



**Australian Government**

# **AHCPRK311 Care for health and welfare of pigs**

**Release: 1**

# AHCPRK311 Care for health and welfare of pigs

## Modification History

| Release   | Comments                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Release 1 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 9.0. |

## Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide routine health care for pigs. It includes monitoring pig environments, feeding and watering, and completing health checks and treatments.

This unit applies to individuals who apply technical knowledge and skills with discretion and judgement to care for pigs in pork production environments. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities and solve problems related to pig welfare. Work environments may include indoor and outdoor pork production systems.

Commonwealth and/or state/territory health and safety, animal welfare, environmental protection and biosecurity legislation, regulations and codes of practice apply to keeping and working with pigs. Requirements vary between jurisdictions.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Mandatory workplace requirements apply to the assessment of this unit.

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Unit Sector

Pork (PRK)

## Elements and Performance Criteria

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>      |
| 1. Monitor pig environment                       | 1.1 Identify and follow biosecurity procedures that apply to entering and working on a pork production site |

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                  | <p>1.2 Identify health and safety hazards, and assess risks and control risks prior to commencing monitoring tasks</p> <p>1.3 Select, prepare and fit appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required for monitoring tasks and conditions</p> <p>1.4 Check and/or adjust pig accommodation and/or enclosures to meet individual animal health and welfare requirements according to enterprise procedures, including safety and security</p> <p>1.5 Check and/or adjust temperature, ventilation, humidity and other environmental control equipment to meet pig needs</p> <p>1.6 Check and/or adjust pig feeders and drinkers according to enterprise schedule</p> <p>1.7 Check for signs of pests and/or predators according to enterprise procedures</p> <p>1.8 Record and report issues according to enterprise requirements</p> |
| 2. Maintain hygiene                              | <p>2.1 Identify work areas, surfaces and equipment to be cleaned and/or disinfected</p> <p>2.2 Identify health and safety hazards, and assess risks and control risks prior to commencing hygiene tasks</p> <p>2.3 Select and fit appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required for hygiene tasks and conditions</p> <p>2.4 Clean and/or disinfect work areas, equipment and surfaces according to enterprise health, safety, personal hygiene and biosecurity procedures</p> <p>2.5 Dispose of waste according to enterprise environmental and biosecurity procedures</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3. Carry out routine pig health checks           | <p>3.1 Identify signs of good health in pigs</p> <p>3.2 Check pigs and report signs of ill health, diseases, parasite infestations, physical abnormalities and abnormal behaviour</p> <p>3.3 Seek immediate advice where signs indicate an unusual disease</p> <p>3.4 Record pig health status</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4. Administer treatments to pigs                 | <p>4.1 Confirm pig identification and determine vaccine, medication or other treatment requirements according to enterprise health plan</p> <p>4.2 Identify health and safety hazards, assess risks and control risks prior to commencing treatment tasks</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                  | 4.3 Select and fit appropriate PPE required for treatment tasks and conditions<br>4.4 Provide routine vaccines, medications or other treatments to pigs using safe and low stress techniques according to enterprise requirements<br>4.5 Store vaccines, medications and treatments according to product label and enterprise requirements<br>4.6 Complete records according to enterprise requirements |
| 5. Respond to dead or non-viable pigs            | 5.1 Remove and/or dispose of dead pigs according to enterprise procedures<br>5.2 Recognise, report and carry out appropriate procedures for non-viable pigs<br>5.3 Report and record pig losses and non-viable pigs                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Foundation Skills

*This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.*

| Skill    | Description                                                                                                                    |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reading  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret key information on pig treatment from industry documentation</li> </ul>       |
| Writing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use industry terminology to record information about pig health</li> </ul>              |
| Numeracy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimate and calculate quantity, time, weight, temperature, volume and ratio</li> </ul> |

## Unit Mapping Information

| Code and title current version        | Code and title previous version       | Comments                                              | Equivalence status |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| AHCPRK311 Care for health and welfare | AHCPRK201 Care for health and welfare | AQF indicator in unit code changed to reflect revised | Not equivalent     |

|         |         |                                                                                                                                 |  |
|---------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| of pigs | of pigs | unit outcomes<br>Major changes to all sections of the unit<br>Foundation skills added<br>Mandatory workplace requirements added |  |
|---------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

## Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -  
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

# Assessment Requirements for AHCPRK311 Care for health and welfare of pigs

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## Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has safely and effectively cared for at least four different groups of pigs over a period of at least five days. Each group must include at least three pigs. For each group, the individual must have:

- identified at least two health and safety hazards, and assessed and controlled associated risks
- selected, checked and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- used safe and low stress animal handling techniques
- maintained feed and water availability
- maintained pig environments, including:
  - cleaned feeding and watering equipment
  - identified and reported signs of pest and/or predator activity
  - disposed of waste materials according to environmental requirements
- monitored and reported basic pig health, and identified signs of:
  - ill health, injury or distress
  - abnormal or depressed appetite
  - non-routine behaviour.

The individual must also have treated at least five different pigs as directed, including:

- used appropriate techniques and location to administer treatments
- safely handled and stored materials used for treatments according to enterprise health, safety, environmental and biosecurity requirements
- documented all treatments provided to pigs according to enterprise requirements.

In addition to the above, the individual must have removed at least one dead or non-viable pig according to enterprise biosecurity and/or environmental procedures.

## Mandatory workplace requirements

All performance evidence specified above must be demonstrated in a pork production site.

## Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- key features of state/territory legislation, regulations and codes of practice for worker health and safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and environment protection that apply to providing health care for pigs
- enterprise procedures and requirements for worker health and safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and environment protection that apply to providing health care for pigs
- hazard identification, risk assessment and controls to minimise risks when checking and treating pigs
- key features of pig anatomy and body functions
- physical needs of pigs, including food, water, protection from weather, and predators
- signs of common pig ill health, diseases and injuries, and detection methods, including:
  - irregular behaviour, including self-isolation, lethargy, loss of appetite and drinking
  - checks including weight and breathing
  - lameness, straight tail, head tilt and body tremors
  - checking skin for red patches, scabs, bleeding, lesions, swelling, and open wounds
  - checking for unusual discharges from eyes, nose and genitalia
  - abnormal faeces
- safe and low stress techniques for handling and restraining pigs, including injured and ill pigs
- treatment and prevention of common pig diseases
- key features and functions of pig hospital pens and quarantine enclosures
- common types, features, functions and operational checks of enclosures, infrastructure and equipment used to house pigs
- types, uses, handling, storage and routes of administration of commonly used vaccines, veterinary medicines and chemicals used to treat pigs
- enterprise requirements, methods and procedures for removing and disposing of waste and debris
- notifiable diseases, including enterprise procedures for reporting and responding to notifiable diseases
- zoonoses, including erysipelas, leptospirosis, Japanese encephalitis, worms and influenza
- regulatory and enterprise documentation, records and reports required for pig health care.

## Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - • *a pork production site*
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - *live pigs specified in performance evidence*

- *pig infrastructure, materials, resources, tools and equipment, including PPE specified in the performance evidence*
- *safety data sheets*
- specifications:
  - *enterprise procedures for pig care, health and welfare, worker health and safety, and biosecurity activities specified in the performance evidence*
- timeframes:
  - *the five days specified in the performance evidence can be consecutive or non-consecutive.*

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

### **Mandatory workplace requirements**

Mandatory workplace requirements are shown in *italic text*. Refer to the Companion Volume Implementation Guide for further information.

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