

Atria Good Manufacturing Practises - Pork

Purpose and scope

This document supplements the principles described in Atria's Animal Welfare Policy for Atria Finland Ltd's pig chain.

The document is a summary of the best practices that are followed and that can be verified in Atria's pig production chain, from farm to the slaughterhouse. This document includes mainly requirements which are beyond EU and national legislation. All Atria animal production are expected to follow EU and national legislation.

Atria Pig is a procurement company providing expert services in primary production, which is responsible for the procurement of Atria Finland's pork and the development of the production chain in cooperation with the contract producers.

References

Atria's production guidelines for pig farming

Slaughterhouse operating instructions, Nurmo

Approval:

Atria Pig veterinarian Taneli Tirkkonen has approved this document and its compliance with the current operating model. The description shall be reviewed every three years and / or updated in the event of significant changes to the operating model.

Target audience: Public, customers

Approval date: 24.10.2019

Review date: 3.10.2023



	FUNCTION	DESCRIPTION
1.	SOURCING AND TRACEABILITY OF LIVESTOCK	
1.1	Meat Sourcing Policy	Atria's pork procurement is based on contract production. Contract producers are committed to following Atria's farming practices in pig production. Contract production guarantees full traceability and allows for the monitoring and development of animal welfare in cooperation with producers.
1.2	Traceability	All pigs arriving at Atria's slaughterhouse can be traced back to the place of birth. The traceability of finished products is based on the date markings on each product, which allow the product to be traced to process data. Atria also has pork products, which are labeled with the farms of origin. The carcasses in question are stored separately in the carcass store, and their cutting and packaging are controlled separately from other production in order to guarantee traceability on the farm to the final product.
2.	THE PRACTISES AT THE FARM	
2.1	Identification of the livestock	In accordance with EU legislation, all animals are registered in a national pig register. All animals are marked with pig earmarks or tattoos. The slaughterhouse only accepts animals identified in the register.
2.2	Breed	As a damline: Norwegian land pig + Topigs Yorkshire or alternatively Danish land pig + Danish Yorkshire. Sireline: Duroc from Denmark/Norway.
2.3	Production model	There are three types of farms in Atria's pig chain: piglet farms, finishing pigs and combined production (both piglet and finishing pigs). Gestating sows are kept free in group pens at least two thirds of the gestation time. Sows are transferred to the farrowing boxes at least 7 days before farrowing and remain in the farrowing boxes for up to 42 days after farrowing. The weaning age of piglets is 4-5 weeks. After weaning, the weaners are transferred to their own compartment for 5-6 weeks. Further on the weaners are moved to the fattening unit/compartment. The fattening pigs are housed in small groups of 10 to 15 individuals. The pigs are sent to the slaughterhouse at the age of 5-6 months. In October 2023 more than 50% of Atria's sows are farrowing in free farrowing boxes. The percentage is growing through future farm investments.
2.4	Stocking density	Sows min. space is 2.25 m ² / individual, first-time space is 1.64 m ² / individual. Piglets min. is 0.4 m ² / individual. The weaning pen is min. 4.5 m ² . Boars for male pigs are



FUNCTION		DESCRIPTION
		min. 6 m². At the end of the rearing period, pigs have more space than the EU average, currently at least 0.9 m² / individual.
2.5	Floor	The floor types are partial slats or solid. In the final rearing, 95% of the production volume is with partial slats. The slatted area in the boxes must not exceed 1/3 of the floor area, the rest in the dry sleeping area and the enrichment material (e.g. straw) is used in the boxes. All pigs have access to a clean dry sleeping area and the stocking density of pens is kept low enough to allow all pigs to lay down at the same time.
2.6	Ventilation and temperature	The facilities have sufficient mechanical ventilation and temperature control systems. The ventilation and temperature setpoints are specified in <i>Atria's production guidelines</i>.
2.7	Lighting	Farmers follow Atria's guidelines for adequate lighting efficiency. Lighting for at least 8 hours a day.
2.8	Feed	The animals are fed according to detailed feeding plans. The plan documents shall be kept at the farm for at least one year after use. All the ingredients used in the nutrition are well known and fully traceable. Feed is purchased only from registered feed business operators who are committed to disease risk management (e.g. salmonella free). Feed delivery information is kept at the farm. Cereals (barley, wheat, oats) cover 70-80 % of the diet. Protein feeds (barley protein feed, soy, rapeseed) cover appr. 20 % of the diet. In addition, dietary minerals and vitamins. Atria has its own animal feed company A-Rehu. About 85% of Atria Sika contract manufacturers use A-Feed products.
2.9	Use of GM (genetically modified) feed	A vast majority of used feed raw materials are non-GMO. Atria does not require an absolute commitment from the production chain to use GM-free feed.
2.10	Use of soybean in feed	A-Feed currently uses responsibly produced RTRS or Pro Terra certified soybean meal. The farmer is responsible for ensuring that the feed used by the feed manufacturer has used responsibly produced soy. In this case, the soybean is either ProTerra or RTRS certified or equivalent or is derived from traceable American or European soybeans.
2.11	Feeding system	No forced feed. The farms have either free feeding or, if the feeding system is limited, enough space to feed all pigs at the same time. Feeding equipment is kept clean. Feed stores are protected to prevent rodents, birds or other pests from entering.
2.12	Water	Pure water is freely available to pigs of all ages at all times. Water is of humane drinking water quality.



