.

G. Dogs are not used to move pigs unless muzzled and/or under effective control to prevent biting.

3.4 Adequate Feed and Water is Available

Standard	Feed and suitable liquid that meet the nutritional needs of pigs are provided and are accessible without excessive effort required by the pigs.

Performance Indicators:

A. All pigs are maintained in an adequate body condition (above a body score of 2), otherwise action is taken.

B. Feed provided is fresh, palatable, and free of contaminants.

C. Water is palatable and of suitable quality for pigs.

D. All pigs can access feed and water to meet their requirements.

E. Automatic feeding and/or watering systems are checked daily.

3.5 Routine Health and Husbandry Measures are in Place

Standard	Animal health and care policies and practices designed to optimise the health and welfare status of the herd are in place and routine husbandry practices are managed to minimise risks to pigs.

Performance Indicators:

A. A Herd Health Plan (HHP)[20] is in place to manage the risk of infectious diseases and includes SOPs and/or WIs.
   – Producers may complete the HHP checklist in the Pig Management Diary (Diary).

B. Where vaccinations or minor surgical procedures are conducted, this is by or under direct supervision of a competent person and is recorded in accordance with the documented HHP.

C. Pigs are adequately inspected at least once daily and more frequently when required.

D. Boars kept in stalls are released for mating or exercised at least twice per week.

E. Action is taken to minimise fighting and bullying where required.

F. Pigs with injuries or illness are identified and treated with an appropriate treatment regime as soon as practically possible.

G. Surgical castration or surgical procedures that render a male pig older than 21 days of age sterile are performed under anaesthesia and by a veterinary practitioner.

3.6 On-farm Euthanasia of Pigs Meets the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Pigs* Requirements

Standard	A documented program is in place for the prompt and humane destruction of sick and injured pigs.

Performance Indicators:

A. Injured, sick or moribund pigs not responding to treatment or that are in pain, and are unlikely to respond to treatment, are identified and humanely euthanised using approved methods.

B. All dead pigs are removed from pens and/or facilities as soon as practicable and disposed of according to requirements of the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs* and a deaths and losses record is maintained.

20 A useful Herd Health Plan consists of but is not limited to; vet reports and instructions, SOPs and or Work Instructions; records, including breeding records, treatment records, mortality records etc.; a completed *Herd Health Program Checklist* provided by the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and available to producers in the *APIQ✓® Pig Management Diary*; disease and emergency animal disease awareness training.

BIOSECURITY STANDARDS – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
4.1	On-farm Systems are in Place to Minimise the Risk of Introduction and Spread of Disease or Disease-Causing Agents.	Risks to pigs from disease or disease-causing agents brought into the piggery by people, vehicles, or animal movements are minimised.
4.2	The Risk of Disease Introduction from New Stock and Semen is Controlled	The risk of introducing diseases or disease-causing agents of significant importance through stock and semen is minimised and stock and semen are sourced in compliance with biosecurity requirements and Australian law.
4.3	Staff are Trained in Emergency Disease Awareness and Follow Biosecurity Procedures	Staff are aware of the procedures to identify, manage, and report exotic and endemic diseases.
4.4	Pest Control Procedures are in Place	The risk of disease spread through pests is minimised. The risk of contamination by pest control residues is minimised. An appropriate pest management plan that includes rodent, mosquito and other pest infestation monitoring, recording and control activities.
4.5	The Farm has an Emergency Animal Disease Contingency Plan.	Contingency procedures are in place to provide for stock movement restrictions in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease.

Biosecurity Standards and Performance Indicators

4.1 On-farm Systems are in Place to Minimise the Risk of Introduction and Spread of Disease or Disease-Causing Agents.

Standard	Risks to pigs from disease or disease-causing agents brought into the piggery by people, vehicles, or animal movements are minimised.

Performance Indicators:

A. Pigs are not fed swill or any food scraps that contain meat or other matter from animals or other substances prohibited by State and Territory legislation (Refer Standard 2.3).

B. Facilities and procedures as documented in the on-farm Biosecurity Plan are in place to minimise the risk of disease-causing contamination or disease spread from animals, people, or transport movements, including:
   - Entry to the piggery is controlled with signage that is compliant with jurisdictional regulations at all piggery entrances, including 'Biosecure Area No Entry Unless Authorised' or similar wording, as well as directions for visitors.
   - Records of visitors, animal, and transport movements are maintained.
   - There is a written protocol that details biosecurity requirements for people recently arriving from overseas prior to entry to the piggery.
   - If there has been any contact with food-producing cloven-hooved animals whilst travelling internationally, a minimum stand-down period of 48 hours is required before visiting the piggery.
   - The on-farm Biosecurity Plan should specify verifiable procedures (for people, vehicles, equipment, boots and outer clothing) to follow in order to gain authorised access to the piggery. The plan should be authorised by the herd veterinarian.
   - Hand-washing and/or shower facilities and 'clean[21]' boots and outer clothing are provided to visitors prior to contact with pigs.
   - All staff are aware of the piggery biosecurity procedures and have signed a Personnel Biosecurity Declaration
   - Hands are cleaned/sanitised before entering the production site and on leaving the production site.
   - Boots and outer clothing that are worn in the production area are not worn or taken outside this area other than in accordance with the on-farm Biosecurity Plan.
   - The farm Site Map clearly shows 'clean' areas where pigs live and access is restricted, and 'dirty' areas that are accessible to the outside environment. Quarantine areas should be shown on the farm Site Map, where relevant.
   - Load outs for pigs are at the farm perimeter wherever possible. Where this is not possible, the on-farm Biosecurity Plan includes a Load-out Plan which is agreed with the herd veterinarian.

C. Trucks used to carry pigs meet the requirements of the APIQ✓® Transport Standards.

D. All equipment used with pigs or brought into pig housing is cleaned and, where practical, disinfected.

21 Definitions of 'clean' and 'dirty' areas should be in the on-farm Biosecurity Plan, however in general a 'clean' area will be a part of the production site with access restricted to people, animals and equipment of assured biosecurity status and a 'dirty' area will be a part of the production site other than a designated 'clean area'.

4.2 The Risk of Disease Introduction from New Stock and Semen is Controlled

Standard	**The risk of introducing diseases or disease-causing agents of significant importance through stock and semen is minimised and stock and semen are sourced in compliance with biosecurity requirements and Australian law.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that introduced stock and semen comply with biosecurity requirements under Australian law and as outlined in the requirements of the *National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Pork Production,* version 2.1[22].
   – records substantiate the origin of pigs and genetic material used for breeding purposes.

B. All introduced stock is inspected for signs of disease on arrival.

C. Introduced pigs are quarantined and observed for any signs of disease before being introduced to the herd.

   The quarantine period should be the minimum period specified in the piggery's on-farm Biosecurity Plan and/or Herd Health Plan, developed in consultation with the farm's veterinarian, or at least 30 days if no veterinary direction to the contrary has been obtained.

   This does not apply if there are documented biosecurity protocols, authorised by the herd veterinarian approving movements between sites deemed to have shared biosecurity status.

   The 30-day quarantine requirement also applies to pigs returning to the farm after being exhibited at pig shows.

D. On farm quarantine facilities for introduced stock are in accordance with the documented biosecurity protocols consulted with the herd veterinarian.

