

PPP Quality Assurance Scheme: How does this differ from a pig compartment?

By Dr Peter Evans, SAPPO's veterinary liaison officer

In this article Dr Evans discussed the differences between the animal health compartment system and SAPPO's quality assurance scheme. The Table below indicates the differences in requirements between the pig compartment and PPP-QAT. The table highlights that there are fewer requirements in Pig compartments as the aim is biosecurity and prevention of exotic diseases entering the compartment. The reasons for added requirements for a QAT are:

	SECTION	Pig Comp	PPP-QAT
1	Access control	Yes	Yes
2	Internal health (endemic and zoonotic diseases)		Yes
3	Pest Control	Yes	Yes
4	Feed control		Yes
5	Housing		Yes
6	Care & Management	Yes	Yes
7	Sanitation & Hygiene	Yes	Yes
8	Medication control		Yes
9	Effluent		Yes
10	Transport		Yes

2•Internal health (endemic and zoonotic diseases)

“Stricter control of diseases of people and animals on the unit”
The argument as to why stricter control of diseases is required by PPP-QAT is to ensure that public fears of zoonotic diseases such as TB that can be transmitted from other humans via meat are addressed.

Stricter controls /prevention of endemic diseases (i.e. diseases present in SA and common on most pig farms) like pleuro-pneumonia & mycoplasma pneumonia implies a reduced need for treatments and consequently a reduction in the risks of residues in pork meat.

4•Feed control

Quality control on feed inputs (raw materials and/or rations) assists in production of quality pork meat and reduces the risk of harmful residues /toxins E.g. heavy metals /melamine.

5•Housing

Requirements for housing are based on scientifically proven animal welfare recommendations for space, correct temperature, air quality, flooring and access to feed & water. This ensures that the consumer can feel comfortable that pork is derived from animals that are comfortable and nurtured throughout their time on the farm.

6•Care and management

In this section various issues in regard to regular examination of animals, appropriate treatments for those that fall ill are

addressed. Both welfare of animals and endemic disease control facets are catered for.

7• Sanitation & hygiene

- Standards with regard to cleaning and disinfection, The cleaner and better disinfected rooms /buildings are the easier it is to control endemic diseases which leads to fewer animals requiring treatment.

8• Medication control

- Stricter record keeping with regard to the application of medicines. To address thoroughly that risks of drug residues in pork meat, emphasis is placed on judicious use of medications; the proper reconciliation of medicines that are used on farm and the very strict adherence withdrawal periods.

9• Effluent

- Basic environmental waste disposal requirements
The modern consumer is more environmentally conscious than ever before. and it is necessary that pig farmers be part of a “greener” world.

10•Transport

- Requirements with regard to transport.
This section deals with space requirements on trucks and other welfare issues as well as proper decontamination of vehicles when they return from deliveries. Proper decontamination ensures that risks of “bringing” diseases back to the farm are mitigated.