



Section 7.3

Housing System

REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
 RECORDS		
R-Z	Space Allowance Record	Mandatory
R-N	Animal-Based Measures Record	Mandatory, if applicable
R-L	Farm Plan	Highly recommended
 FACT SHEET		
F-13	Space Allowance for Nursery and Grow/Finish Pigs	–

SECTION 7.3

HOUSING SYSTEM

REQUIREMENTS

All Production Stages

1. The flooring and equipment in the pig housing areas must be in a condition that does not pose an immediate risk of injury to the pigs.
2. Pigs must be housed in a system that does not routinely use tethers to house them.

Sow Barn

3. Farrowing crates must be adequately sized so that sows do not:
 - a. touch both sides of the crate (not including anti-crush rails) simultaneously
 - b. touch both ends of the crate simultaneously
 - c. touch the top bars of the crate, or
 - d. be obstructed by a raised trough or rear gate when lying down.
4. Mated gilts and sows stalls must be adequately sized so that sows do not have to
 - a. touch both sides of stall simultaneously
 - b. touch both ends of stall simultaneously, or
 - c. touch the top bars of the stall.
5. Boar stalls must be adequately sized so that boars are able to stand, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures without undue interference.
6. Boars that are housed in stalls must be provided with opportunities to exercise at least four times a week.
7. If the holdings for bred gilts or sows is newly built or rebuilt, or was brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014
 - a. the Group Sow Housing Certification requirements must be met.
8. If the holdings for boars is newly built or brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014
 - a. boars must be provided with sufficient space so they can turn around.

Nursery or Grow/Finish Barn

9. A Space Allowance Record (R-Z) must be completed for all nursery and grow/finish pens that demonstrates that at least the minimum required space allowance is provided (see Space Allowance for Nursery and Grow/Finish Pigs Fact Sheet F-13).
 - a. The Space Allowance Record (R-Z) must include the following:
 - i. identification of the pen(s)
 - ii. the floor area in the pen(s)
 - iii. the average body weight of the pigs in the pen(s) at first pull/exit
 - iv. the space allowance per pig, and
 - v. the maximum number of pigs per pen.
 - b. If the space allowance for the nursery or grow/finish pigs falls in the orange category (see Space Allowance for Nursery and Grow/Finish Pigs Fact Sheet F-13), an Animal-Based Measures Record (R-N) must have been completed at least three times in the past 12 months, within one week of the first pull/exit, to demonstrate that the pigs' welfare is not compromised by the amount of space.

For your convenience, a template for the Space Allowance Record (R-Z) has been developed for you to use.

RATIONALE

- a. Adequately designed, built and maintained housing systems are crucial to provide appropriate care and comfort to pigs.
- b. It is possible to achieve equivalent productivity and health in group-housing systems compared with individual gestation stalls, provided they are well designed and managed.
- c. Boars not actively involved in heat detection or breeding need exercise to meet their physical needs.
- d. Tethered sows show lower productivity and higher levels of stress compared with sows housed in gestation stalls or in groups.

GUIDANCE

- a. For sows that are housed in groups, the group size, feeding system, space allowance, and mixing practices (i.e., a stable group versus a dynamic group) all influence sow welfare.
- b. In all group-housing systems, the space allowance provided to pigs affects animal welfare, health and productivity.
- c. As of July 1, 2029, mated gilts and sows have to be housed:
 - i. in groups* or
 - ii. individual pens

* If housed in groups, individual stalls may be used for up to 28 days after the date of last breeding, and an additional period of up to 7 days is permitted to manage grouping. Time in stalls can only be extended to protect the welfare of individual sows on the advice of a competent stockperson.
- d. As of July 1, 2029, boars will have to be housed:
 - i. in individual pens with sufficient space to turn around.

Through science and innovation, Canadian pork producers are committed to full adoption of group housing designs/ systems that offer more freedom of movement for sows.

The industry will continue to investigate feasible housing systems that allow sows greater freedom of movement through all stages, and that reduce the need for stalls during gestation.

AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
All Production Stages					
Q7.3.1	Verify that the flooring and equipment in the pig housing areas observed during the validation does not pose an immediate risk of injury to pigs. Examples of immediate risks include, but are not limited to: a. broken slats or holes in the flooring of group pens that pigs can fit their legs through b. sharp protrusions from equipment and rebar sticking out of concrete.	Full and Partial Validation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ observation ➤ interview 			
	Is the flooring and equipment in the pig housing areas in a condition that does not pose an immediate risk of injuring the pigs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.2	Verify that pigs are not tethered routinely as part of their normal housing system.	Full and partial validation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ observation (full validation only) 			
	Are pigs housed in a system that does not use tethers routinely to house them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sow Barn					
Q7.3.3	Verify that 90% or more of the farrowing crates containing sampled bred gilts and sows are sized according to the Pig Code of Practice requirements by assessing the following criteria when the sows are standing: a. The length of a farrowing crate must allow the sow enough room to move forward and backward, and to lie down unhindered by a raised trough or rear gate. b. Sows must not touch both sides of crate (excluding anti-crush rails) simultaneously. c. Sows must not touch the feeder and back of the crate simultaneously. d. Sows must not touch the top bars of the crate.	Full validation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ observation of the sample of bred gilts and sows in crates ➤ R-N: Animal-Based Measures Record 			
	Are farrowing crates sized according to Pig Code of Practice requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.4	Verify that 90% or more of individual stalls containing sampled mated gilts and sows are sized according to the Pig Code of Practice requirements by assessing the following criteria when the sows are standing. Sows must not touch a. both sides of the stall simultaneously b. both ends of the stall simultaneously, or c. the top bars of the stall.	Full validation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ observation of the sample of mated gilts and sows in stalls. ➤ R-N: Animal-Based Measures Record 			
	Are mated gilt and sow stalls sized according to Pig Code of Practice requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Q7.3.5	Verify that 90% or more of stalls containing sampled boars are sized to the Pig Code of Practice requirements by assessing the following criteria on the boars when they are standing: a. Boars must be able to stand, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures without undue interference.	Full validation: > observation of the sample of mature boars in stalls > R-N: Animal-Based Measures Record			
	Are individual boar stalls sized according to Pig Code of Practice requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.6	Verify that all boars, which are housed in stalls, are provided with opportunities to exercise at least four times a week (i.e., every second day).	Full and partial validation: > interview			
	Are boars housed in stalls provided with opportunities to exercise at least four times a week?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.7	Verify the most recent date when an entire sow barn was built, rebuilt or brought into use for the first time based on a building permit. If it was built, rebuilt or brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014, verify that bred gilts and sows are housed in groups as defined by the Group Sow Housing Certification.	Full and partial validation: > verify the Group Sow Housing Certification			
	For holdings of bred gilts and sows newly built or rebuilt or brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014, are the Group Sow Housing Certification requirements met?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.8	Verify the most recent date when an entire sow barn was built or brought into use for the first time based on a building permit. If it was built or brought into use for first time after July 1, 2014, all sampled mature boars can turn around.	Full validation: > observation of the sample of mature boars			
	For holdings newly built or brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014, are boars provided with sufficient space so that they can turn around?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.9 HR	Verify whether the Group Sow Housing Certification requirements are being met voluntarily.	Full and partial validation: > verify the Group Sow Housing Certification			
	Are the Group Sow Housing Certification requirements being met voluntarily?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Nursery					
Q7.3.10	Verify that a Space Allowance Record (R-Z) has been completed for all nursery pens. This record must include all of the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. identification of the pen(s) b. floor area of the pen(s) c. average body weight of the pigs in the pen(s) at exit d. space allowance per pig e. maximum number of pigs per pen 	Full and partial validation: > R-Z: Space Allowance Record			
	Has a Space Allowance Record (R-Z) been completed for all nursery pens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.11	Verify if the space provided complies with the Code of Practice requirements for every nursery pen. If the space allowance requires supporting records (i.e., the space provided falls in the orange category as per the Space Allowance for Nursery and Grow/Finish Pigs Fact Sheet (F-13)), an Animal-Based Measures Record (R-N) that has been completed at least three times in the past 12 months (subject to the farm being in operation that long) within one week of pigs exiting the pen is required to demonstrate the pigs' welfare has not been compromised by the amount of space.	Full and partial validation: > R-Z: Space Allowance Record > observation, if applicable > R-N: Animal-Based Measures Record			
	Are all nursery pigs provided with sufficient space according to the Code of Practice requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grow/Finish Barns					
Q7.3.12	Verify that a Space Allowance Record (R-Z) has been completed for all grow/finish pens. This record must include all of the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. identification of the pen(s) b. floor area in the pen(s) c. average body weight of the pigs in the pen(s) at first pull d. space allowance per pig e. maximum number of pigs per pen. 	Full and partial validation: > R-Z: Space Allowance Record			
	Has a Space Allowance Record (R-Z) been completed for all grow/finish pens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.3.13	Verify if the space provided complies with the Code of Practice requirements for every grow/finish pen. If the space allowance requires supporting records (i.e., the space provided falls in the orange category as per the Space Allowance for Nursery and Grow/Finish Pigs Fact Sheet (F-13)), an Animal-Based Measures Record (R-N) that has been completed at least three times in the past 12 months (subject to the farm being in operation that long) within one week of pigs exiting the pen is required to demonstrate the pigs' welfare has not been compromised by the amount of space.	Full and partial validation: > R-Z: Space Allowance Record > observation, if applicable > R-N: Animal-Based Measures Record			
	Are all grow/finish pigs provided with sufficient space according to the Code of Practice requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HR = highly recommended; N/A = not applicable.



LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

COMPLIANT

- › Flooring and equipment in pigs' housing do not pose an immediate risk of injuring the pig(s).
- › Housing meets Code of Practice requirements.
- › Space allowance has been calculated, recorded, and meets Code of Practice requirements, including supporting ABM records (R-N), if applicable.
- › Boars housed in stalls are provided with opportunities to exercise at least 4 times a week.

MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 12 months**

- › Housing does not meet Code of Practice requirements or pen stocked heavier than recorded on the Space Allowance Record (R-Z).
- › Space allowance has not been calculated or recorded.
- › Animal-Based Measures records (R-N) have not been completed at least 3 times in the past 12 months when space allowance falls in the orange category or below the absolute minimum required by the Code of Practice (see Fact Sheet F-13 – Space Allowance for Nursery and Grow/Finish Pigs).
- › Space allowance provided is below the absolute minimum required by the Code of Practice.
- › Boars that are housed in stalls are not provided with opportunities to exercise at least 4 times a week.

MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 60 days**

- › Flooring or equipment in pigs' housing poses an immediate risk of injuring the pig(s).

