

Commission services' assessment of the Action Plan submitted by the competent authorities of Denmark in response to Report ref. DG(SANTE)/2017-6123-MR of the audit carried out from 09 October 2017 to 13 October 2017 in order to evaluate Member State activities to prevent tail-biting and avoid routine tail-docking of pigs

<i>N°</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Action Proposed by the competent authority</i>	<i>Commission services' assessment of the competent authority's response</i>
1	<p>The competent authority should provide inspectors with suitable compliance criteria to enable them to effectively enforce legal requirements of Council Directive 2008/120/EC and Council Directive 98/58/EC that are related to risk factors for tail-biting.</p> <p>Conclusion 50. Findings 39, 45.</p>	<p>The guideline for animal welfare controls in pig herds and/or the guideline on enrichment material will be updated to include compliance criteria for air quality, feeding space, and drinkers. It will at the same time be considered, whether an update on the compliance criteria concerning mixing of pigs, which are already in the guideline, is appropriate. This update is expected to be finalised during the first half of 2018.</p> <p>An update of the guideline on animal welfare controls in pig herds to include compliance criteria for staff will have to wait the adoption of an order, which requires that the person responsible for a pig herd of a certain size shall have relevant training. This update is expected to be finalised during the second half of 2018.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>The proposed timescale for updating the guidelines is satisfactory.</p> <p>Compliance criteria for staff are expected to include not only relevant training but should also indicate what constitutes a sufficient number of staff.</p> <p>For a concluding assessment it would be helpful to receive the updated guidelines so they can be reviewed by the Commission services. This can be done in the context of the updates to the Danish Action Plan to improve controls on the prevention of tail-biting and the avoidance of routine tail-docking.</p>
2	<p>The competent authority should provide inspectors with suitable instructions and guidance to be</p>	<p>The risk factors with regard to tail biting, which are already mentioned in the guideline</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>

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	<p>enable them to enforce the provision on the prevention of tail-biting and avoidance of routine tail-docking, as laid down in the second paragraph of point 8 of Chapter I of Annex I of Council Directive 2008/120/EC, including how they should assess evidence of tail and ear lesions on farm and what constitutes sufficient measures by farmers to change inadequate environmental conditions or management systems before resorting to tail-docking of pigs. This entails the development of measurable criteria to enable inspectors to properly assess progress with regard to the risk factors listed in the new DVFA guidelines on enrichment materials and the avoidance of tail-docking.</p> <p>Conclusion 51. Findings 39 and 44 to 46.</p>	<p>on enrichment materials will be expanded in order to provide inspectors with more in depth compliance criteria. This will enable inspectors to better assess the documentation/evidence given by the farmer of the need to tail-dock, and also to better assess whether sufficient measures have been taken before resorting to tail-docking. This update is expected to be finalised during the first half of 2018.</p> <p>Furthermore, an amendment of Danish legislation, which will require farmers to carry out a risk assessment, according to Commission Recommendation (EC) 2016/336, and also require them to give written documentation hereof, is being considered. A decision will be taken during the next few months, if the results is that an order shall be issued, it is expected that the order will enter into force on 1 January 2019.</p>	<p>Actions proposed and timescale with regard to updating the guideline on enrichment materials are satisfactory. For a concluding assessment it would be helpful to receive the updated guidelines so they can be reviewed by the Commission services.</p> <p>It would be helpful to receive an update on what is decided with regard to the amendment of legislation that will require farmers to carry out a risk assessment. Please send details of progress with these proposed actions. This can be done in the context of the updates to the Danish Action Plan to improve controls on the prevention of tail-biting and the avoidance of routine tail-docking.</p>
3	<p>The competent authority should, as required by Article 3(a) of Regulation 882/2004, take account of identified risks such as the level of non-compliance in fattening herds compared to</p>	<p>Follow-up visits from the Veterinary Inspection Units will continue in situations, where the findings during ante- or post</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>It would be helpful to receive an update on what is decided with regard to the use of post</p>

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	<p>breeding herds and post-mortem data on tail damage at slaughter to further target fattening farms and improve risk factors for tail-biting on these premises. Conclusion 51. Finding 46. Conclusion 52. Findings 47 to 49.</p>	<p>mortem inspections in slaughterhouses indicate that the welfare of pigs may be seriously compromised. Furthermore, the possibility to use post-mortem data as a risk parameter for the selection of herds for inspection will be considered. However, there may be certain legal constraints.</p>	<p>mortem data as a risk parameter. Please send details of your evaluation.</p>
4	<p>The competent authority should continue to work with private veterinarians to maximise the impact of Veterinary Advisory Service Contracts and ensure that priorities set in farm action plans support farmers in their assessment of risk factors as well as other relevant data related to the need for tail-docking, as required by point 8 of Chapter I of Annex I of Council Directive 2008/120/EC. Conclusion 31. Findings 24 to 26.</p>	<p>The working group with members from the pig sector, the DVA and the DVFA continues its work in order to produce a risk assessment tool for farmers and information material, which shall make farmers, veterinarians and other consultants aware of the need to perform a risk assessment before resorting to tail-docking.</p> <p>We foresee a continued cooperation between farmers, the practising veterinarian and/or other consultants with regard to the risk assessment, but whether this could further involve the Veterinary Advisory Service Contracts, will be decided during the first half on 2018.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>It would be helpful to receive an update on your decision and future actions with regard to the cooperation between farmers, veterinarians and other consultants. Please send details of evaluation and proposed actions. This can be done in the context of the updates to the Danish Action Plan to improve controls on the prevention of tail-biting and the avoidance of routine tail-docking.</p>

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5	<p>The competent authority should consider liaising with other Government Agencies responsible for funding new buildings where pigs are to be kept and renovating existing ones with the assistance of European funding under Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 to ensure not only that payments related to such facilities are suitable to commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards where they are related to animal welfare but that in general all funded facilities, as a minimum, comply with relevant mandatory requirements (of Directives 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC) including the avoidance of routine tail-docking e.g. slurry systems that can handle optimal enrichment materials, different temperature zones, suitable flooring, feeding, space allowances etc. Conclusions 35, 36. Findings 33, 34.</p>	<p>The recommendation is assumed not relevant for the Green Development Programme, presently situated at the Environmental Agency (formerly at the Agricultural Agency), as the Green Development Programme does not fund new buildings or renovations of existing buildings. The Green Development Programme supports the building of new prototypes, hereof the development of new stable concepts.</p> <p>Regarding conclusion 35 and the recommendation: The Danish Agricultural Agency (formerly Agrifish) will take the recommendation concerning liaising with other Government Agencies into consideration in those cases where the Agricultural Agency gives project subsidies with EU financing. The Danish Agricultural Agency is already collaborating with a range of other authorities, in order to ensure compliance with other regulation.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>It would be helpful to receive information with regard to existing programmes that use European financial measures for investment funding of pig premises (if any) and your considerations with regard to ensuring compliance with Directives 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC including the avoidance of routine tail-docking in such funded premises. Please send an update on the proposed actions.</p>