Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

Translated by:
Landwirtschaftskammer
Nordrhein-Westfalen

Protection against animal diseases – what farmers can do

Implementing the Pig Housing Hygiene Ordinance
(Schweinehaltungshygieneverordnung)

bmel.de/asp

What is biosecurity?

African swine fever (ASF) is currently threatening the wild and domestic pig populations in Europe. o Preventing further spread in Germany, requires the help of many. Farmers can make an important contribution to protecting their stocks. For this, biosecurity is crucial, especially hygiene measures in the barn. The Pig Farming Hygiene Ordinance divides the operations into three levels of biosecurity.

Level 1 The **first level** applies to all pig-rearing operations.

Level 2 The **second level** applies to the following operations:

20 to 700 fattening pigs

3 to 150 breeding sows

3 to 100 breeding sows together with other pigs

Level 3 The **third level** applies to the following operations:

more than 700 fattening pigs

more than 150 breeding sows

more than 100 breeding sows together with other pigs

Special rules apply to **free-range farming.**

Veterinary care

Level 1 All operations

Every farm must have veterinary care. This includes advice for the farm.

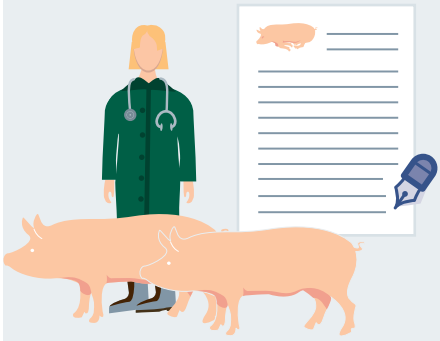
In certain cases (including increased mortality, high proportion of sick animals, fever, unsuccessful antimicrobial treatment on two occasions), special veterinary examinations are required.

Certain cases require special veterinary examination

Level 2 and up

Clinical examinations at least twice a year

Inspection of documentation



In larger operations (Level 2 and above), clinical examinations of the pigs must be carried out at least twice a year. In addition, the documentation of deaths, abortions and stillbirths that the farm is required to keep must be checked.

What rules apply for all farms?

Level 1

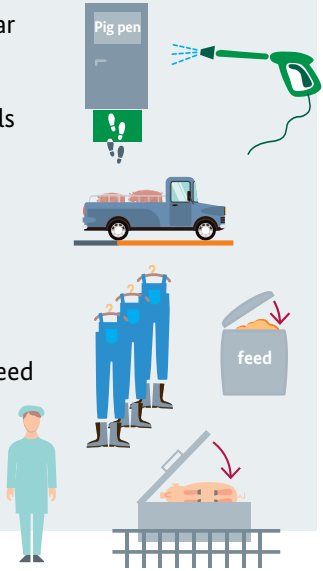
- A sign reading “Pig pen – no unauthorised entry” must be displayed.
- The stall must be escape-proof.
- It must be possible to clean and disinfect footwear.
- There must be a water drain.
- Store feed and bedding in a way that keeps them safe from wild boar.
- Holdings register must be kept.

What additional rules apply at Level 2 and above?

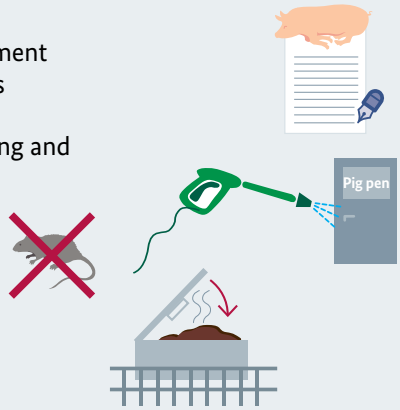
Level 2

In addition to the rules for Level 1 operations, the following requirements apply:

- Facilities for cleaning and disinfecting footwear at the entrances and exits of the stalls
- Facilities for cleaning and disinfecting the stalls and the wheels of vehicles
- Changing room, rooms or closed containers for feed, as well as a hard-surfaced loading area
- Lockable, easy to clean and disinfect carcass container that can be unloaded without the need to drive on the farm premises
- Disposable clothing for non-local visitors



- In addition to the holding register: additional documentation requirement for deaths, abortions and stillbirths
- Additional requirements for cleaning and disinfecting objects and rooms
- Rodent control
- Special requirements for the storage of dung and slurry

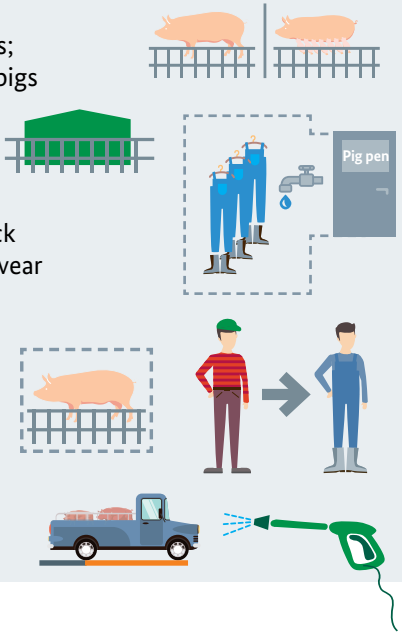


What additional rules apply at Level 3?

