

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR

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Communication Date: 10/03/2022

Addressee: Scheme Manager of Certification Entities

SUBJECT: Clarification on the sampling in farms of module 02 – Sows and piglets

The Pig Welfare Quality protocol for sows and piglets on the farm specifies that some measures must be assessed in animals of a specific age and/or phases, according to their level of risk to animal welfare. This means that, depending on the type of farm management, it may be impossible to evaluate all the measures in a single day.

The Welfair® Certification Scheme instructions for measures that cannot be assessed are to give the farmer and the certifying body two options:

- Carry out the assessment in a single day and assume that all those measures that cannot be evaluated will obtain a score of 0 points.
- Carry out the assessment in more than one day to complete the sampling required by the protocol and thus minimize or eliminate the measures not evaluated, for which 0 points will be obtained.

In relation to this second point, if it is the one chosen by the EC, it is communicated that for the complete assessment of the WQ protocol for sows and piglets on the farm, at least:

- Sows in the phase representative of gestation of all types of housing present on the farm. If early gestation is housed in cages for a minimum of 72 hours and middle and late gestation are housed in groups, it should be possible to evaluate animals in both types of housing.
 - In early gestation, if post-insemination animals are not available, 0 points will be assumed for metritis at this stage.
 - In mid and late gestation, if only one of the two phases is present, it will be allowed to evaluate the clinical measurements and the human-animal relationship, indistinctly in either of the two phases.
- Lactating sows and their litters of at least two ages:
 - Sows with newborn piglets (0 to 7 days old). For the assessment of metritis, it will be allowed to evaluate animals up to 4 days postpartum.

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- Sows with piglets close to weaning. Piglets should be able to be assessed during the last week before the average weaning age.

Effective as of: immediately after the dispatch of this circular.

Sincerely,

Quim Pallisera Lloveras

Technical Coordinator of the Welfare® Certification Scheme