E. If, for any reason pigs are suspected of carrying genetics from introduced stock or semen that did not comply with Australian Law and Biosecurity Requirements, you must:
   – not select or supply those pigs or their genetic material for breeding until it has been proven that those pigs and/or genetic material are not carrying genetics which are not compliant with the APIQ✓® Standards; and
   – ensure replacement stock and semen sourced externally for breeding purposes are compliant with the APIQ✓® Standards; and
   – document your procedures, have record keeping systems in place and be able to substantiate the origin of all pigs and genetic material used for breeding purposes.

22 This manual can be found on the Animal Health Australia website (www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au).

4.3 Staff are Trained in Emergency Disease Awareness and Follow Biosecurity Procedures

Standard	Staff are aware of the procedures to identify, manage and report exotic and endemic diseases.

Performance Indicators:

A. Staff are aware of important exotic and endemic diseases, are able to recognise the signs of ill health in pigs, and are aware of the procedures to follow when such signs are seen.

B. Emergency disease awareness information[23], showing signs of important emergency diseases and contact phone numbers to report any suspicious signs, is maintained in a prominent location readily accessible and visible to all staff.

C. Staff are aware of the procedures contained in the farm Biosecurity Plan and understand their importance.

Note:

The '*Biosecurity at Your Piggery – Keep Diseases Out'* video can assist in staff training to meet this Standard. It can be found online by typing "*APL Biosecurity at Your Piggery"* in the search bar within YouTube.

Evidence can be shown by, but is not limited to, training records, statements of qualifications, interviews during Compliance Audits, or Vet Reports.

4.4 Pest Control Procedures are in Place

Standard	The risk of disease spread through pests is minimised. The risk of contamination by pest control residues is minimised. An appropriate pest management plan that includes rodent, mosquito and other pest infestation monitoring, recording and control activities.

Performance Indicators:

A. Domestic pigs are separated from feral pigs, domestic poultry, and other animals of risk, by secure containment in buildings and/or a secure piggery perimeter fence.

B. The Pest Management Plan, as it relates to rodents[24], includes:
- Records[25] of rodent/pest infestation levels and control measures.
- Use of approved baits and pest control products where deemed necessary.
- Handling baits according to label and/or Emergency Permits, where applicable.
- Measures to restrict rodent access to feed and feeding infrastructure[26].

23 This may include the Emergency Disease Awareness and Action poster which is available on the APIQ✓® website www.apiq.com.au/Resources. Producers may also use other information resources they find fit for this purpose.

24 The *Industry Rodenticide Stewardship Plan* provides a guide to what a Pest Management Plan includes. It can be found at www.australianpork.com.au

25 Templates in Appendix 4 of the *Industry Rodenticide Stewardship Plan*, 2019 can be used.

26 For Indoor and Outdoor piggeries.

C. The Pest Management Plan, as it relates to mosquitos[27], includes:
- Mosquito (vector) controls.
- Records of mosquito activity levels and applicable control measures.
- Measures to manage mosquitoes using non-chemical measures.
- Use of approved chemicals to control mosquitoes (when and where required).
- Handling and use of chemicals according to label and/or Emergency Permits, where applicable.
- Measures to ensure farm workers, family members and property residents are aware of the symptoms of Japanese encephalitis and how to keep themselves protected (e.g., suitable clothing, repellents, vaccination)[28].

4.5 The Farm has an Emergency Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Standard	Contingency procedures are in place to provide for stock movement restrictions in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease.

Performance Indicators:

A. An Emergency Animal Disease Contingency Plan has been identified for managing potential retention of stock on-farm that may be required due to an emergency animal disease outbreak.

This must include documenting the maximum animal movement restriction period that the farm can adequately manage in number of days.

27 The *Integrated Mosquito Management Principles For Piggeries* provides a guide for pig producers and licenced pest controllers to assist in the control of mosquitoes in piggeries. Also see *Controlling Mosquitoes Around Piggeries producer fact sheet*. Both documents can be found at www.australianpork.com.au

28 Resources: Australian Government Department of Health Fact Sheet: *Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV)- Protecting Australians from JEV* (https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/japanese-encephalitis-virus-protecting-australians-from-jev)

TRACEABILITY STANDARDS – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
5.1	Pig Movements and Transport Documentation	Pigs are identified according to State regulator requirements when moved. PigPass NVDs are correctly completed. Movements of pigs are reported to the PigPass database such that pigs can be reliably traced to their previous location. Records of movements are kept for a minimum of three (3) years.

Traceability Standards and Performance Indicators

5.1 Pig Movements and Transport Documentation

Standard	**Pigs are identified according to State regulator requirements when moved.** **PigPass NVDs are correctly completed.** **Movements of pigs are reported to the PigPass database such that pigs can be reliably traced to their previous location.** **Records of movements are kept for a minimum of three (3) years.**

Performance Indicators:

A. All pigs are clearly identified according to State legislation.
- Before moving from their property of birth and where ownership changes all pigs are identified with a tag or brand which indicates (or is linked to it in the case of brands) the Property Identification Code (PIC) of birth.
- Where a movement occurs and ownership does not change (excluding movements to shows/events and sale yards), pigs are exempt from being identified before movement, provided that movement is reported to the PigPass database.
- Tattoos/brands on pigs for delivery are legible.

B. All pig movements where pigs are sold, slaughtered, purchased, exhibited or moved to a PIC covered by a different APIQ✓® Certification are accompanied by a valid and correctly completed PigPass NVD.
- PigPass NVDs are correctly completed and in full, including the location of broken or suspected broken needles at the time of treatment, and the time pigs were removed from feed and water.
- Incoming stock must be accompanied by a correctly completed PigPass NVD from the property of origin if not covered under the same APIQ✓® Certification.

C. Where pigs are moved to a different PIC, these movements are reported to the PigPass database within two working days of their arrival.
- For movements originating outside the certification, details of the movement and its accompanying PigPass NVD are reported to the database.
- For movements between sites covered by this APIQ✓® Certification (internal movements), details of these movements are reported to the PigPass database where the PIC changes.
- Records must be retained for three (3) years as a minimum, or longer if the pigs referred to in the PigPass NVD continue to reside on the property[29].

D. Truck drivers complete Section 'D' of the PigPass NVD.

29 Where scanned copies of incoming PigPass NVDs are uploaded to the PigPass database, this requirement is met, even if the paper copy is discarded.

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
6.1	Environmental Regulatory Compliance	The piggery complies with applicable State or Territory and local government environmental regulatory requirements.
6.2	Piggery Upkeep	The piggery and its surrounding environment are maintained in a condition that is consistent with good function and effective risk management.
6.3	Management of Environmental Impact for Pigs Outdoors	Where pigs are kept outdoors, environmental management is undertaken to meet the APIQ✓® Environmental Standards as outlined in the current APIQ✓® Standards Manual and in the APL *National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries* (NEGIP) and the *National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries* (NEGROP).

Environmental Standards and Performance Indicators

6.1 Environmental Regulatory Compliance

Standard	The piggery is environmentally responsible.
Performance Indicators:	
A. Piggeries established since 1 January 2017 have a permit and/or license to operate[30]; where required by their local authority.	
B. Piggeries established prior to 1 January 2017 have: – A permit and/or Licence to Operate. or – An *Environmental Management Plan*[31] in place which identifies potential environment risks and specifies how these risks are being managed[32].	

6.2 Piggery Upkeep

Standard	The piggery and its surrounding environment are maintained in a condition that is consistent with good function and effective risk management.
Performance Indicators:	
A. The premises are maintained in a clean and tidy state.	
B. Repairs and maintenance to buildings and equipment are carried out in a timely manner.	
C. Accumulated rubbish, redundant equipment, or scrap metal is kept in controlled areas separate from livestock, feed storage, and public access.	
D. There is a weed/grass control program in place which prevents excessive build-up of weeds/grass.	