	FUNCTION	DESCRIPTION
2.13	Supporting species-specific behavior	Straw, paper or similar activity material is regularly provided to pigs to meet their behavioral needs and to improve pen hygiene. Sows are given nest building material before farrowing.
2.14	Daily routines	The animals, ventilation, water and feeding systems of all animal compartments shall be inspected at least twice daily.
2.15	Stockmanship	Atria does not require certificates of competence from livestock farmers. Production contract farms are required to comply with Atria's production-specific production guidelines.
2.16	Verification of production methods/ Third-party audits on farms	Veterinarians regularly review animal welfare on farms during SIKAVA health visits (4 to 12 visits per year depending of farm size). Sikava health care system is a certified quality management system according to ISO 9001. The certification has been verified and certified by Kiwa inspecta. The certification verifies and enforces specific promises that go beyond the law of the farm in terms of animal health and product safety during the life of the animal. See. 4.1.
3.	MUTILATIONS	
3.1	Castration	Boar pigs are castrated using pain relief at 3-7 days of age. This prevents formation of a boar taint which means an unpleasant smell and taste in pork. Castration also reduces aggression between males, which could lead to injuries in group breeding. All producers are trained in castration.
3.2	Tooth extraction	Prohibited by law.
3.3	Tail docking	Prohibited by law. Tail docking is not necessary in Atria's production chain.
3.4	Notching the ears	Not needed in the Atria chain.
4.	ANIMAL HEALTH	
4.1	Measuring and improving animal welfare	Atria monitors the quality of farm production and animal health through information on animal medication and slaughter. Alert thresholds for animal welfare and quality of production have been established on the basis of production results. All actions are stored in Atria's customer information system. After slaughter, the meat inspection information is provided to the producers. All of Atria's contract farms have a health care plan prepared by a veterinarian. Plans, measures and inspections are recorded in the National Register of Porcine Health and Welfare SIKAVA. If the limit values are exceeded, corrective measures will be agreed with the farm. Repeated and serious negligence will lead to termination of the production contract.
4.2	Medication and	Antibiotics are only used for veterinary needs. Antibiotics are not used in feed or for preventive purposes. Over 80 %



FUNCTION		DESCRIPTION
	antibiotics	of the production volume is within the Antibiotic-free production concept (situation 2024). Treated animals are individually tagged and recorded, which allows strict compliance with the withdrawal period, ensuring that the animal does not have any residues of antibiotics prior to slaughter. At Atria's slaughterhouse, batches of meat are regularly examined for residues of medicinal products. The occurrence of zoonoses and infectious animal diseases in the Atria chain is very rare. Vaccines are only given to protect against a few diseases. All piglets are vaccinated at 3-4 weeks against circo virus. Used medicines are recorded in Sikava (see 4.1).
4.3	Growth hormones	Prohibited use, as well as the use of antibiotics as growth hormones.
4.4	Animal diseases and zoonoses	Atria's porcine production chain is free from the following animal diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever, Aujetzký, PRRS, salmonella, mycoplasma (porcine pertussis), dysentery, sarcoptic mange. With regard to salmonella, the Atria chain has zero tolerance. The presence of salmonella is regularly monitored in the National Salmonella Control Program. Farmers follow strict hygiene guidelines to prevent the occurrence of zoonoses and infectious animal diseases.
4.5	Farm hygiene management	Boxes, compartments and production equipment (animal feeding, watering, ventilation, etc.) are washed after every production batch before the next one is started. Protective clothing, footwear and disinfection are provided to all visitors. All pig farms have a disease barrier after the entrance of the animal shelter, where the outdoor footwear is left before changing the inner shoes and clothes. Every farm has a pest control program.
4.6	Diseases, injuries and sick pens	Animals suffering from diseases or injuries are individually identified and, if necessary, separated for recovery in a sick pen. If necessary, a veterinarian is contacted. The pig farm must have at least one sick pen / 200 places of rearing. If the animal must be euthanized at the farm, it shall be carried out by a qualified person. All deceased animals on the farm are recorded and reported to SIKAVA (see 4.1).
4.7	Disposal of corpses	Animal cadavers are stored properly outside the animal shelter for an appropriate cadaver collection.
5.	LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTS	
5.1	Operation of transports	Atria's livestock transports are carried out by contracted specialized livestock logistic companies. The vehicle and its operator must be suitable and competent for the transport and handling of livestock. They all have animal transport permits in accordance with Article 6 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, which shall be applied for



