

PRRS Rules

for conventional herds

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Danish Agriculture & Food Council F.m.b.A.
Agro Food Park 15, DK - 8200 Aarhus N
+ 45 8740 5101
sundhedsstyringen@lf.dk
www.spfsus.dk
CVR 25529529

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Designations and definitions | 4 |
| 1 Biosecurity | 5 |
| 1.1 Introduction of pigs into the herd | 5 |
| 2 PRRS status | 6 |
| 2.1 PRRS declarations..... | 6 |
| 2.2 PRRS status designations | 7 |
| 2.3 Unwanted infection, conditional status and change of status | 7 |
| 3 Health Control | 11 |
| 3.1 Responsibility and protocol | 11 |
| 3.2 Health Control protocol | 11 |

Designations and definitions

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| Ai/Au operation: | Herd operation where the herd is fully stocked or emptied of pigs one herd at a time. Ai/Au operation in individual housing sections within the same herd area is considered a continuous operation in terms of health. |
| Acronym: | Part of the health status of the herd. Acronym for disease(s) for which the herd has been declared positive. |
| Herd: | All pigs housed under one CHR number. |
| Conditional status: | Unwanted infection suspected in the herd, deviation from the declared health status or PRRS rules, or other temporary restriction on sales. |
| Blue SPF folder: | Manual used by Health Control when carrying out PRRS inspections. Blue SPF folder is available for veterinarians, SPF herd owners, PRRS declared herd owners and SPF Transporters by logging in at www.spfsus.dk with a code. |
| Owner: | Owner of a PRRS-declared conventional herd who has entered into a PRRS Owner's Agreement with SPF Health - or the person who, on behalf of the owner, is responsible for the herd's daily operation. |
| Higher status: | Higher status refers to animals free of a PRRS type for which the animals to which they are being compared are positive. |
| Lower status: | Lower status refers to animals that are positive for a PRRS type for which the animals to which they are being compared are negative. |
| Conventional herd: | A herd covered by a PRRS agreement. |
| PRRS rules: | SPF Health's "PRRS rules for conventional herds" |
| SuS joint operation herds: | Herds which, with approval from SPF Health, are managed in a health context. |
| SPF herd: | General term for a herd if the Owner has entered into an SPF Owner Agreement with SPF Health. |
| SPF driver: | Driver employed by an SPF Transporter and approved to carry out SPF transport. |
| SPF Health: | SPF Health, cf. to the PRRS Agreement |
| The SPF system: | The Danish Agriculture and Food Council's SPF system |
| SPF Transporter: | Transporter approved by SPF Health to transport pigs within the SPF system. (SPF Transporters can be found at www.spfsus.dk) |
| SPF-Transporter(P): | SPF Transporter in trial period. |
| SPF van: | Approved SPF carrier belonging to an SPF Transporter. |
| Health Control: | The person or organization carrying out PRRS inspections in a given herd in agreement with SPF Health. |
| Selling farm: | Farm that supplies breeding pigs and/or piglets for breeding and production. |
| Unknown: | Herd without a declared health status. |

1 Biosecurity

1.1 Introduction of pigs into the herd

- 1.1.1 Only pigs with higher or equal PRRS status as the respective herd may be added to a herd. If adding animals with lower PRRS status than the herd, the Owner is obliged to notify SPF Health without delay.

2 PRRS status

2.1 PRRS declarations

- 2.1.1 Herds with health status 'Unknown' can be granted PRRS status if the Owner enters into a PRRS agreement with SPF Health. Declarations are made for European PRRS and American PRRS, PRRS1 and PRR2 respectively.
- 2.1.2 Achieving PRRS status
 - a) Can be achieved by emptying a herd entirely.
 - b) Documentation of PRRS status based on an individual programme as devised by SPF Health.
- 2.1.3 When a new PRRS herd is established, the herd must be able to obtain official PRRS health status according to the regulations laid down in the Executive Order on Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, as applicable at the time, before PRRS status is granted.
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2.2 PRRS status designations