30 See the *State Planning Guide* on www.apiq.com.au/resources/resources-to-support-quality-assurance-and-good-agricultural-practice/ for information if needed.

31 Producers may use the APIQ Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Template found on the APIQ✓® website to develop a Plan or other EMP templates provided they cover the minimum requirement of the APIQ EMP template. EMPs may be completed by the producer or any representative the producer deems suitably qualified and experienced.

32 Disclaimer: Compliance to standard 6.1B does not remove a producer's responsibility to comply with local government requirements.

6.3 Management of Environmental Impact for Pigs Outdoors

Standard	**Where pigs are kept outdoors, environmental management is undertaken to meet the APIQ✓® Environmental Standards as outlined in the current APIQ✓® Standards Manual and in the APL *National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries* (NEGIP) and the *National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries* (NEGROP).**

6.3.1 Soil Monitoring Standard

Standard	**Sampling and analysis of soils must be done:** – **Within two (2) months of initial APIQ✓® Certification for the paddocks that will be in use by outdoor pigs at the time of the initial audit;** – **Before pigs move onto a new land area, unless that land has been tested in the past 24 months;** – **At the end of any 24 month period in which pigs are stocked on an area for any length of time;** – **In accordance with the conditions of a licence, approval or consent that requires specific soil monitoring, or in accordance with sampling depths and analysis parameters in the *National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries*; AND** – **By collecting samples from the expected nutrient-rich area of each block of paddocks.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Soil sampling produces a set of samples that is representative of the expected nutrient-rich area of each block of paddocks[33] by:
   - Drilling at least 10 holes from dispersed locations between the shelter(s) and the outside feeding and watering points from a block of paddocks; AND
   - Bulking the samples of soils collected from common depths to produce a single composite sample for each depth from all blocks of paddocks sampled (i.e. a bulked top soil, subsoil, and profile sample) or in accordance with the requirements of the conditions of a licence, approval, or consent.

B. Soil sampling occurs:
   - Within two (2) months of initial FR (or Conditional FR) Certification for the paddocks that will be in use by pigs from the time of the initial audit; AND
   - Before pigs move onto a new land area, unless that land area has been tested in the past 24 months; AND
   - At the end of any 24 month period in which pigs are stocked on an area for any length of time.

33 A block of paddocks is defined as a group of adjacent paddocks used simultaneously to run pigs. For example, piggeries that operate with a radial paddock system, one (1) radial would constitute a block of paddocks. Similarly, if a piggery uses eight (8) adjacent rectangular paddocks at a time this would constitute a block of paddocks.

C. Soil sampling depths and analysis parameters are either:

- In accordance with the conditions of a planning or development consent, approval, permit, or licence; OR
- If not stipulated, in accordance with the parameters below.

6.3.2 Nutrient Management Standard

Standard	**Before initial APIQ✓® Certification and before the commencement of a pig phase on a new land area the results of soil testing show that soil nutrients are at suitable levels for the area to be used for pig production; AND** **The results of soil testing undertaken at the end of any 24 month period that includes a pig phase show that soil nutrients are at suitable levels for the area to be used for ongoing or subsequent pig phases.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Before initial APIQ✓® Certification and before the commencement of a pig phase on a new land area, the results of soil testing show that:
   - The soil properties are below the trigger values suggested as indicators of sustainability in Section 15 of the *National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries*; OR
   - The soil properties are similar to; i.e. no more than 30 percent greater[34] than those of a representative background plot or the baseline's soil tests for an area planned for pig production[35]; OR
   - The soil properties are satisfactory to the licensing authority or an independent soil scientist or agronomist[36].

B. The results of soil testing undertaken on areas that have included a pig phase over any part of any 24 month period show that:
   - The soil properties are below the trigger values suggested as indicators of sustainability in Section 17.5.4 of the *National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries*; OR
   - The soil properties are similar to; i.e. no more than 30 percent greater than those of a representative background plot; OR
   - The soil properties are satisfactory to the licensing authority or an independent soil scientist or agronomist.

C. Soil test results and rotation plans are reported in a Soil Testing and Nutrient Management Plan, which includes:
   - map/s showing where soil samples were collected;
   - descriptions of soils present;
   - the length of the pig phase at the time of soil testing;
   - soil test results for each paddock as specified in 6.3.1;
   - rotation plans and expected nutrient loading; and
   - remedial work required, completed and planned and the timeframe for completion.

34 *APIQ✓® Compliance Guide for Producers and Auditors.*

35 A representative background plot is an area of land that has a similar soil type and is physically close to the land being monitored. It is sampled and analysed at the same time as the land being monitored to provide a basis for comparison when interpreting soil test results. In some cases, a representative background plot can be a site located within the land area planned for pig production that is sampled to provide baseline results for future comparison. In both cases, the representative background plot must not have been used for outdoor pig production, irrigated with effluent or spread with manure in the past, or received heavier fertiliser applications than the paddocks in the preceding 12 months. It is recognised that it is not always easy to find a suitable background plot. The location of the representative background plot or baseline soil tests should be carefully noted as samples should be collected from the same location each time.

36 It is the farm's responsibility to ensure that their business complies with the permit/licensing arrangements required by their State authority/local council.

6.3.3 Promoting Even Nutrient Distribution Standard

Standard	**Facilities and practices are actively managed to promote dispersal of manure nutrients over the paddock area.** **Rotation of paddocks or pig facilities is practised to ensure even nutrient distribution over the total land area used for pigs on the farm.**

Performance Indicators:

A. For breeder pig paddocks:

- Readily movable structures that could include shelters, shade, feeding points, waterers, wallows, and spray or drip cooling facilities are moved within the paddock at least every six (6) months to promote more even manure deposition over the land; OR
- Feed is always delivered right along the length of a paddock perimeter fence line or dispersed over a significant part of the paddock area and feeding areas are well separated from shelters; OR
- When the length of the pig phase is less than six (6) months, readily movable structures that could include either shelters, shade, feeding points, waterers, wallows, and spray or drip cooling facilities are located in different positions before the return of pigs to the area.

B. For grower/finisher pig paddocks:

- Readily movable structures that could include shelters, shade, feeding points, waterers, wallows, and spray or drip cooling facilities are moved within the paddocks at least every three (3) months to promote more even manure deposition over the land; OR
- Feed is always delivered right along the length of a paddock perimeter fence line or dispersed over a significant part of the paddock area and feeding areas are well separated from shelters or these feeding areas are moved to a new location at least every three (3) months; OR
- When the length of the pig phase is less than three (3) months, readily movable structures that could include shelters, shade, feeding points, waterers, wallows, and spray or drip cooling facilities are located in different positions before the return of pigs to the area.

C. If significant quantities of spent bedding are produced from shelters, this material is:

- Dispersed over land within the pig paddocks that is not within the expected nutrient rich areas that are bounded by the shelters, shade, feeding points, waterers, wallows, and spray or drip coolers; OR
- Removed from the pig paddocks for spreading on other parts of the farm or for reuse off-farm.

