


Section 8.4

Live Pigs, Semen and Embryos

REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
 RECORD		
R-G	Swine Movement Document	Mandatory

SECTION 8.4

LIVE PIGS, SEMEN AND EMBRYOS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Live Pigs

1. The following measures should be implemented before introducing live pigs to the herd:
 - a. the health status of all incoming pigs should be verified and recorded with your licensed veterinarian
 - b. all incoming pigs should complete a quarantine and acclimatization periods
 - c. incoming animals should ideally come from a single source
 - i. If the source changes, your licensed veterinarian should be informed prior to the first animal movement.

Semen and Embryos

2. The following measures should be implemented before introducing semen and embryos to the herd:
 - a. ask the semen and embryos supplier to inform you immediately of any health status changes
 - b. reduce the number of sources to the minimum needed
 - c. verify that biosecurity measures are in place for delivery vehicles and drivers.

RATIONALE

- a. Live pigs can carry a significant number of pathogens which can be transmitted to the herd.
- b. Several pathogens, such as porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus, can be transmitted through semen.
- c. In addition to CFIA's legal requirements for import, and to prevent contamination via direct transmission from either domestic or out-of-country sources, it is important to investigate the endemic disease status of the supply herd and its status regarding potentially new emerging diseases that could be introduced to Canada.

GUIDANCE

Entry of Live Pigs

It is recommended that the preventive measures below be followed:

- a. Purchase from as few suppliers as possible, making sure their health status meets your operation standards.
- b. Limit the frequency of new animal introductions.
- c. Record all introductions, placements and removals of pigs so that, if an infectious disease is suspected, the pigs or group of pigs can be quickly traced and isolated.

- d. Have approval from a licensed veterinarian for the purchase of live pigs from foreign countries.
- e. Use all-in/all-out placement of pigs within a barn or site to minimize risk.
- f. Have an isolation or quarantine procedure for new pigs before introduction to the farm herd.
- g. Observe isolated or quarantine pigs each day for clinical signs.
- h. Report any unusual disease observations to the licensed veterinarian responsible for the health status of the production system. This will allow for a timely intervention to prevent spread through contaminated pigs.
- i. Clean, wash, disinfect and dry the quarantine or isolation section between each batch, including the shipping area.
- j. A quarantine and acclimatization period for incoming pigs should include the following measures
 - i. define your quarantine period duration with your licensed veterinarian
 - ii. testing and doing clinical assessments of the quarantine pigs prior to moving them into the RAZ
 - iii. appropriately cleaning (see Sanitation SOP (SOP2.2.2)) the quarantine area between batches to eradicate pathogens.

Entry of Embryos and Semen From Domestic Sources

It is recommended that the preventive measures below be followed:

- a. set up a semen and embryos delivery off site or identify a specific area of the sow barn for delivery
- b. use barriers and packaging measures to avoid cross-contamination on delivery of semen
- c. define a health status or put in place biosecurity semen purchasing measures for the farm or the whole production system.

Entry of Embryos and Semen From Out of Country

It is recommended that the preventive measures below be followed:

- a. Limit breeding activities with foreign-purchased semen to quarantined pigs only.
- b. Wash, disinfect and dry the quarantine facility between batches.
- c. Ensure the licensed veterinarian for the production system approves the purchase of pigs and/or embryos from outside Canada.
- d. Maintain a report of the information provided by the licensed veterinarian in charge of the foreign-source supplier.

? BIOSECURITY QUESTIONS

Q#	Importance	Biosecurity Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
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Live pigs

Q8.4.1	Highly recommended	Are the following measures implemented before introducing live pigs to the herd:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		a. the health status of all incoming pigs is verified and recorded with your licensed veterinarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		b. all incoming pigs complete a quarantine and acclimatization period	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		c. incoming animals come from a single source i. if the source changes, your licensed veterinarian should be informed prior to the first animal movement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Semen and Embryos

Q8.4.2	Highly recommended	Are the following measures implemented before introducing semen and embryos to the herd:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		a. ask the semen and embryos supplier to inform you immediately of any health status changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		b. reduce the number of sources to the minimum needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		c. verify that biosecurity measures are in place for delivery vehicles and drivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

N/A = not applicable; SOP = standard operating procedure