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## What do facial and carpal joint lesions indicate?

- Piglets establish a teat order.
- Lack of space and large litter sizes, where there are more piglets than functional teats, prevent piglets from establishing a stable teat order.
- Teat fighting can result in lesions on face and carpal joints.



disinfected before the introduction of a new group and which are separated from housings where sows are kept, in order to minimise the transmission of diseases to the piglets.” {Annex I, Chapter II, point C3}



*Note: Listed requirements are not comprehensive. Moreover, there might be stricter national legislation in place.*

## Legal requirements



Council Directive **98/58/EC** states in the Annex “Natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause or are likely to cause suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned must not be practised. This provision shall not preclude the use of certain procedures likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury, or which might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury, where these are allowed by national provisions.” {Annex, point 20}

“No animal shall be kept for farming purposes unless it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of its genotype or phenotype, that it can be kept without detrimental effect on its health or welfare.” {Annex, point 21}

Council Directive **2008/120/EC** states: “No piglets shall be weaned from the sow at less than 28 days of age unless the welfare or health of the dam or the piglet would otherwise be adversely affected. However, piglets may be weaned up to seven days earlier if they are moved into specialised housings which are emptied and thoroughly cleaned and

## Inspection method (recommended)

- The farmer records facial and carpal joint lesions of piglets during his/her daily inspections.
- The official inspector checks veterinary records and piglets for lesions.
- The inspector reports findings to farmer and in case of discrepancies between legal requirements and situation on farm corrective actions are taken.

# Facial & carpal joint lesions

Assessment method



## Facial lesions

Calculate the proportion of piglets with at least 3 facial lesions

**No or low risk to welfare: < 3 fresh/bleeding or healing (scabs) lesions**



**High risk to welfare:  $\geq 3$  fresh/bleeding or healing (scabs) lesions**



## Carpal joint lesions

Calculate the proportion of piglets with carpal joint lesions

**No risk to welfare: no fresh/bleeding or healing (scabs) lesions**



**High risk to welfare: fresh/bleeding or healing (scabs) lesions**



Source for the assessment method: KTBL Leitfaden



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