



ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM

GUIDANCE: PORK PRODUCER ON-SITE INSPECTION FOR PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION

Purpose

This document outlines the on-site inspection requirements for a *pork producer* obtaining a third-party *certification* according to Proposition 12 (2018) [Animal Confinement Regulations](#), Chapter 10 (commencing with section 1320) of Division 2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (3 CCR). Information in this document details the minimum requirements of what the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) or another *certifying agent* will review during the on-site inspection portion of the *certification* process including inspection of the facility, *covered animals*, and *records* for the purpose of issuing a new or renewal *certification*. Review and understanding of this document will help the *pork producer* applicant prepare for their on-site inspection to receive certification in a timely manner.

Commencing January 1, 2024, any person engaged in business in California as a *pork producer*, or any out-of-state *pork producer* that is keeping, maintaining, confining, and housing a *breeding pig* for the purposes of producing *whole pork meat*, from the *breeding pig* or its immediate offspring, for human food for *commercial sale* in California, shall hold a valid *certification*. 3 CCR section 1322.1(b)

Pork producer means a person engaged in the business of keeping, maintaining, confining and/or housing a breeding pig, for the purpose of commercial breeding to produce pork meat from the breeding pig or her immediate offspring for human consumption. 3 CCR section 1322(u)

Key terms *italicized* in this guidance are described on [Key Terms for Stakeholders](#) guidance document.

Mission of Animal Care Program

To serve animal agriculture producers and California consumers by promoting and protecting the welfare and care of animals in agriculture in order for Californians to have access to food that is sourced from humanely and sustainably raised animals.

For a description of all *Pork Producer* requirements to comply with Animal Confinement regulations, click on link to [Pork Producer Guidance](#).

On-Site Inspection Requirement

In order to grant *certification*, CDFA or another *certifying agent* must conduct an initial on-site inspection of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or distributes *covered animals* or *covered products* that is included in an operation for which *certification* is requested. For a *pork producer*, CDFA or another *certifying agent* will conduct an initial on-site inspection of a *pork producer's* facility where *breeding pigs* covered under the certification request are kept. An on-site inspection must be conducted at least once every 12 months thereafter for the purpose of determining whether *certification* of the *pork producer* operation should continue. 3 CCR sections 1326.5(a)(1) and 1326.8(b)

The initial on-site inspection will be conducted within three (3) months following a determination that the *pork producer* applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with Animal Confinement regulations. A list of *certifying agents* is on the [Animal Care Program Certifying Agents](#) website for the *pork producer* to choose from. 3 CCR section 1326.5(b)(1)

What to Expect During an On-Site Inspection

All on-site inspections must be conducted when an authorized representative of the *pork producer* operation who is knowledgeable about the operation is present, can access operation records, and at a time when facilities and activities that demonstrate the *pork producer's* compliance with or capability to comply can be observed. 3 CCR section 1326.5(b)(2)



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The on-site inspection of a *pork producer* operation will verify:

- The *pork producer's* compliance or capability to comply with the requirements. 3 CCR section 1326.5(c)(1)
- The information provided on the application for *certification* accurately reflects the practices used by the *pork producer*. 3 CCR section 1326.5(c)(2)

The on-site inspection will cover:

1. General Information

- The *pork producer* must allow access by CDFA or another *certifying agent* to areas of the production operation for which *certification* is requested including pastures, fields, structures, and houses where *breeding pigs* may be kept, produced, processed, handled, stored or transported, including the inspection of all *enclosures* of *breeding pigs*. 3 CCR sections 1326.1(a)(2) and 1326.1(a)(3)
- The *pork producer* must allow access by CDFA or another *certifying agent* to operation offices during normal business hours for review and copying of required *records*. 3 CCR sections 1326.1(a)(2) and 1326.1(a)(6)
- **If a split operation**, CDFA or another *certifying agent* will verify the management practices, physical barriers, and standard operating procedures established to prevent commingling of compliant *breeding pigs* and their immediate offspring with noncompliant *breeding pigs* and their immediate offspring. 3 CCR sections 1326.3(a)(5) and 1326.5(c)

2. Recordkeeping

- *Records* are required to be available for not less than two (2) years beyond their creation. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(3)
- *Records* show the size of the *farm*. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the quantity of *breeding pigs* produced or processed from each facility or farm unit in the certified operation. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the number of *breeding pig enclosures* for each facility or farm unit, the size and *usable floorspace* of each *enclosure*. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the quantity of *breeding pigs* in inventory, number of *breeding pigs* kept in each enclosure and the dates of stocking, harvest, and production. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the *breeding pigs* transactions. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(4)
- *Records* pertaining to the production, processing, handling, packaging, storage, transportation, or sale of *breeding pigs*, sold, intended for sale in California or identified or represented as compliant with requirements. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(5)
- *Records* must be maintained in sufficient detail to document that *breeding pigs* were confined in compliance with requirements as detailed below in **3. Confinement**. 3 CCR sections 1326.2(a) and 1326.2(b)(1)
- **If the operation is a split operation**, *records* must sufficiently demonstrate the identification, segregation, distribution, and handling of compliant *breeding pigs* and their immediate offspring to prevent commingling with any noncompliant *breeding pigs* and their immediate offspring. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(7)
- If *breeding pigs* are kept in noncompliant *enclosures* for animal husbandry purposes, 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(7), then *records* must be maintained by a *pork producer* in sufficient detail to document that *breeding pigs* are not kept in noncompliant enclosures for longer than six hours in any 24-hour period, and no more than 24 hours total in any 30-day period. 3 CCR sections 1324.1(a)(7), 1326.2(a) and 1326.2(b)(1)
- If *breeding pigs* are kept in noncompliant *enclosures* for individual treatment, 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(2), then *records* must be maintained by a *pork producer* in sufficient detail to document individual treatment records for the *breeding pigs*, under direction of the herd veterinarian with a current Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR). 3 CCR sections 1324(b), 1324.1(a)(2), 1326.2(a) and 1326.2(b)(1)
- If *breeding pigs* are kept in noncompliant *enclosures* for farrowing, 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(6), then *records* must be maintained by a *pork producer* documenting that *breeding pigs* are kept in noncompliant *enclosures* no longer than five days prior to expected date of giving birth and while nursing piglets. 3 CCR sections 1324.1(a)(6), 1326.2(a) and 1326.2(b)(1)



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• 3. Confinement

- All *enclosures* allow *breeding pigs* to lie down, stand up, fully extend limbs, and turn around freely. 3 CCR section 1322.1(a)(1)
- All *enclosures* provide a minimum of 24 square feet of *usable floorspace* per *breeding pig*. 3 CCR section 1322.1(a)(2)

Refer to [Sow Housing Guide](#)

4. Exit Interview

- The certifying agent will conduct an exit interview with an authorized representative of the *pork producer* operation who is knowledgeable about the inspected operation to confirm the accuracy and completeness of inspection observations and information gathered during the on-site inspection. The certifying agent will also address the need for any additional information as well as any issues of concern. 3 CCR section 1326.5(d)