6.3.4 Land and Water Protection Standard

Standard	**Land and water are protected by minimising soil erosion throughout both the pig and the crop, forage, or pasture phases of the rotation; by rehabilitating the site after the pig phase; by using water protection measures; and by properly constructing and managing wallows.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Land is managed to minimise soil erosion by:
- Selecting sites with a flat to gentle slope; AND
- Maintaining sufficient groundcover[37] over paddocks as much as practical throughout both the pig and the crop, forage, or pasture phases to minimise erosion; AND/OR
- Installing and maintaining properly designed shelter belts; and/or, filter strips; and/or contour banks in blocks of paddocks.

B. Each block of paddocks is examined:
- On completion of the pig phase; OR
- Where the pig phase exceeds 24 months in length the paddocks are examined at least every 24 months; AND
- Any soil erosion or structural issues that need addressing are identified; AND
- A plan to address these is developed and implemented within three (3) months of the completion of the examination.

C. Where significant soil compaction has resulted from the pig phase, the site is remediated by:
- Only cultivating the soil when the moisture content is between wilting point and field capacity; AND/OR
- Growing pasture crops (ungrazed); AND/OR
- Deep ripping the soil (if this is a suitable measure for the soil type); AND/OR
- Applying gypsum to the soil (if this is a suitable measure for the soil type).

D. Removal of nutrients in stormwater runoff is minimised by:
- Maintaining groundcover over paddocks throughout both the pig and the crop, forage, or pasture phases; AND/OR
- Maintaining a continuous resilient vegetative buffer strip ideally consisting of a runner developing non-clump forming grass species at least 10 m wide immediately down slope of the entire paddock area(s); OR
- Installing terminal ponds sized and located to catch the first 12 mm of runoff from the piggery paddocks and other land within the same local catchment area.

E. Sites selected for wallows have loam to clay soils or the base of the wallow is lined with compacted clay or an impermeable liner.

F. Wallows are remediated when they are replaced and if needed within three (3) months of completion of the pig phase by:
- Deep ripping the soil; AND/OR
- Applying gypsum to the soil (if these are suitable measures for the soil type); AND
- Filling with soil; AND
- Levelling to match the slope of the immediately surrounding land.

G. A forage crop or pasture is given time to establish before the commencement of a pig phase.

37 Groundcover is any material on or near the soil surface that provides protection for the soil against the erosive action of rainfall runoff or wind. It may include plant material (alive or dead), spent bedding and other cover materials providing these will not be carried away in rainfall runoff or blown away by the wind. Since attached plant material is more effective than dead plant material or other light matter lying on the soil surface it is recommended that it make up the majority of the groundcover. It is expected that groundcover will vary throughout the course of a year due to plant growth and pig production cycles and that at certain times of the year there will be very little and in some cases no groundcover. To meet the Standards, groundcover must be encouraged through pig/paddock rotations, amended stocking rates and growing of pastures and crops, so that in the course of a year the plants have the opportunity to regenerate and new groundcover is established. This process should be clearly explained in SOPs and auditors will need to recognise what stage of production the farm is in at the time of the audit. The *APIQ✓® Compliance Guide for Producers and Auditors* provides guidance on what evidence a producer can provide to auditors to demonstrate compliance to this Standard.

TRANSPORT STANDARDS – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
7.1	Pre-transport Selection and Preparation of Pigs	Systems are in place to ensure that pigs are selected and transported in accordance with requirements on the PigPass NVD, as well as relevant animal welfare, transport, and biosecurity procedures and legislation.
7.2	Drivers, Vehicles, and Facilities	Drivers and vehicles used to carry pigs follow the farm's Biosecurity Standards (as per the on-farm Biosecurity Plan). Facilities promote effective and safe handling of pigs when loading or unloading.
7.3	Compliance with Pig Transport Code	Pig transport arrangements comply with all requirements of the current version of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, Land Transport of Livestock, Edition 1.1,* 21 September 2012.

Transport Standards and Performance Indicators

7.1 Pre-transport Selection and Preparation of Pigs

Standard	Systems are in place to ensure that pigs are selected and transported in accordance with requirements on the PigPass NVD, as well as relevant animal welfare, transport and biosecurity procedures and legislation.

Performance Indicators:

A. Pigs are assessed as fit for the intended journey at every loading[38].

Pigs must be:

- Able to walk on their own by bearing weight on all legs.
- Not severely emaciated.
- Not visibly dehydrated.
- Not showing visible signs of severe injury or distress.
- Not suffering from conditions that are likely to cause increased pain or distress.
- Not blind in both eyes.
- Not known to be, or visually assessed not to be, within two (2) weeks of parturition, unless time off water or in transit to another destination is less than four (4) hours.

B. Staff managing and handling pigs are aware of the pre-transport provisions in their respective State legislation.

38 If in doubt about a pig's suitability to load, producers should seek veterinary advice, maintain Vet Reports, and take dated photographic evidence of the pig and record the actions they have taken.

7.2 Drivers, Vehicles, & Facilities

Standard	**Drivers and vehicles used to carry pigs follow the farm's Biosecurity Standards (as per the on-farm Biosecurity Plan).** **Facilities promote effective and safe handling of pigs when loading or unloading.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Drivers and other transport personnel do not enter designated 'clean areas'.

B. Vehicles are washed between consignments of animals that originate from properties with different biosecurity status in accordance with the on-farm biosecurity plan authorised by the herd veterinarian and are disinfected when required[39,40].

C. Handling, assembly, loading and/or unloading of pigs is conducted with care and in a manner that minimises stress to pigs[41].
   – Electric prodders are only used on individual pigs weighing 60 kilograms (live weight) or more when loading the pigs and only when all other means of moving or controlling the pig(s) have been exhausted.

D. Loading facilities, unloading facilities and farm roads are designed and maintained to facilitate safe loading and delivery of pigs and safety for operators.

7.3 Compliance with Pig Transport Code

Standard	**Pig transport arrangements comply with the requirements of the current version of the** *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, Land Transport of Livestock,* **Edition 1.1, 21 September 2012.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Time off water and feed meets the Standards outlined in the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, Land Transport of Livestock,* Edition 1.1, 21 September 2012.

B. Loading densities outlined in the current Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, Land Transport of Livestock, Edition 1.1, 21 September 2012 – GB 9.7 are known and followed by individuals responsible and/or involved in loading pigs.

C. Deliveries are planned, scheduled, and conducted to minimise delays and protect pigs from sunburn and/or extreme weather conditions in transit.

39 After washing with disinfectant vehicles are available for use.

40 After washing without disinfectant, vehicles are left to dry before any pigs are loaded.

41 Refer to the APL publication *Is it Fit for the Intended Journey* (second edition, 2016), hardcopy available by contacting APL or APIQM.

APIQ✓® STANDARDS – OPTION A: GESTATION STALL FREE (GSF)

GESTATION STALL FREE – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
GSF 1.1	Gestation Stall Free (GSF)	The piggery production system complies with the APL Definition[41] for GSF and APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for GSF production.

42 Refer www.apiq.com.au/verification/apl-gestation-stall-free

Gestation Stall Free (GSF)

GSF 1.1 Gestation Stall Free

Standard	The piggery production system complies with the APL Definition for Gestation Stall Free (GSF) and APIQ✓® Standards and Performance Indicators for GSF production.

Performance Indicators:

A. Sows and gilts[43] are kept in loose housing from at least five (5) days after service until one (1) week before farrowing, where service refers to the last mating.
   - Sows and gilts kept in loose housing have freedom of movement i.e. they can turn around and extend their limbs freely.
   - Space allowances for sows and gilts meet the requirements of the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs*.
   - Free access pens and/or electronic sow feeding systems, which contain individual feeders or feeding accommodation, but which allow the individual pig to go in and out at will, can be used.