FUNCTION		DESCRIPTION
		from the competent authority. Animals are transported directly from the farm to the slaughterhouse (no cattle auctions). Atria plans routes and schedules to ensure the shortest and fastest transport of livestock. The transport companies and their vehicles are audited every three years to ensure safety and good transport quality. Audit reports are available from your transport partner as needed.
5.2	Loading, use of electric prods	Before loading the animals, the drivers must verify the identity and transporting condition of the animals. The tools for driving the pigs are livestock rattle sticks, empty plastic bags or livestock driving boards. Electric prods are not used.
5.3	Transportation time	The average transport time for pig transport to Atria Nurmo slaughterhouse is three hours. Pigs are taken to the Nurmo slaughterhouse within an average radius of 150 km. Documentation of transport times is available on request.
5.4	Transportation conditions	All Atria's livestock transport vehicles are equipped with ventilation units and drinking nipples. Sawdust is used on the floor of the vehicles to add comfort during the transport. The floor is made of non-slip material and constructed to prevent slipping. To ensure safe and easy access for animals, the vehicle is equipped with loading ramps with safe side fencing and rear lifting equipment. The vehicles are washed after each transport.
5.5	Stocking density during transportation	All pigs have room to lay down at the same time during transport.
6.	SLAUGHTERHOUSE	
6.1	Operation at the slaughterhouse	At Atria's slaughterhouses, animals are treated in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act. Detailed guidelines and control parameters related to animal welfare have been defined in the operating instructions of the slaughterhouse. Employees working in the slaughterhouses have a certificate of competence to carry out slaughter work if they carry out the bleeding or the preceding stages of slaughter.
6.2a	Pre slaughter rest time	The animals rest for 3-4 hours before slaughter. To ensure a comfortable rest, the pens are equipped with water mist systems to cool the pigs. All boxes have drinking nipples. If it is necessary for pigs to stay overnight in the lairage, pigs will be provided with bedding as a stimulant. Pigs kept for more than 12 hours are fed.
6.2b	Stocking density in the lairage	The size of the pens in the pig lairage is 9m². There are 16-17 pigs in the pen. The stocking density at any one time shall not exceed 225 kg per square meter. Lairage records on the daily stocking rates of the lairage are available as needed.



	FUNCTION	DESCRIPTION
6.3	Noise, ventilation and temperature in the lairage	Continuous and sudden noise is avoided. The ventilation and temperature are checked daily. The temperature in the slaughterhouse lairage is about 15-18 ° C. The records of the daily monitoring of the livestock conditions will be made available at the slaughterhouse where necessary.
6.4	Animal grouping	The aim is to keep the animals originating from the same holding in their own group throughout the process, from transport to lairage and slaughter.
6.5	Slaughter	No pigs will be stunned unless it is sure that the bleeding can be performed immediately after stunning. The pigs are stunned in groups using the Butina Backloader gas stunner. About 3 to 4 pigs are driven into the stunning cradle at a time. The gas content is approximately 85% in the stunning shaft and can be monitored from a display near the stunning point. Slaughterhouse staff will ensure successful stunning, after which the animals will be hung on the slaughter line and bled immediately. The slaughterhouse have a back-up stunning device that can be used during a failure or malfunction of the stunning system in use. The operation of the spare stunning equipment is checked regularly.
6.6	Persons responsible for animal welfare	The slaughterhouse has a designated animal welfare officer who must have a certificate of competency. At Atria, the animal welfare officers are the slaughterhouse managers who have completed the qualification training. In carrying out their duties, persons shall comply with the guidelines of the European Commission on the duties of the person responsible for animal welfare.
6.7	Control of the slaughter process	Continuous internal monitoring and authority supervision. Numerous of regulatory authorities work at Atria's plant daily. The entire slaughter process, from transport to carcass storage, is supervised by the authorities (meat control veterinarians and assistants). Meat control veterinarians also monitor the animal welfare records and procedures of the slaughterhouse's internal controls.