Level 3

In addition to the rules for Level 2 operations, the following requirements apply:

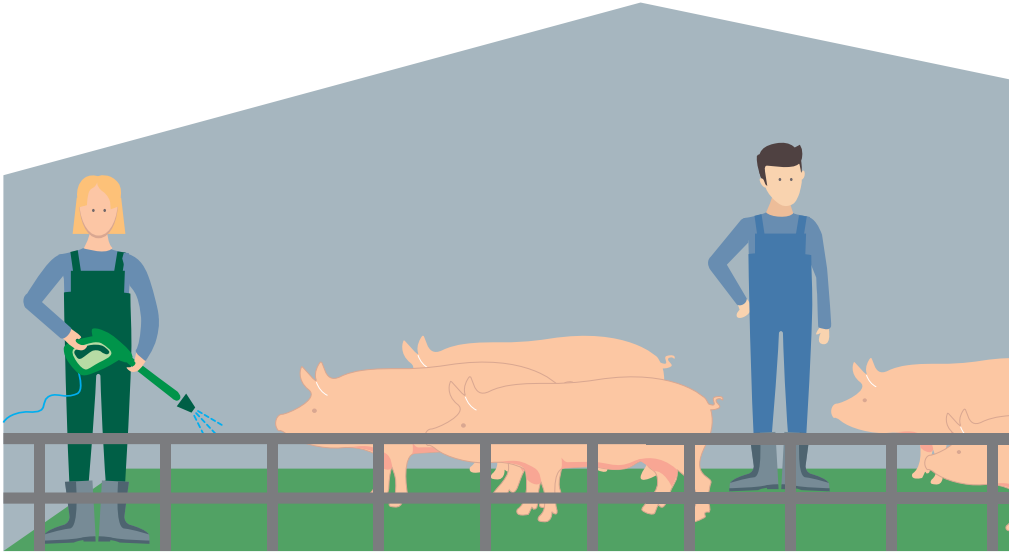
- Division of the stalls into stall sections; separation of breeding and fattening pigs in mixed operations
- Fencing of the property
- Changing room near the stalls as a lock with a water source for cleaning footwear and hand wash basin
- Change of clothes mandatory when entering and leaving the stall
- Isolated stall for new arrivals
- Special hygiene requirements for transport



Protection through routine

The success of the biosecurity measures depends on all persons working on the farm adhering to them.

This requires **regular reviews** of operational procedures and **regular training** of employees.



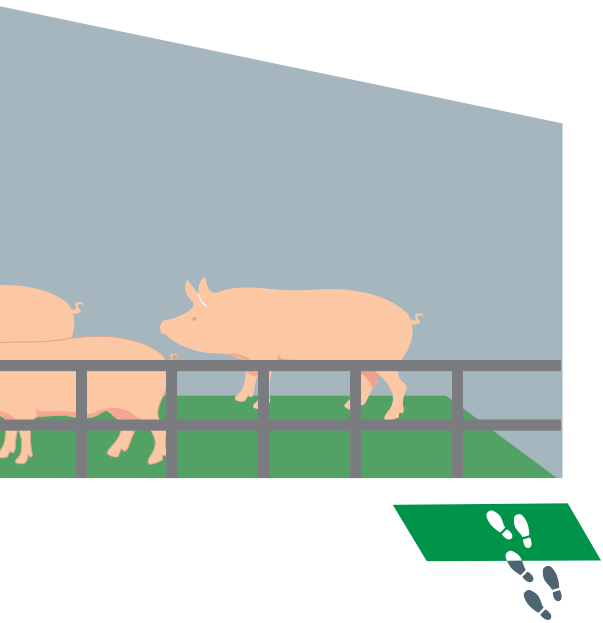
Further information

Further information, questions and answers about ASF and the legal basis for pig farmers can be found on the website of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

→ *www.bmel.de/asp*

Information on the spread of ASF (including maps) and recommendations for livestock owners, hunters and veterinarians are provided by the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) on its website.

→ *www.fli.de/de/aktuelles/tierseuchengeschehen/afrikanische-schweinepest*



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