



## Additional requirements for Balcony Systems (Standard HF.k)

This guidance has been prepared for Red Tractor pig members who are interested in balcony systems. In order to ensure you are meeting the Red Tractor requirements at all times please read the information below. Should you have any further queries please contact your certification body.

All of the following requirements must be met in order to remain compliant with Red Tractor standards (HF.k Key)

### 1. Building manufacturer declaration

You must have a declaration from the building manufacturer confirming that the balcony system meets the specification set out below. A template can be found [here](#).

### 2. Statement from ventilation specialist or supplier

A statement from the ventilation specialist or specialist supplier must be available, which confirms the balcony system is compatible with the ventilation design and pigs welfare will not be compromised. A template can be found [here](#).

### 3. Specification details

This guidance details all the requirements which must be met if fitting a balcony system and incorporates the Dutch specification with additional Red Tractor requirements in red.

Equipment description	Weaned pigs (up to 70 days of age)	Fattening pigs and gilts
The pen	The pen must be compliant with <b>Red Tractor Pigs Standards</b>	The pen must be compliant with <b>Red Tractor Pigs Standards</b>
Load weight of balcony	130 kg/m <sup>2</sup> Maximum deflection 1/250 with a maximum of 12mm	200 kg/m <sup>2</sup> 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 1.2 with a depth >1.5m <b>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</b>	At least 0.9 m at a depth of 0.9-1.5m At least 1.2 with a depth >1.5m <b>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</b>
Floor area of the balcony	<b>Maximum</b> 40% of the floor area on the ground floor	<b>Maximum</b> 40% of the floor area on the ground floor

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Distance between the floor and ceiling (measured from lowest point of balcony to ceiling)	At least 0.9m with the proviso that the distance between the balcony and the highest point of the ceiling is at least 1.5m	At least 0.9m with the proviso that the distance between the balcony and the highest point of the ceiling is at least 1.5m
Gradient of balcony	The balcony may have a slope of a max 5% across the width and a max of 10% over the length	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 0.9 m Maximum of 1.50 m These include the wall side slot	Minimum of 1.1 m Maximum of 1.9 m These include the wall side slot
Length of balcony	Minimum of 1.5m  <b>For balconies of more than 3m in length, there must be two ramps and the distance between adjacent ramps should not exceed 6m (centre to centre)</b>	Minimum of 2.5m  <b>For balconies of more than 3m in length, there must be two ramps and the distance between adjacent ramps should not exceed 6m (centre to centre)</b>
Floor type	Closed solid floor except for the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both ends of the balcony 0.6m over the entire width</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• <b>Manure, urine and/ or water must be prevented from falling onto the pigs below</b></li> </ul>	Closed solid floor except for the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both ends of the balcony 1.0m over the entire width</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• <b>Manure, urine and/ or water must be prevented from falling onto the pigs below</b></li> </ul>
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 taken into account with the available living space	A ventilation and drainage gap of at least 0.08 m and a maximum of 0.10 m is permitted along the wall side. This gap must not be taken into account with the available living space

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Material for closed area on balcony	Concrete, metal, plastic or composite	Concrete, metal, plastic or composite
Railings	<p>Pigs must be prevented from falling off the balcony</p> <p>Use of vertical bars is preferred. Width must be appropriate to the size of pigs</p> <p>Railings should be a minimum of 0.65m high and transparent</p> <p>Use of horizontal railings is allowed (minimum of 3)</p> <p>Lower bar at height of 0.1m maximum</p>	<p>Pigs must be prevented from falling off the balcony</p> <p>Use of vertical bars is preferred. Width must be appropriate to the size of pigs</p> <p>Railings should be a minimum of 0.75m high and transparent</p> <p>Use of horizontal railings is allowed (minimum of 3)</p> <p>Lower bar at height of 0.15m maximum</p>
Water and feed supply	<p>Water, feed and enrichment must be available on the ground floor.</p> <p>There is an option to provide additional feed and water on the balcony</p> <p>Access to feed and water must not be compromised by the ramp</p>	<p>Water, feed and enrichment must be available on the ground floor.</p> <p>There is an option to provide additional feed and water on the balcony</p> <p>Access to feed and water must not be compromised by the ramp</p>

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<p>Ramp</p>	<p>The balcony is accessible via one or more ramps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A ramp is minimum of 0.60m wide (including hinge points)</li> <li>- The slope angle of the ramp is max 30° to the floor. <b>Pigs must not be driven up or down the ramp</b></li> <li>- A ramp is placed at a right angle or parallel to the balcony. If the ramp is parallel, there should be a horizontal platform to the balcony. This platform is a minimum of 0.7m wide and 0.7 m deep and equipped with a railing (as detailed for the main balcony)</li> <li>- 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 <b>continuous side or railing with a minimum height of 50cm and on the other side a barrier extending to two thirds of the ramp length (from the top)</b></li> <li>- There may be an entry and exit step of maximum 10cm at the bottom and top of the ramp</li> <li>- The ramp floor can either be solid or with gaps of 10-12 mm</li> <li>- <b>The space underneath the ramp only counts as available floor area where the pig can stand</b></li> <li>- The ramp does not count as available floor space for the animals</li> </ul>	<p>The balcony is accessible via one or more ramps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A ramp is minimum of 0.75m wide (including hinge points)</li> <li>- The slope angle of the ramp is max 30° to the floor. <b>Pigs must not be driven up or down the ramp</b></li> <li>- A ramp is placed at a right angle or parallel to the balcony. If the ramp is parallel, there should be a horizontal platform to the balcony. This platform is a minimum of 0.75m wide and 0.75 m deep and equipped with a railing (as detailed for the main balcony)</li> <li>- 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 <b>continuous side or railing with a minimum height of 50cm and on the other side a barrier extending to two thirds of the ramp length (from the top)</b></li> <li>- There may be an entry and exit step of maximum 15cm at the bottom and top of the ramp</li> <li>- The ramp floor can either be solid or with gaps of 10-18 mm</li> <li>- <b>The space underneath the ramp only counts as available floor area where the pig can stand</b></li> <li>- The ramp does not count as available floor space for the animals</li> </ul>
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## Guidance for Red Tractor Pig Scheme Members

<p>Additional requirement relating to ventilation</p>	<p>The producer must consult a ventilation specialist or a specialist supplier during the design/ construction stage and before the first batch of pigs. The producer is required to hold a statement from the ventilation specialist or specialist supplier which confirms that the balcony is compatible with the ventilation design and pigs welfare will not be compromised.</p>	<p>The producer must consult a ventilation specialist or a specialist supplier during the design/ construction stage and before the first batch of pigs. The producer is required to hold a statement from the ventilation specialist or specialist supplier which confirms that the balcony is compatible with the ventilation design and pigs welfare will not be compromised.</p>
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