2.2.1 The herd is referred to as "PRRS-dekl. plus relevant appendixes for PRRS".

The following status designations are used:

| Status designation | Meaning |
|--------------------------------|---|
| PRRS-dekl. (Negative) | Negative for PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +PRRS1 | Positive for European PRRS positive |
| PRRS-dekl. +PRRS2 | Positive for American PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +PRRS1 +PRRS2 | Positive for European and American PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +sanPRRS1 | Undergoing eradication for European PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +sanPRRS2 | Undergoing eradication for American PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +sanPRRS1 +sanPRRS2 | Undergoing eradication for European and American PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +PRRS1 +sanPRRS2 | European PRRS positive and undergoing eradication for American PRRS |
| PRRS-dekl. +sanPRRS1 +PRRS2 | Undergoing eradication for European PRRS and American PRRS positive |
| PRRS-dekl. under totalsanering | Undergoing total PRRS eradication |

PRRS status designations are declared in the same way in SPF herds. Consequently, animals may be purchased from SPF herds with higher or equal PRRS health status designation. When purchasing animals of lower status, the herd's PRRS status is changed accordingly. Information about the herd's health status, including a possible Conditional status, is available on the SPF Health website, www.spfsus.dk

2.2.2 A herd can be eradicated for one or both PRRS types according to an eradication and control programme approved by SPF Health. Eradication status is obtained following a recommendation from Health Control to SPF Health.

2.2.3 Two or more herds with the same PRRS status, which are operated and health controlled together, can be approved and registered as "SuS joint operation". Introduction and cancellation of SuS joint operation follows a recommendation from Health Control to SPF Health.

2.3 Unwanted infection, conditional status and change of status

2.3.1 Unwanted infection means:

- Infection with one of the PRRS types for which the herd is declared negative, according to its health status cf. 2.2.1.

- 2.3.2 The owner must immediately notify Health Control if:
- a) he/she suspects/becomes aware of unwanted infection in his/her herd,
 - b) lower status pigs are added to the herd.

Health Control then notifies SPF Health if the suspicion cannot be disproved.

- 2.3.3 Health Control, the SPF Transporter and SPF Health have the same obligation as mentioned for the Owner in section 2.3.2 if they ascertain or become aware of such cases.

Health Control is also obliged to pass on relevant messages from the Owner, cf. section 2.3.2, to SPF Health.

- 2.3.4 In all cases mentioned in 2.3.2, SPF Health declares with immediate effect a conditional status for the herd or changes the herd status. This is effected by written or electronic notification to the Owner and Health Control. SPF Transporters are informed electronically.

SPF Health may also announce conditional herd status in all cases where consideration for buyers of pigs from the herd so requires.

- 2.3.5 SPF Health can introduce derived conditional status for herds that have received pigs from or supplied pigs to a herd with conditional status. This applies to all deliveries within the previous 42 days leading up to the conditional status designation.

SPF Health automatically receives names of trading herds from SPF Transporters. However, it is the obligation of the owner of the herd with conditional status to immediately upon declaration of the conditional status to provide SPF Health with the names and CHR-no. of any other trading partners with whom he/she has traded within the previous 42 days before the declaration of conditional status, without the involvement of SPF Transporters.

Derived conditional status is declared when the reason for the conditional status significantly affects the declared health status of the herd in question.

SPF Health notifies the Owner in writing and SPF Transporters electronically when derived conditional status is declared.

Where the Conditional status does not affect the health status of the respective herd, trading partners within the aforementioned 42 days are informed in writing by SPF Health.

Other trading partners within the same 42 days are informed in writing by SPF Health about the conditional status. No derived conditional status is declared for these herds.

- 2.3.6 If there is a delivery via an SPF Transporter in progress from a herd which is given conditional status, the transport is halted and the buyers informed about the delivery by the SPF Transporter, as the pigs in the consignment receive the same status as the supplier herd.

- 2.3.7 Under conditional status and derived conditional status, the herd may only supply pigs directly for slaughter - or to buyers who have previously accepted that the pigs have conditional status.

- 2.3.8 Conditional status and derived conditional status are lifted on the recommendation of Health Control when the inspections as determined by SPF Health in the Blue SPF folder have been completed and the suspicion of unwanted infection has been disproved.

Notification of the cancellation is made by SPF Health to the Owner, SPF Transporters, Health Control and trading partners, cf. section 2.3.5.

- 2.3.9 If the suspected unwanted infection is confirmed, the herd's registered health status is changed.

This is communicated in writing by SPF Health to the Owner, Health Control, trading partners and any other relevant persons. The SPF Transporters are informed electronically.