B. Individual pigs can be temporarily confined:
   - In Hospital or Special Care Stalls to allow sufficient time to provide special care for sickness, injury, medications, and other health treatments under veterinary advice, or under special care by a competent stockperson.
   - In feeding stalls which can be used for up to three (3) hours in one (1) day for feeding and/or animal husbandry reasons such as vaccination and pregnancy testing.

C. Records must be kept for any sow or gilt temporarily confined showing why the pig(s) were/are temporarily confined and duration of confinement.
   - If temporary confinement is used these practices are described in the piggery SOPs and/or WIs.

Notes:

The process for verification of a producer's compliance to GSF is outlined in the APIQ✓® Implementation Manual and the APIQ✓® Reference Manual.

Free Range and Outdoor Bred, Raised Indoors on Straw systems automatically qualify for GSF verification.

43 A gilt is a female pig which has been purchased or selected for breeding purposes.

APIQ✓® STANDARDS – OPTION B: CUSTOMER SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUPPLY TO COLES SUPERMARKETS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD (COLES) (CSC)

CSC - SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
CSC 1.1	Stocking Density	Performance Indicators for pen space and housing are met for all pigs.
CSC 1.2	Husbandry Practices	Performance Indicators for husbandry practices are implemented and maintained on-farm.
CSC 1.3	Antibiotics, Growth Promotant and Hormone Use	Pigs are not given Growth Promotants, Hormones and/or Antibiotics unless prescribed by a veterinarian.
CSC 1.4	Bedding and Enrichment	Bedding and/or enrichment must be provided as outlined in the Performance Indicators.

Customer Specifications for Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd (CSC)

CSC 1.1 Stocking Density

Standard	Performance Indicators for pen space and housing are met for all pigs.

Performance Indicators:

A. Sow and gilt pens must:
- Be large enough for pigs to turn around.
- Be a minimum of 3.6 m^2 excluding drains but including slats.
- Have sufficient space to allow pigs to lay down with limbs fully extended; AND
- Sows and gilts in group housing must have a minimum lying area of 1.5 m^2.

B. Feeding and mating stations must be sized appropriate to the sows' size such that the sow is not simultaneously touching the sides or ends of the station.

C. The minimum floor space requirements for weaners, growers and finishers is calculated as sq. m per pig = live weight to the power of 0.67 x 0.0315[44] (Table 1).
- Deep litter systems must have an additional 30 percent space (See footnote Table 1).

D. Hospital pens must allow for 150 percent of the space required in Table 1 and information relating to the treatment of animals must be clearly displayed.

E. Boars are not kept in stalls.
- Pens for individual boars must be a minimum of 6 m^2/boar, or as outlined in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs*; AND
- Boars kept in group housing must have a minimum of 3.6 m^2 excluding drains but including slats.

44 Example: A 70 kg pig to the power of 0.67x 0.0315 = 0.54 sq m per pig minimum available floor space area. The calculation is based on the average weight of pigs in the group.

CSC 1.2 Husbandry Practices

Standard	Performance Indicators for husbandry practices are implemented and maintained on-farm.

Performance Indicators:

A. Sows and gilts are not confined in stalls at any stage of their lives. The use of farrowing crates is permitted.

B. Sows and gilts may be mated in individual pens, individual stations or in groups:
- If a sow is mated in an individual pen it can remain in that pen for 30 days or until it is confirmed pregnant then moved to group housing.
- If a sow is mated in an individual station, it must not be confined for a period of longer than 24 hours.

C. Nose ringing of pigs is not permitted.

D. No routine teeth clipping or grinding:
- Where deemed necessary by a veterinarian, teeth clipping and/or grinding may be permitted.

E. Tusk trimming may only be done by a veterinarian or trained person following veterinary instruction.

F. No surgical castration is permitted.
- Where deemed necessary by a veterinarian for therapeutic reasons it must be carried out under anaesthesia by a veterinarian.

G. No routine tail docking.
- Where tail docking is deemed necessary by a veterinarian it must be carried out before seven (7) days of age by a veterinarian or trained person.

H. Piglets are weaned no less than 18 days from farrowing and at an average of 21 or more days.

I. The Coles six (6) monthly Health and Welfare Reports[45] are completed.

CSC 1.3 Antibiotics, Growth Promotants and Hormone Use

Standard	Pigs are not given Growth Promotants, Hormones and/or Antibiotics unless prescribed by a veterinarian.

Performance Indicators:

A. The following products are not used:
- Hormone Growth Promotants.
- Porcine Somatotropin (pST).
- Ractopamine.
- Antibiotics that suppress subclinical disease, unless prescribed by a veterinarian, with a copy of the prescription kept on file at the piggery.

45 The Herd Health & Welfare Report is completed by producers using the Coles audit system and is verified by the auditor through the course of the annual APIQ✓® Compliance Audit.

CSC 1.4 Bedding and Enrichment

Standard	Bedding and/or enrichment must be provided, as outlined in the Performance Indicators.

Performance Indicators:

A. Enrichment in the form of manipulable[46] and/or rootable[47] materials is required for breeding pigs gilts, sows and boars to enable the following behaviours by January 1st, 2024:

Foraging and investigation behaviours for gilts and sows with the enrichment to be applied for at least a cumulative one third of the gestation cycle (minimum 30 days).

Foraging and investigation behaviours for boars that have not been walked in the preceding 72 hours.

Enrichment options are:

- Cereal straw or hay;
- Suspended sow enrichment blocks (veterinarian or nutritionist approved blocks only);
- Anchored natural rope (e.g., cotton);
- Chaff derived from cereal straws or hay;
- Wood shavings;
- Any other suitable materials or objects that enable manipulation, are rootable and have been approved in writing by the consulting veterinarian.

Materials should be of good quality, free of contaminants (i.e. foreign objects and mould) and be provided in sufficient quantities to avoid competition led aggression. Consideration must also be given to work-place health and safety and fire safety for placement and usage of enrichment.

46 Manipulable' refers to items or materials where the pig can change its location, appearance or structure.

47 Rootable' refers to items or materials where the pig can investigate and root with its snout.

Table 1[48]: Coles Minimum Space Requirements (m^2 per pig & m^2 Deep Litter per pig) for weaners, growers and finishers

