



## Section 7.5

# Enrichment

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### REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
 <b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b>		
7.5	Enrichment	Highly recommended
 <b>FACT SHEET</b>		
F-14	Environmental Enrichment Examples	–

## SECTION 7.5

### ENRICHMENT

#### REQUIREMENTS

1. Two or more enrichment options must be provided to pigs at all stages of production.

#### RATIONALE

- a. Pigs are highly motivated to root and explore their environment. Providing environmental enrichment improves animal welfare by enhancing the animals' physical or social environment.
- b. Enrichment strategies, such as providing objects suitable for chewing and rooting, can deter pigs from harmful social behaviour such as ear- and tail-biting, thereby reducing the impact of these problems.
- c. Enrichment can increase the number and range of normal behaviours and prevent the development of abnormal behaviours or reduce their frequency or severity. It can also increase the positive utilization of pen space and the animals' ability to cope with change.
- d. The presence of enrichment can reduce aggression when pigs are mixed in together and reduce handling stress.

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#### GUIDANCE

- a. It is recommended that an Enrichment SOP (SOP 7.5) be developed that clearly identifies the enrichment tools used at each stage of production.
- b. Suitable forms of enrichment vary with each stage of production and with housing system being used. See the Environmental Enrichment Examples Fact Sheet F-14 for enrichment suggestions.
- c. All forms of enrichment should be carefully selected to ensure they are safe for pigs (i.e., they are unlikely to cause strangulation, choking, poisoning or obstruction of the digestive tract) and do not pose a risk to food safety or biosecurity. The potential for affecting liquid manure systems should also be considered.
- d. Do not use steel-belted radial tires as an enrichment. The steel in these tires may become exposed, break off in small pieces, and become embedded in the animals.
- e. In addition to enrichment objects, interaction with other pigs and altering the sensory environment (e.g., leaving a radio on, or providing separate areas for feeding, resting and dunging) can be considered enrichment.
- f. Periodic activities, such as pen walking by personnel, top dressing with alternative feeds or providing multiple feeding events per day, are also considered to provide enrichment.
- g. Pigs prefer enrichment objects that are malleable, consumable and chewable. See Environmental Enrichment Fact Sheet F-14 for examples.
- h. Objects can quickly lose their novelty value, so rotation of a variety of objects will have greater value to the pigs.
- i. Enrichment objects should be either suspended or cleaned regularly, as soiled objects have little enrichment value to pigs.
- j. Straw is recognized as a premium source of enrichment. However, the source of the straw should be evaluated as a potential biosecurity risk. Straw may also pose a challenge to manure-management systems. Small amounts provided in a rack or on solid floor areas will generally be consumed before entering pits.

## AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Q7.5.1	Verify that two or more enrichment options are provided to pigs at all stages of production. See the Environmental Enrichment Examples Fact Sheet F-14 for examples.	<b>Full and partial validation:</b> > observation (full validation only) > interview			
	<b>Are two or more enrichment options provided to pigs at all stages of production?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

N/A = not applicable



### LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

#### COMPLIANT

- > At least two enrichment options are provided to pigs at all stages of production.

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

- > Less than two enrichment options are provided to pigs at all stages of production.

#### MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE – Not applicable