The contractual relationship with SPF Health is not affected by the change of status.

- 2.3.10 If a herd with conditional or derived conditional status ceases production - or on its own initiative transfers to a lower health status before the conditional status is clarified, SPF Health can compel the Owner to carry out this clarification.

Alternatively, SPF Health can compel the Owner to pay for clarification of the derived conditional status in affected trading herds. However, this payment can include the costs of no more than 2 ordinary clarification visits per trading herd.

- 2.3.11 The owner cannot claim compensation from SPF Health for any losses during a period of conditional/derived conditional status, including costs for resolving any suspicion.

- 2.3.12 In cases of conditional status and change of status after detection of an unwanted infection, the Owner is obliged to provide all information required by the Health Control to clarify the background for the conditional status or the status change.

- 2.3.13 SPF Health issues conditional status for the herd if the annual status blood tests, cf. section 3.2.2, are not taken in a timely manner. This happens on the second Tuesday of the month after the blood samples should have been taken if SPF Health has not received written notification of the testing.

At the same time, the Owner is charged an administrative fee.

If the blood samples have not been taken within 15 days thereafter, the herd's registered health status is changed without further notice, as if the herd was found to be infected with the disease in question.

- 2.3.14 Following a decision by the SPF User Committee, SPF Health is entitled to examine herds in with a PRRS declaration - or a representative group thereof - for the occurrence/spread of new types of diseases in Denmark, with the examination organised so that the individual herds cannot be identified.

In this respect, SPF Health has no obligation to provide information to the Owner or other parties.

2.3.15 The owner pays an annual fee for the herd's PRRS declaration.

If the Owner has not paid the annually invoiced PRRS fee despite a reminder, so that SPF Health has received it - and the administration fee for the reminder - no later than 14 days after the invoice date, the PRRS agreement ends without further notice as of the same date. The herd's health status is simultaneously changed to "Unknown".

3 Health Control

3.1 Responsibility and protocol

- 3.1.1 Control of the herd's PRRS status is carried out on behalf of SPF Health by a veterinarian from a veterinary practice who has entered into a special agreement with SPF Health. The function is generally referred to as Health Control. The owner chooses which of the approved veterinary practices will carry out the health inspections according to the PRRS protocol in the declaration section of the "Blue SPF folder".

Veterinarians who join a practice with a Veterinary Agreement and who have not previously undergone a course in health control held by SPF Health must participate in the next course offered after employment. SPF Health must offer a course in health control for veterinarians at least once a year. The blue SPF folder is available for veterinarians, herd owners and SPF transporters at www.spfsus.dk.

- 3.1.2 Health control includes ongoing inspections and surveillance of:
- a) significant clinical signs of PRRS,
 - b) relevant finds and laboratory tests to determine whether the herds PRRS status is in compliance with the PRRS status for herds registered with SPF Health.

As part of this process, the owner and stockpersons are obliged to answer relevant questions from Health Control.

- 3.1.3 SPF Health has the right to obtain necessary information from the Central Livestock Register (CHR), the Danish Agriculture and Food Council Cattle Database, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration Zoonoses Register and from relevant laboratories, authorities, institutions and companies. In particular, SPF Health has the right to obtain laboratory results that are relevant to the herds health status, including for all SPF diseases.

3.2 Health Control protocol

- 3.2.1 Health Control, examines the herd together with the Owner at least once a year for:
- a) clinical symptoms of PRRS
 - b) relevant examinations with respect to the herds PRRS status
- 3.2.2 At least once a year, 20 blood samples are taken for PRRS investigations. The laboratory results are transmitted electronically to SPF Health, cf. 3.1.3.

In a newly established herd, the blood samples must be taken for the first time no later than 12 months after the first delivery.

SPF Health can administratively change the control procedures. Such changes are announced at www.spfsus.dk.

- 3.2.3 In the case of "Ai/Au operation" at farm level, annual blood tests are not necessary if Health Control at least once a year certifies that the herd area has been seen empty and cleaned.
- 3.2.4 Examinations of blood samples and organ material must be carried out at a relevant Danish laboratory approved by the public authorities.

- 3.2.5 Upon notification from the laboratory of discovery of unwanted PRRS infection in blood samples, Health Control must immediately notify SPF Health.

SPF Health
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DK - 8200 Aarhus N
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sundhedsstyringen@lf.dk
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