LW(kg)	m^2/pig	m^2/DL pig	LW(kg)	m^2/pig	m^2/DL pig	LW(kg)	m^2/pig	m^2/DL pig	LW(kg)	m^2/pig	m^2/DL pig	LW(kg)	m^2/pig	m^2/DL pig
1	0.03	0.04	25	0.27	0.35	49	0.43	0.56	73	0.56	0.73	97	0.68	0.88
2	0.05	0.07	26	0.28	0.36	50	0.43	0.56	74	0.56	0.73	98	0.68	0.88
3	0.07	0.09	27	0.29	0.37	51	0.44	0.57	75	0.57	0.74	99	0.68	0.89
4	0.08	0.10	28	0.29	0.38	52	0.44	0.58	76	0.57	0.75	100	0.69	0.90
5	0.09	0.12	29	0.30	0.39	53	0.45	0.59	77	0.58	0.75	101	0.69	0.90
6	0.10	0.14	30	0.31	0.40	54	0.46	0.59	78	0.58	0.76	102	0.70	0.91
7	0.12	0.15	31	0.31	0.41	55	0.46	0.60	79	0.59	0.77	103	0.70	0.91
8	0.13	0.16	32	0.32	0.42	56	0.47	0.61	80	0.59	0.77	104	0.71	0.92
9	0.14	0.18	33	0.33	0.43	57	0.47	0.61	81	0.60	0.78	105	0.71	0.93
10	0.15	0.19	34	0.33	0.43	58	0.48	0.62	82	0.60	0.78	106	0.72	0.93
11	0.16	0.20	35	0.34	0.44	59	0.48	0.63	83	0.61	0.79	107	0.72	0.94
12	0.17	0.22	36	0.35	0.45	60	0.49	0.64	84	0.61	0.80	108	0.73	0.94
13	0.18	0.23	37	0.35	0.46	61	0.49	0.64	85	0.62	0.80	109	0.73	0.95
14	0.18	0.24	38	0.36	0.47	62	0.50	0.65	86	0.62	0.81	110	0.73	0.95
15	0.19	0.25	39	0.37	0.48	63	0.51	0.66	87	0.63	0.82	111	0.74	0.96
16	0.20	0.26	40	0.37	0.48	64	0.51	0.66	88	0.63	0.82	112	0.74	0.97
17	0.21	0.27	41	0.38	0.49	65	0.52	0.67	89	0.64	0.83	113	0.75	0.97
18	0.22	0.28	42	0.39	0.50	66	0.52	0.68	90	0.64	0.83	114	0.75	0.98
19	0.23	0.29	43	0.39	0.51	67	0.53	0.69	91	0.65	0.84	115	0.76	0.98
20	0.23	0.30	44	0.40	0.52	68	0.53	0.69	92	0.65	0.85	116	0.76	0.99
21	0.24	0.31	45	0.40	0.52	69	0.54	0.70	93	0.66	0.85	117	0.77	1.00
22	0.25	0.32	46	0.41	0.53	70	0.54	0.71	94	0.66	0.86	118	0.77	1.00
23	0.26	0.33	47	0.42	0.54	71	0.55	0.71	95	0.67	0.87	119	0.77	1.01
24	0.26	0.34	48	0.42	0.55	72	0.55	0.72	96	0.67	0.87	120	0.78	1.01

48 **Note:** This Table follows the same format as Table 5, Appendix 3 of the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs* but is calculated using the formula sq. m per pig = live weight to the power of 0.67x 0.0315 which gives a larger space requirement for CS 6 compliance than specified in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs* and adds 30 percent in column DL (Deep Litter) used to evaluate compliance with Performance Indicator CS 6.1 C.

APIQ✓® STANDARDS – OPTION C: VOLUNTARY ENHANCED BIOSECURITY STANDARDS FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (VEBS-ASF)

VEBS-ASF – SUMMARY TABLE

No.	Standard	
VEBS-ASF 1.1	Management	The management system demonstrates commitment to biosecurity at all times. Risks to pigs from the introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents are minimised. Current records and contingency plans exist to manage pigs and procedures in the event of an EAD incursion or response.
VEBS-ASF 1.2	Controlled Entry and Biosecurity Management Area	Entry of people, equipment, personal items, vehicles and other things to the Biosecurity Management Area is controlled to minimise the risk of introduction or spread of disease or disease-causing agents. The risk of spread of disease or disease-causing agents by site and piggery waste is minimised. Records of waste product movements are kept.
VEBS-ASF 1.3	Pig Health and Husbandry Measures	On-farm systems are in place to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents. The risk of introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents by other species and pests including livestock and feral pigs, is minimised.
VEBS-ASF 1.4	Feed Practices	Entry to clean areas of the piggery is controlled to minimise the risk of introduction or spread of disease or disease–causing agents.
VEBS-ASF 1.5	Stock and Semen Introductions	The risk of introducing disease or disease-causing agents through stock and semen is minimised and stock and semen are sourced in accordance with farm biosecurity protocols authorised by the herd veterinarian.
VEBS-ASF 1.6	Near-Miss Incident Reporting	The enterprise must identify, record and take timely and appropriate corrective action where non-conformances impacting compliance with VEBS-ASF are identified.
VEBS-ASF 1.7	Pest Control	The risk of introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents by other species and pests including livestock and feral pigs is minimised. A Pest Management Plan is in place that includes feral pig and pest monitoring, recording and control activities.
VEBS-ASF 1.8	Pig Transport and Traceability	Information and auditable procedures for pig/semen movements are in place to support assessment for issue of movement permits to mitigate biosecurity risks and enable business continuity and support animal welfare in an Emergency Animal Disease outbreak.

Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards (VEBS-ASF)

VEBS-ASF 1.1 Management

Standard	**The management system demonstrates commitment to biosecurity at all times.** **Risks to pigs from the introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents are minimised.** **Current records and contingency plans exist to manage pigs and procedures in the event of an EAD incursion or response.**

Performance Indicators:

A. The herd veterinarian must approve the Biosecurity Management Plan, in writing.

B. Records of all veterinary consultations, disease investigations and diagnoses are maintained.

C. The Biosecurity Management Plan includes documented contingency plans for:
   - Collection, packaging and storage of blood and tissue samples from pigs by a veterinarian or other trained person during an emergency response situation,
   - Mass destruction, disposal and decontamination which may be in the form of customised plans or industry guidance documents.

D. A property map is available that shows the controlled entry/exit points for people, vehicles and animals; the feed, bedding and waste disposal sites in relation to the clean and dirty areas of the biosecurity management area.

VEBS-ASF 1.2 Controlled Entry and Biosecurity Management Area

Standard	**Entry of people, equipment, personal items, vehicles and other things to the Biosecurity Management Area is controlled to minimise the risk of introduction or spread of disease or disease-causing agents.** **The risk of spread of disease or disease-causing agents by site and piggery waste is minimised.** **Records of waste product movements are kept.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Access of people to the Biosecurity Management Area is controlled and this control can be verified.

B. Biosecurity signage compliant with jurisdictional biosecurity regulations is clearly displayed at all entry points to the Biosecurity Management Area.

C. Entry points for people and personal items are controlled.
- Written protocols that detail clothing, footwear, personal items, and handwashing entry requirements are accessible for all personnel.
- There is a written protocol that details biosecurity requirements for people upon re-entry to Australia from overseas prior to entry to the Biosecurity Management Area. This protocol can be verified.

D. Entry of drivers and passengers to the Biosecurity Management Area is controlled.
- Written protocols that detail clothing, footwear, personal items and personal decontamination requirements exist and are verifiable.
- Drivers must adhere to the farm's written farm biosecurity protocols including clothing, footwear, personal items and personal decontamination requirements.

E. Access of vehicles and occupants to the Biosecurity Management Area is controlled and this control can be verified.

F. Protocols for cleaning and disinfection (suitable to destroy ASF virus) of transport/delivery vehicles (including for prime movers and trailers of livestock, feed, waste, semen (if applicable) and other commodities) exist and include the cabin of the vehicle.

G. Feed delivery trucks meet Standards 17-20 of the National Biosecurity Manual for Feed Mills[49] (Manage Outgoing Product).

H. Protocols for inspecting and risk assessing equipment that is brought onto the Biosecurity Management Area are in place and can be verified.

I. Effluent ponds, burial sites, composting and piggery waste sites are managed to control access by people, vehicles, livestock, feral pigs, other domestic animals, and pests.

J. The Biosecurity Management Plan contains a documented Waste Management Plan that is approved by the herd veterinarian.

