

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BALCONY SYSTEMS

The table below outlines the required specification for balcony systems which, alongside all other relevant Red Tractor Pigs Standards, must be met to be considered compliant.

Feature	Weaned pigs (up to 70 days of age)	Finisher pigs and gilts
The pen	The pen must be compliant with Red Tractor Pigs Standards Pigs on the balcony must be able to be easily viewed by stockpersons for inspection	
Load weight of balcony	130 kg/m ² Maximum deflection 1/250 with a maximum of 12mm	200 kg/m ² Maximum deflection 1/250 with a maximum of 12mm
Distance from ground to the underneath surface of the balcony	At least 0.9 m at a depth of 0.9-1.5m At least 1.2m where the width of the balcony is >1.5m or 1.5 x shoulder height of pigs in the pen at the size they are at their largest in the accommodation, whichever is the greater	
Floor area of the balcony	Maximum 40% of the floor area on the ground floor	
Distance between the floor and ceiling (measured from lowest point of balcony to ceiling)	At least 0.9m or 1.5 x shoulder height of pigs in the pen at the size they are at their largest in the accommodation, whichever is the greater	
Gradient of balcony	The balcony may have a slope of a max 5% across the width and a max of 10% over the length	
Width of balcony	Minimum of 0.9m Maximum of 1.5m These include the wall side slot	Minimum of 1.1m Maximum of 1.9m These include the wall side slot
Length of balcony	Minimum of 1.5m For balconies of more than 3m in length, there must be two ramps and the distance between adjacent ramps must not exceed 6m (centre to centre)	Minimum of 1.5m For balconies of more than 3m in length, there must be two ramps and the distance between adjacent ramps must not exceed 6m (centre to centre)
Ventilation and drainage gap	A ventilation and drainage gap of at least 0.05m and a maximum of 0.06m is permitted along the wall side. This gap must not be included as unobstructed floor space	A ventilation and drainage gap of at least 0.08m and a maximum of 0.10m is permitted along the wall side. This gap must not be included as unobstructed floor space
Floor type	<p>Any flooring type is permitted provided it meets relevant Red Tractor requirements</p> <p>Where closed solid floor is used, at least the following areas must be slatted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Both ends of the balcony, amounting to no more than 0.6m over the entire width – Along the back wall of the balcony, allow for 0.2m over the entire length of the balcony when using a ventilation and drainage gap, and 0.3m if no ventilation and drainage gap is used <p>Manure, urine and/or water must be prevented from falling onto the pigs below</p>	<p>Any flooring type is permitted provided it meets relevant Red Tractor requirements</p> <p>Where closed solid floor is used, at least the following areas must be slatted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Both ends of the balcony, amounting to no more than 1m over the entire width – Along the back wall of the balcony, allow for 0.3m over the entire length of the balcony when using a ventilation and drainage gap, and 0.4m if no ventilation and drainage gap is used <p>Manure, urine and/or water must be prevented from falling onto the pigs below</p>

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BALCONY SYSTEMS (continued)

Equipment description	Weaned pigs (up to 70 days of age)	Finisher pigs and gilts
Railings	<p>Pigs must be prevented from falling off the balcony</p> <p>Use of vertical bars is preferred. Use of horizontal railings is permitted (minimum of 3; lower bar at height of 0.1m maximum)</p> <p>Width must be appropriate to the size of pigs</p> <p>Railing minimum height 0.65m</p> <p>Railings are transparent</p>	<p>Pigs must be prevented from falling off the balcony</p> <p>Use of vertical bars is preferred. Use of horizontal railings is permitted (minimum of 3; lower bar at height of 0.15m maximum)</p> <p>Width must be appropriate to the size of pigs</p> <p>Railing minimum height 0.75m</p> <p>Railings are transparent</p>
Water and feed supply	<p>Water, feed and enrichment must be available on the ground floor</p> <p>It is permitted to also provide additional feed and water on the balcony</p> <p>Access to feed and water must not be compromised by the ramp</p>	
Ramp	<p>The balcony is accessible via one or more ramps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A ramp is minimum of 0.6m wide (including hinge points) - The slope angle of the ramp is max 30° to the floor - Pigs must not be driven up or down the ramp - A ramp is placed at a right angle or parallel to the balcony. If the ramp is parallel there must be a horizontal platform to the balcony. This platform is a minimum of 0.7m wide and 0.7m deep and equipped with a railing (as detailed for the main balcony) - Transverse slats are attached to the runner at a distance of 5-10cm (measured between the slats). These crossbeams have a height of 2-4cm and a top width of 2-5cm - On one side of the ramp there must be a continuous side or railing with a minimum height of 50cm and on the other side a barrier extending two thirds of the ramp length (from the top) - There may be an entry and exit step of maximum 10cm at the bottom and top of the ramp - The ramp floor can either be solid or with gaps of 10-12 mm - The space underneath the ramp only counts as unobstructed floor area where the pig can stand - The ramp does not count as available floor space for the pigs 	<p>The balcony is accessible via one or more ramps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A ramp is minimum 0.75m wide (including hinge points) - The slope angle of the ramp is max 30° to the floor - Pigs must not be driven up or down the ramp - A ramp is placed at a right angle or parallel to the balcony. If the ramp is parallel there must be a horizontal platform to the balcony. This platform is a minimum of 0.75m wide and 0.75m deep and equipped with a railing (as detailed for the main balcony) - Transverse slats are attached to the runner at a distance of 10-15cm (measured between the slats). These crossbeams have a height of 2-4cm and a top width of 2-5cm - On one side of the ramp there must be a continuous side or railing with a minimum height of 50cm and on the other side a barrier extending two thirds of the ramp length (from the top) - There may be an entry and exit step of maximum 15cm at the bottom and top of the ramp - The ramp floor can either be solid or with gaps of 10-18 mm - The space underneath the ramp only counts as unobstructed floor area where the pig can stand - The ramp does not count as available floor space for the pigs
Ventilation	<p>It is advised to consult a ventilation specialist or specialist supplier during the design/ construction stage and before the first batch of pigs are placed, particularly where the balcony system is being retrofitted in an existing pig building. It is important to ensure the balcony and stocking rate is compatible with the building ventilation design and capacity.</p>	