K. Records are kept for *piggery waste*[50] moving onto and off the property.

49 A copy of the National Biosecurity Manual for Feed Mills (V1) can be downloaded from www.sfmca.com.au/documents

50 Refer to the VEBS-ASF Glossary for a definition of 'Piggery Waste'

VEBS-ASF 1.3 Pig Health and Husbandry Measures

Standard	On-farm systems are in place to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents The risk of introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents by other species and pests including livestock and feral pigs, is minimised.

Performance Indicators:

A. Treatment records, and illness and mortality records must be regularly monitored.

B. Persons must immediately advise the herd veterinarian or EAD hotline (1800 675 888) if they become aware of any pig or group of pigs that is showing signs of disease, including death, where the cause of the disease cannot be plausibly explained and linked to another cause that has been previously confirmed by the herd veterinarian.

C. Domestic species and pets on the property are kept outside the Biosecurity Management Area and functionally separated from the pig operation as a distinct biosecurity unit (no physical or operational cross-over)

VEBS-ASF 1.4 Feed Practices

Standard	Entry to clean areas of the piggery is controlled to minimise the risk of introduction or spread of disease or disease–causing agents.

Performance Indicators:

A. A feed biosecurity program is in place including:
- Prohibited pig feed is not supplied for feeding to pig/s.
- All pig feed and/or feed ingredients are sourced from a FeedSafe® Accredited[51] manufacturer OR
- A declaration that the source meets any applicable standards in the National Biosecurity Manual for Feed Mills[52] has been obtained and kept.
- The on-farm Biosecurity Plan includes a Feed Delivery Plan which is agreed with the herd veterinarian.

51 See www.feedsafe.com.au/feedsafe-accredited-sites for a list of FeedSafe(R) Accredited manufacturers.

52 A copy of the National Biosecurity Manual for Feed Mills (V1) can be downloaded from www.sfmca.com.au/documents

VEBS-ASF 1.5 Stock and Semen Introductions

Standard	The risk of introducing disease or disease-causing agents through stock and semen is minimised and stock and semen are sourced in accordance with farm biosecurity protocols authorised by the herd veterinarian.

Performance Indicators:

A. Introduced pigs are quarantined and observed for any signs of disease before being introduced to the herd.
   - The quarantine period must be at least 30 days.
   - With the exception of boars being introduced for the purpose of semen collection, this 30-day period does not apply if there are documented biosecurity protocols, authorised by the herd veterinarian approving movements between sites from the same enterprise deemed to have shared biosecurity status.
   - The 30-day quarantine requirement also applies to pigs returning to the farm after being exhibited at pig shows.
   - Quarantine must be conducted at a separate site/shed/airspace, with appropriate biosecurity measures to ensure ASF cannot enter the main herd by direct contact or by fomite spread from the quarantined pigs.

B. Introduced semen is only sourced from a *semen provider*[53] that is compliant with the Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards.

C. There is a written protocol that details semen receival procedures to ensure the courier/ transporter does not enter clean areas of the Biosecurity Management Area. This protocol can be verified.

D. Records are kept for semen movements onto the property.

The following Performance Indicators VEBS-ASF 1.5E-J apply to <u>Semen Providers</u> only:

E. Introduced Donor boars to a semen centre:
   - The 30-day minimum quarantine requirement applies to all boars being introduced for the purposes of semen collection, irrespective of whether they originate from sites deemed to have shared biosecurity status.
   - Quarantine must occur at a separate site/shed/airspace, with appropriate biosecurity measures to ensure ASF cannot enter the AI centre by direct contact or fomite spread from the quarantined boars.

F. If clinical signs highly suspicious of ASF are observed, unused collected / dispatched semen (including semen in transit) must be retained and further dispatch must not occur until absence of ASF is confirmed by laboratory testing.

G. Records of all semen dispatches are maintained to enable traceability of semen dispatches to individual farms.

H. Semen dispatching and delivery procedures ensures the courier/ transporter does not enter clean areas of the Biosecurity Management Area.

I. Semen processing and packaging procedures manage the risk of ASF cross-contamination by direct contact or by fomite spread.

J. The farm has been assessed by their jurisdiction as a *semen provider* operating in compliance to the Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards for ASF.

53 Refer to VEBS-ASF Glossary for a definition of a 'semen provider'

VEBS-ASF 1.6 Near Miss Incident Reporting

Standard	The enterprise must identify, record, and take timely and appropriate corrective action where non-conformances impacting compliance with VEBS-ASF are identified.

Performance Indicators:

A. Incidents resulting in compromised compliance with the VEBS-ASF verification option standards and performance indicators are recorded and rectified in a timely fashion.

B. Register of incidents and actions to rectify are available for assessments – using APIQ✓® Record 15 – Corrective Action Request (CAR)[54] template

VEBS-ASF 1.7 Pest Control

Standard	The risk of introduction and spread of disease or disease-causing agents by other species and pests including livestock and feral pigs is minimised. A Pest Management Plan is in place that includes feral pig and pest monitoring, recording and control activities.

Performance Indicators:

A. A documented Pest Management Plan is in place that includes feral pig and pest monitoring, recording and control activities.

B. A documented *exposure assessment*[55] has been undertaken for feral pigs (see footnote) and is reviewed annually.

C. Where the farm is in a moderate or high-risk area, action has been taken to exclude access of feral pigs to the Biosecurity Management Area, including vehicle and personnel access points. This action must be able to be verified.

The exclusion method must prevent physical contact between domestic pigs and feral pigs.

D. Monitoring records for feral pigs are available for review.

E. Reporting of feral pigs (unexpected in frequency or unusual in proximity to the property) should be undertaken according to the jurisdictional requirements.

F. Control measures are in place to restrict access of feral pigs, pests and other species to feed and feeding infrastructure, water, and effluent and waste located on the property.

G. Persons must immediately advise the herd veterinarian if they become aware of any feral pig that has died in unusual or unexplained circumstances on the pig property.

Note: If there is a reasonable suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD), the EAD Watch Hotline must be notified on 1800 675 888.

54 Download a copy from https://australianpork.com.au/apiq/apiq-resource-library

55 See "VEBS Exposure Assessment reference - 032522 Surveillance options to monitor risks of feral pigs" available for download from https://australianpork.com.au/apiq/apiq-resource-library

VEBS-ASF 1.8 Pig Transport and Traceability

Standard	**Information and auditable procedures for pig/semen movements are in place to support assessment for issue of movement permits to mitigate biosecurity risks and enable business continuity and support animal welfare in an Emergency Animal Disease outbreak.**

Performance Indicators:

A. Transport/delivery vehicles travel by main roads/highways where practical, do not transit through other properties, and do not stop enroute to destination unless required to comply with transport regulations. Where stops are required, the location must not have other pigs present and must not be nearby to known pig aggregations.
   - Maps or other records of travel routes for livestock vehicles are maintained.

B. The producer has compiled a list of details of routine movements that would be required in an outbreak. This list would assist applications for movement permits required under AUSVETPLAN.

   The list includes:
   - Priority of each movement, and why (no space; breeders etc).
   - Frequency of movements.
   - Company name and contact details.
   - Livestock details – number/journey, age/category, sex, tattoo.
   - Journey details – source and destination site type, rural street address or Google Maps® reference, PIC and farm name, carrier name and contact details, day of week and trip frequency.
   - Map of intended route, including any stops (if required by legislation) and demonstrating not near known pig aggregations.
   - Where known, list of known other pig properties along the route.
   - Details of current vehicle cleaning and disinfection procedures between trips.

VEBS-ASF Glossary

Term	Descriptor
Animal By-Products (ABP)	Products of animal origin that are not for consumption but are destined for industrial use (eg. Hides, skins, fur, wool, hair, feathers, hoofs, bones, fertiliser)
Biosecurity Management Area	Buildings, sheds, feed storage, load out and other facilities used for pig production, including any land immediately surrounding these facilities that is managed through defined and controlled access points
Biosecurity Unit (Epidemio-logical unit)	Group of animals that share the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogen. This may be because they share the same environment, or share some of the same management practices, or share transmission pathways. Transmission pathways vary according to pathogen and may include direct animal to animal contact, aerosol (by air), indirect contact with contaminated animal products, contaminated feed/water/housing/bedding/equipment/personnel, insects, vermin, and semen.
Feed	(1) "**Feed**" is a single material, or more than 1 material, intended to be fed to an animal for the purposes of maintaining the animal's life, normal growth, productivity, work capacity and reproductive capacity. (2) "**Feed**" includes— (a) a lick; and (b) a premix; and (c) a medicated premix. (3) Feed may be made up of— (a) 1 or more feed ingredients; or (b) 1 or more feed additives; or (c) a combination of the things mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b). A "**Feed ingredient**" is a substance that is nutritive for food producing animals. A feed ingredient may be organic or inorganic. (taken from Code of Practice for Feed for Food Producing Animals)[56]
Feral Pig	Feral pigs are un-owned pigs that live in the wild and are descended from domesticated pigs of the species Sus scrofa, family Suidae. Feral pigs are a declared pest in all states and territories of Australia. It is the responsibility of all managers of land (encompassing Commonwealth, state and territory governments, local government, Indigenous communities and private landholders) to comply with legislative requirements to control feral pigs and minimise the biosecurity risks that they present.

56 Download a copy of the Code of Practice for Feed for Food Producing Animals from http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/qld/consol_reg/br2016247/sch3.html

Term	Descriptor
High suspicion of ASF	ASF testing should be conducted to exclude or diagnose ASF in any boar that has a fever 40.5°C or above and/or has clinical signs consistent with ASF that cannot plausibly be explained by another cause. Such as: if any pig dies suddenly, is identified with a fever (40.5oC or above) or any of the other main clinical signs of ASF Note: clinical signs associated with genotype II of ASF are fever, anorexia (even mild anorexia), lethargy, weakness and recumbence; bluish-purple areas and haemorrhages on the ears and/or abdomen; ocular discharges; reddening of the skin; and bloody diarrhoea. The body temperature of any pig showing any of these clinical signs should be taken. A rectal temperature equal to or above 40.5°C or above is considered significant (ASF infected pigs are reported to have body temperatures of 40.5 to 42°C). Any other condition i.e. abscesses/wounds/lameness or fighting that may be associated with a rise in body temperature should be recorded.
Multi-site Biosecurity Unit	Enterprise comprising separate sites for specific production phases that is closed to live pig introductions other than from a common breeding source. Sites within a multi-site biosecurity unit may include but are not limited to breeder, nursery, weaner, grower and finishing sites.
Piggery Waste	Any waste product originating from an area where pigs are housed or handled, or that may have had direct or indirect contact with susceptible livestock, including but not limited to: – pig carcasses or any part thereof, – stillborn piglets, placentas, semen, blood – manure, effluent, contaminated wash-water, – feed, bedding, – composted material (which may include composted carcasses) Used husbandry items e.g. gloves, needles, syringe, semen bags, artificial insemination catheters
Pig Loadout Area	Designated part of pig production area from which pigs are loaded/unloaded by transport operators and which is considered “dirty” and a risk point for disease transfer

Term	Descriptor
Prohibited pig feed	Prohibited pig feed means material of mammalian origin, or any substance that has come in contact with this material, but does not include: 1. Milk, milk products or milk by-products either of Australian provenance or legally imported for stockfeed use into Australia. 2. Material containing flesh, bones, blood, offal or mammal carcases which is treated by an approved process1. 3. A carcass or part of a domestic pig, born and raised on the property on which the pig or pigs that are administered the part are held, that is administered for therapeutic purposes in accordance with the written instructions of a veterinary practitioner. 4. Material used under an individual and defined-period permit issued by a jurisdiction for the purposes of research or baiting. In terms of (ii), approved processes are: – rendering in accordance with the 'Australian Standard for the Hygienic Rendering of Animal Products'[57] – under jurisdictional permit, cooking processes subject to compliance verification that ensure that a core temperature of at least 100°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, or equivalent, has been reached. – treatment of cooking oil, which has been used for cooking in Australia, in accordance with the 'National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils intended for Animal Feeds'[58] – under jurisdictional permit, any other nationally agreed process approved by Animal Health Committee (AHC) for which an acceptable risk assessment has been undertaken and that is subject to compliance verification. The national definition is a minimum standard. Some jurisdictions have additional conditions for swill feeding that pig producers in those jurisdictions must comply with, over and above the requirements of the national definition. Definition source: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/prohibited-pig-feed-compliance-and-awareness
Property	Land on which the piggery production area is located and which typically includes buildings and land not used for pig production. This land extends beyond the production area to the limits of the property tenure
Semen provider	A semen provider that has been assessed by their jurisdiction as compliant with the voluntary enhanced biosecurity standards for ASF.
Stockfeed	Includes crops, grains, hay, silage and mixed feeds, as well as any materials used for pig bedding material. The term "stock feedstuffs" includes stockfeed as well as supplements (such as vitamins and minerals) and other additives (such as antibiotics). (Ref AUSVETPLAN ASF v5.1 s6.4.12)[59]

57 Download a copy of the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Rendering of Animal Products from www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/5666

58 Download a copy of the National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils intended for Animal Feeds from www.ausrenderers.com.au/index.php/downloads/category/3-standards?download=31:national-standard-for-recycling-of-fats-and-oils

59 Download a copy of the AUSVETPLAN ASF v5.1 s6.4.12 from https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/download/9244

Appendix 1: Guidelines for a daily health monitoring program and trigger to initiate on-farm veterinary investigation and ASF testing.

The following daily health program is to be implemented in a stud operating while Australia is ASF free.

1. Daily observation of all pigs on site.

   Note: clinical signs associated with genotype II of ASF are fever, anorexia (even mild anorexia), lethargy, weakness and recumbence; bluish-purple areas and haemorrhages on the ears and/or abdomen; ocular discharges; reddening of the skin; and bloody diarrhoea. The body temperature of any pig showing any of these clinical signs should be taken. A rectal temperature equal to or above 40.5°C or above is considered significant (ASF infected pigs are reported to have body temperatures of 40.5 to 42°C). Any other condition i.e. abscesses/wounds/lameness or fighting that may be associated with a rise in body temperature should be recorded.

2. The manager should provide a regular report on the daily health monitoring to the farm's herd veterinarian.

4. The farm's herd veterinarian should be advised immediately if any pig dies suddenly, is identified with a fever (40.5°C or above) or any of the other main clinical signs of ASF.

5. Any high suspicion of ASF must be reported to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (1800 675 888) immediately.

6. ASF testing should be conducted to exclude or diagnose ASF in any boar/s that:

   a. has a fever 40.5°C or above and/or

   b. has clinical signs consistent with ASF that cannot plausibly be explained by another cause.

Appendix 2: Feral pig surveillance options to monitor risks of feral pigs

See "VEBS Exposure Assessment reference - 032522 Surveillance options to monitor risks of feral pigs" available for download from https://australianpork.com.au/apiq/apiq-resource-library

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